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This is YOUR forum!

### **Editor's Comments**

**One very important item**: The comments period for the Notice of Proposed Rule Making about the transition to digital of the LPTV and Translator part of our world is rapidly coming to an end. If you haven't made a comment, you should. These comments can be filed electronically. You do not have to be any kind of great author to put your thoughts down and get them in. The FCC's webpage can get you to where you have to go. The reference docket is MBDocket 03-185 (NPRM FCC 03-198). The deadline for comments is tomorrow, November 25<sup>th</sup>, with reply comments due December 25<sup>th</sup> which roles to the 26<sup>th</sup> because of the holiday. Our website can help you get this done: <u>http://www.tech-notes.tv/Seminar/Seminar\_Index.htm</u> select Item 3 NPRM. It is a 1.6 MB file and the main part about how and what to do begin about slide #17.

For and even more in-depth reading on this very important topic, see: <u>**DTV** for</u> <u>**Translators and LPTV – A Tip Sheet**</u> By Michael Couzens, Attorney at Law, Oakland, CA on page six of this edition.– It's the first story under the news caption below. Couzens is licensed to practice law before the FCC.

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The LPTV, LPFM and Translator seminar was very well received. We had more than 60 engineers attend during the three day marathon. The combination of engineering expertise provided by Dr. Bryon St. Clare and the practical, in-field experience of Kent Parson proved to be the combination that demonstrated that this can all happen smoothly and to the benefit of the view – now there's an interesting approach.

All the Power Point presentations have been preserved in PDF on our website: <u>www.Tech-Note.TV</u>. It probably will be little help without the narration that went with them. Also the files are quite large, taking a long time to download even with broadband.

There's a lot of archival video tape out there that the oxide is beginning to dislike the backing and we need to find a good, but inexpensive way, of transferring that archival material before it is too late. One obvious approach, with the ever advancing technology in the format and the corresponding price cuts we seen lately is the Digital Versatile Disk (DVD).

You have seen us support the DVD as a viable media for nearly as long as it has been on the market. We've written about carousels and other forms of accessing DVD, but it just hasn't seemed to catch the interest or eye of the broadcast industry. No, we don't own stock in any of the related companies, but common sense says that a very thin disk takes up much less space than a bulky reel or cassette of video tape.

When I was doing a research for <u>InPhase Technologies</u> (a Lucent spin-off) a few years ago, the idea of getting 100GB on a holographic disk the size of a DVE really intrigued most of the engineers we spoke with. That better than 21 times as much material as can be put on today's DVD (4.7 GB). This technology is still a bit down the road.

We are experimenting with a video board in our computer from http://www.ati.com/ and have an outboard device from ADS. So far the <u>ADS</u> device has worked quite well in permitting us to transfer some VHS tapes of our High School Class ('57) reunion over to DVD. We also have some software from <u>321 Studios</u> entitled DVD-X-Copy. We will report on this in our next edition.

In the features section of this edition we've charts and other information about DVD formats and equipment. Take a look. Use our navigation index to the left.

If you know of any other inexpensive ways of making transfers from tape to DVD, please let us know. We will accept donations of equipment so we can report on the technology and quality.

#### Letters to the Editor

Editor's Note: Unless specifically asked not to print letters to us, we will.

From: Victoria Battison battison@vbimarketing.com

The current issue (#119) was most enjoyable. It looks very nice, and the articles were very interesting. As a non-engineer, I particularly found the explanation of the history of "Channel 1" to be very interesting.

Keep up the good work! Victoria Battison

(Editor's Note: Victoria is John Battison's daughter. John is one of the founding fathers of the SBE.)

From: J. Carl Cooper, President, Pixel Instruments Carl@PixelInstruments.TV

How about doing an article on Direct TV and Dish Network's local channel rebroadcast capabilities and facilities. I'll bet a lot of people would like to know how these guys pull this off.

Aside from the capabilities of the satellite guys, this may very well be the technology that saves local broadcasting (our customers) from the obsolescence scrap heap. If more broadcasters understood the technology and numbers they might be inclined to sign up for satellite re-broadcasting rather than to fight it.

We would like to see a lot of local production work being enabled by satellite rebroadcast, and in these days of apartment buildings, far flung suburbs, reticent cable companies and other over the air and CATV transmission difficulties, satellite may be just the ticket for the local guys. Even better, think of what would happen to the local production industry if LPTV were picked up by the satellite people!

#### Answer by Larry Bloomfield

With Eugene recently going on line with the Dish Network and being very active in our local SBE chapter, I asked the chief engineers of the local ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox affiliates at a recent meeting how Dish was getting their signal. Dish has a receive site atop a banking building in the middle of town that receives their analog signals and up links them from there, with one exception. I believe the exception said that Dish was taking either a fiber feed from them or receiving their digital signal. This could account for the lack of ghosts in their picture over here in Florence where I have Dish and watch

our new (via satellite) channels. I was also told that the bit rate is very narrow band and the quality of the signal is a bit soft.

I will agree that the pictures are on the soft side, but they are significantly better than the low power translators that feed our community. I still don't understand why the station owned translators that feed our community are operated at such low power when they could be substantially at greater power; and it has nothing to do with FCC limits. I really don't wish to upset my associates as I have to see them at SBE meetings, but the truth is the truth.

Back to how they get the local signals. It is incomprehensible to me why Dish, and when DirecTV goes on one from Eugene, why they don't use the digital signals. There would be studio quality pictures being uplinked instead of the garbage they have settled for. I see ghosts and other forms of multipath and it shifts as the environment changes.

Yes, it is what viewers are accustomed to, but why use an inferior signal when a superior signal is available? All Eugene broadcasters on the Dish Network can provide a digital signal as they are on the air with their digital plants.

I can only assume, based on other conversations with other chief engineers across the country, that this same scenario is being repeated most everywhere else. I openly ask anyone from either Dish Network (EchoStar) and/or DirecTV to respond and tell us why they don't use the digital signals where ever possible. A softened digital signal is still better than a softened analog signal with all the anomalies that go with that antiquated form of transmission. – not that I'd have an opinion.

#### Clarification on Equipment Seizures as noted in Tech-Notes #119 "FCC raids San Francisco pirate FM radio station"

From: Phil Kane <u>commlaw@kanafi.org</u> District Director (retired) FCC San Francisco

After having served many times as an on-scene supervisor when I was with the FCC during events such as that described in San Francisco, I have to emphasize that the FCC does not "confiscate" equipment. In such a situation, the U.S. Marshal Service, executing an order of the Federal District Court, SEIZES the equipment pending court action for FORFEITURE of the equipment to the Government. The FCC agents on scene are there only as technical experts to identify to the Marshals what equipment falls under the purview of the seizure warrant.

#### **OTA DTV Reception Issues**

From: Peter H. Putman <u>phputman@pil.net</u>

I also disagree that reception issues are the main problem with the terrestrial DTV transition. There have been numerous locations, indoor and outdoor, where I have been able to pull in ATSC signals with varying degrees of multipath and power. Many of them were running 1/2 their authorized power (3 dB down).

WABC just fired up their DTV transmitter on CH 45 from atop 4 Times Square. This location is considerably lower than the old WTC tower, yet I am still able to pull 'em in at my home in central Bucks County, PA over a partially-obstructed path of about 65 miles. The antenna is a modified suburban UHF yagi atop my roof with 80' of coax and a Channel Master UHF preamp. Compare the 8VSB waveform for WNYW-44 (on the Empire State Building) and WABC-45 (World Trace Center) taken September 5, 2001 with a similar waveform recorded this past Saturday 11-1-03.

That said, I have run into some unusual DTV reception problems. The most recent was a site survey at a special education school in Norristown, PA. The school was attempting to pull in the digital signal from WHYY-55 over a path of about 7 miles. WHYY is setting up datacasting feeds to numerous such schools in their service area.

This location is exactly in the 'null' of both the H and E planes of WHYY's coverage pattern. It is on the opposite side of the tower from the WHYY antenna. While the C/N level was strong, the test receiver (a Samsung SIRT-150) would not lock up the signal due to intense multipath. See attached 300 kHz and 30 kHz plots for details.

Still, I have found that ATSC broadcasts generally get out better than most people realize, once the correct antenna is selected. Many antenna installers have no idea how to set up a terrestrial antenna for DTV reception, even though many of them already own spectrum analyzers for installing DBS dishes!

The real problem in my view is the lack of promotion on the part of broadcasters, coupled with little or no mention of HDTV programming in TV guides. The general public is only starting to realize that DTV broadcasts are here and that free HDTV can be had for the cost of a set-top box and simple antenna, assuming a widescreen TV is already in place.

Comcast has done a much better job promoting HDTV through its cable system, even though they don't carry all of the local DTV broadcasters yet. Ditto the two DBS services through their in-store promotions at places like Best Buy and Circuit City.

Pete Putman, KT2B – Roam Consulting Inc.

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#### Hi All:

I have now retired from ABC and am a Freelance TV Engineer. I just got a job as a Tech consultant on a HBO movie. It is about the CBS coverage of the 1952 Presidential

Conventions in Chicago and the Elections in NY. I am looking for any CBS engineer who might have worked for CBS in 1952? I need photos of the equipment used, and also want to interview them for information for the script. Do you know anyone?

Thanks, Chuck Pharis <u>http://www.pharis-video.com/p21.htm</u> (<u>Editor's Note</u>: *A must see site*.)

From: David McRoy <u>dmcroy@wpecnews12.com</u> Subject: Rainbow Flags

I didn't understand Larry Bloomfield's "rainbow flag" typo joke in the latest Tech Notes. Maybe you could explain it to me.

(Editor's Note: Anyone care to respond to Mr. McRoy.)

News

#### DTV for Translators and LPTV A Tip Sheet

By Michael Couzens Attorney at Law, Oakland, CA Especially for Tech-Notes

The deadline impends on Tuesday (11/25) for public comment on the proposals by FCC (Federal Communications Commission) to implement Digital Television in the TV translator and LPTV services. Reply comments are due on December 26.

**What is at stake?** A study for the National Translator Association has estimated that as many as 1.5 million households receive their big-four commercial networks only by TV translators. For PBS the count of TV translator dependent homes is even higher, some 2.3 million.

A study by FCC staff found that, as of June, 2002, over 85 per cent of households were getting TV from some kind of pay provider, mainly cable and home satellite dish. But the remaining 15.6 million still got their TV from over-the-air, almost 15 per cent of the 105.4 million TV households.

The FCC's Digital TV plans is dependent on getting terrestrial, so-called free TV converted to Digital, if not by 2006, at least in the foreseeable future. To do this, existing TV stations were granted use of a free second channel for DTV service.

So it comes to this. TV Translators are a small part of the TV universe. But they are a

significant part of the non-subscribing universe, about ten per cent of the broadcast-only households, and for PBS about fifteen per cent. This means that, <u>unless TV translators</u> are able to make a smooth transition to DTV, the entire rollout of DTV is going to hit a wall when it reaches these communities.

The FCC appears not to see this yet.

Where are we now? LPTV, beginning in 1982, was grafted onto the TV translator service. It created an excess demand for licenses that swamped the ability of the FCC to process paperwork. As a result for more than 20 years a freeze has existed on the filing of new TV translator and LPTV applications. On five occasions the freeze has been lifted for a "filing window," and each time it has resulted in an avalanche and taken years to dig out. This is a bizarre way to regulate demand, though not unusual in FCC practice. It definitely has prevented the expansion of new TV services, rural and urban.

The government meanwhile created a double channel crunch. Each full service TV station got a second channel for DTV. And the spectrum was reduced down to channels 2-13, 14-51. Channels 52 - 69 have been realloted, auctioned or scheduled for auction. Many translators and LP's have had to move, or even move twice. To the credit of the FCC, the staff has made every possible effort so that stations could at least be moved, and not be extinguished. But even though the auctions mean revenue, the government has not offered to compensate the displaced stations.

This makes it questionable whether translators and LP's could use the same approach as full service -- the grant of second channels. A lot of fresh work has been done on using next-adjacent channels, previously considered off limits. But we face an interval of the greatest TV channel scarcity ever. The alternative is a switch-over on the same channel - what the FCC staff calls a "flash cut" -- analog until midnight one night; digital beginning at 12:01 a.m. And evermore.

Of course one problem with the flash cut right now is that the audience has old receivers, and very few new ones, so it may be the closest thing to going dark, without actually turning off the power.

**Splitsville**. As Digital comes closer, or at least gathers a little traction, it is becoming clear that TV translators and Low Power TV stations are tending to move down separate paths. A conventional translator can be modified to pick up a DTV signal, amplify it and rebroadcast it with only a change in channel, with but little expense. True originating DTV, even on an LPTV, is an ambitious, complicated and expensive project.

The regulatory objectives also may diverge. In rural areas where translators proliferate, there may be a good shot at obtaining second channels, especially where there is agreement to reduce power levels so that all may share. In urban areas, the chance for full channel replication is small, and the LPTV operator will be anxious to keep the one-channel power limits flexible, or preferably high.

For several years a debate has gone on among the members of the National Translator Association and the Community Broadcasters Association, and at the FCC, over whether the two services at last should be split, for purposes of filing or spectrum priority, power limits, second channels, or for other reasons.

The debate always seems to founder over the definition of a rural, versus urban area. Some favor a definition of an "underserved" market, defined as a place receiving over the air television from only one, two, three, or some say even four stations. A problem with all these definitions is that the "underserved" communities in another sense are frequently the most well served, because cable and satellite providers have mined that territory, and mined it well.

The FCC had a workable definition in 1982, during the first freeze. It said that initial applications would be limited to "Phase I" communities, defined as more than 55 miles outside the reference coordinates of of 212 ranked markets in the FCC's TV Channel Utilization Report. Later Phase II was added to the eligible area -- locations outside the reference for the top 100. Phase III then had no restrictions.

This methodology could be used to gradually phase in second-channel eligibility, putting the emphasis on clearly small, isolated communities to begin with. Where translator systems operated inside fifty five miles, a waiver policy might even be possible. A major advantage of this approach is that it entertains applications right off the bat from places where there is just one established operator, and therefore a reduced likelihood of application conflicts from multiple filers. From all sides the Congress, the Courts and the FCC have made an unwieldy mess of the process for resolving application conflicts, so the Tier system as a way of concentrating attention where conflicts can be avoided has much to commend it.

If translator priorities and LPTV priorities do come to a split, it's not to say that one is more important than the other. LPTV's are a fresh source of public service and of efficient competition, and they have achieved an important niche on their own merits. But in major markets, for example the top 50, it's hard to envision second channels being allotted for LPTV. The flash cut may be the only way, but that could be satisfactory. The urban areas are the ones where full service DTV activations will come first, and where receiver penetration will be greatest. At some point market forces will tip in favor of LPTV. The authorized maximum effective radiated power for LPTV's in DTV -- 3 kw for VHF, 15 kw for UHF, will make them more comparable to full service than they are now. It may even quite happily render obsolete the nomenclature of "low" power.

Gotta have it. Now. The thing to be avoided at all costs is a new filing avalanche at the FCC that could impair the DTV rollout on translators and LPTV's and, perhaps with just a minor twist of unforeseen consequences, could upset the entire DTV apple cart.

The FCC proposals would permit the flash cut transition to DTV, based on a minor change application. The change could include new power (within the very generous limits), and a transmitter move provided there was any overap between the old facility

and the new one. The consequences of such an approach are quite predictable and include:

- Speculative filings
- An immediate rush to grab nearby spectrum real estate
- Power increases for spectrum hoarding purposes
- Pole-vault cross-county migrations to favored markets
- Many filings in conflict
- Urban filers encroaching and disrupting rural TV service.

The Tier I approach above solves some but not all of these problems. A recent change window specifically designed to exclude urban filers was no match for the cleverness of filers who came up with 4,700 applications now slowly making their way forward.

All of this is unnecessary.

The Commission should authorize all TV translators and LPTV stations to begin DTV transmissions at once. The only requirement would be notification in writing, within ten days of the switch. The switch also would be reversible with notification.

The only technical requirement would be for any such station to reduce it effective radiated power in all directions by 6 dB. This should provide adequate margin so that no new interference would be caused by a station replacing its analog input with a digital input. The transmission system would remain the same in every respect, except for the reduced power.

An advantage of this approach -- aside from its simplicity and immediacy -- is that it can be combined with other approaches. For example, if second channels could be applied for in a Phase I, Phase II model, as above, a station would still be free to use the first channel in analog, until the time or the audience was ripe for the original channel to upgrade.

**No sunset**. When will analog TV be over, anyway? Fact is the answer to that question is unknown and unknowable. It does seem clear that there is no basis now, and will not be through this rule making, to establish a target date for the wipe-out of NTSC analog television. This is a less central issue than perhaps it appears. The public will not tolerate the forced obsolescence of a TV delivery system that, with its faults, has served quite well.

#### **Resources**:

Comments may be filed electronically at the FCC on its Electronic Comment Filings System at <u>www.fcc.gov/</u>. It accepts brief statements typed in, or documents in Word, WordPerfect or Adobe Acrobat pdf. The first thing on file already is the Notice of Proposed Rule Making itself, all 63 pages. It can also be drawn out of the Media Bureau page as a pdf. The reference is Media Bureau Docket No. 03-185. The NTA has a good analysis on the web, at their site <u>www.tvfmtranslators.com/</u>. Another good write up, closer to CBA's thinking, is Jason Roberts of Irwin, Campbell & Tannenwald at <u>www.thelptvstore.com/attorneycorner/October2002.html</u>.

#### Public Television Stations to Study the Analog Switch Off From: Jeffrey Davis jeffrey@apts.org

The Association of Public Television Stations (APTS) recently announced that it would, pursuant to a directive from the APTS Board of Trustees, begin an exploration of the circumstances under which public television stations could embrace a "hard date" for the Analog Switch Off (ASO).

John Lawson, president & CEO of APTS, said: "Our Board recognized that there are major advantages for public stations to end analog transmission and embrace a 'date certain' for converting to digital transmission only. For example, ASO would save our stations \$36 million a year in the electricity costs we currently incur on analog transmission." This figure represents almost 20% of the total funding the Corporation for Public Broadcasting distributed to public television stations in Fiscal Year 2003 as Community Service Grants. Mr. Lawson continued: "Above all, embracing ASO would allow public television to focus all of our energy and resources on the future, not on a dying analog distribution system. The American public will be the ultimate winner," he said.

Lawson said that APTS is well aware that public television cannot effect an early transition alone and that APTS is sounding out other players on forming a combined effort. These include commercial broadcasters, DTV product vendors, the consumer electronics industry, and the PC industry. Lawson indicated that an alliance with other groups with an interest in the return of the analog spectrum would also be essential, including the wireless industry and the public safety community.

"Federal policy also will play a decisive role in completing the digital transition," Lawson said. "Any plan for an early return of analog spectrum is dead without guarantees-either negotiated or mandated-that all of our stations' digital signals are carried on cable and direct broadcast satellite systems."

Lawson reiterated public television's commitment to "universal service" and protecting households that rely on over the air broadcasting to receive television. "Any plan we come up with has to avoid turning off free television. Instead, we must create marketplace incentives for consumers to purchase DTV receivers for free digital television," he said.

Noting the dramatic price drop of digital to analog set-top boxes in the European market, Lawson cited the example of Berlin, which last August became the first market in the world to totally switch off analog broadcasting. "They transitioned 160,000 over-the-air

households in 18 months, mainly by marketing set-tops to them," he said. Lawson said APTS also is impressed by the success of the "Freeview" digital terrestrial service in the United Kingdom, where 100,000 digital set-top boxes are being sold each month and the service is successfully competing with cable, according to figures Lawson cited.

Lawson wants to make clear that APTS was just initiating its exploration and no decisions have been made about a hard date by the APTS Board. "There obviously are many challenges to weigh before proceeding, and I must emphasize that this is the beginning of a process that will involve extensive research at the legislative, regulatory and consumer market levels."

However, Lawson said there was serious interest from APTS member stations in completing the digital transition and ending analog transmission. He pointed to a survey that APTS conducted with its members last summer. Fully 88 percent of APTS member stations participating in an online consultation indicated they would support a hard date in return for certain policy concessions. As part of its planning, APTS will develop, among other elements, a set of legislative and regulatory proposals that would constitute the set of policies necessary for public television stations to embrace ASO.

Lawson concluded: "The benefits of a hard date are numerous for stations, the government, the economy, and the public. Public television stations should continue their leadership among American broadcasters in finding ways to move the digital transition to a successful conclusion."

(Editor's *Note: For a case study on the analog switch off in Berlin, please visit the Media Authority of Berlin-Brandenburg at* http://www.mabb.de/start.cfm?content=aktuelles&id=632)

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DirecTV Takes No Prisoners From: Scott Menchin

DirecTV has been waging a war on piracy that makes the record labels look nonchalant. The company has filed about 10,000 lawsuits and mailed more than 100,000 "demand letters" giving suspected pirates a brutal choice: Pay \$3,500 to settle or go to court. Problem is, the campaign targets anyone who bought smartcard programming gear from certain merchants; officials just assume it's used for hacking. Is that fair? DirecTV enforcement chief Larry Rissler thinks so.

http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/11.11/view.html?pg=3

#### **NBC** wants to sever ties with broadcaster Paxson

From Reuters



In a Reuter's story, General Electric Co.'s television network NBC said it wants to sever ties with family-oriented broadcaster Paxson



Communications to end an acrimonious relationship that could escalate.

The two broadcasters are disputing how and when NBC's one-third stake in Paxson will be bought. NBC acquired the stake for \$415 million in September 1999, hoping its roster of shows would find new audiences on Paxson's stations around the country. It now has 61, according to Paxson's Web site.

For more: http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=3818100



# A Case of Piracy Overkill? By Kim Zetter

Critics of proposed Federal Communications Commission rules designed to prevent consumers from redistributing copies of digital television shows on the Internet say the move won't stop piracy but will curtail technological innovation and the "fair use" of content.

The new rules, expected to win approval this week, mandate that devices capable of receiving digital signals -- including TVs, digital recording devices or computers containing a broadcast card -- be able to detect a broadcast flag encoded in the bit stream. The flag would allow users to copy and view digital content on any system in their home network, but would not allow them to upload the content to the Internet.

Fred von Lohmann, senior staff attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, said the movie industry fought in court for eight years to try to make it illegal for users to copy TV shows with their VCR. He said the industry is simply trying to find new ways to encroach on fair use, an individual's right to use copyright material in a reasonable manner without the consent of the copyright owner.

http://www.wired.com/news/digiwood/0,1412,60947,00.html

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#### Nader Tries to Change the Tide

Ralph Nader is convinced he will reverse radio consolidation. He has requested two body guards during his speech at Forecast 2004. If successful, Nader's actions could bring devastation to the industry. Radio stocks could plummet.

Can Ralph Nader rip broadcast licenses from the hands of radio's biggest companies? Can America's biggest consumer advocate force Congress to reverse radio consolidation? It may seem far-fetched, but when broadcasters hear his specific plan to unwind deregulation, it will send shockwaves throughout the industry.

Fact: Ralph Nader recently filed petitions to the FCC to deny renewal of 63 Clear Channel broadcast licenses. But Clear Channel is not his only target. Every consolidated radio company is a potential target. Mr. Nader says he intends to return radio to "the public interest," and claims he will take this fight all the way to the Supreme Court, if necessary.

Former Green Party presidential candidate and consumer advocate Ralph Nader will reveal his specific plan to reverse radio consolidation at <u>Radio Ink's Forecast 2004</u>, December 9-10 in New York.

Two body guards have been requested to accompany Mr. Nader at Forecast 2004, just in case some individuals don't like what he has to say. But...like it or hate it, you need to hear it.

Mr. Nader will be joining these top-level industry experts speaking at Forecast 2004 at the Harvard Club in New York, Dec. 9-10.

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#### **Ex-CBS Head Tisch Dead At 80**

Laurence A. Tisch, the Loews Corp. co-founder who also spent nine tumultuous years as head of CBS, died Saturday. He was 80. For more, visit: <u>http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/11/15/national/printable583867.shtml</u>

#### **DTV Transition Scoreboard**

From an NAB and an FCC Press Releases along with our comments



The National Association of Broadcasters recently announced that 24 more stations have joined the list of television stations broadcasting in digital, bringing the total number of DTV stations on air to 1,060 in 202 markets that serve 99.35% of U.S. TV households.

In addition, 82.19% of the more than 106 million U.S. TV households are in markets with five or more

broadcasters airing DTV and 56.12% are in markets with eight or more broadcasters sending digital signals.

For a complete list of stations on air visit: http://www.nab.org/Newsroom/issues/digitaltv/DTVStations.asp

BROADCAST STATION TOTALS From The FCC	AS OF SEPTI Database	EMBER 30, 2003	
AM STATIONS	4802		
FM COMMERCIAL	6207		
FM EDUCATIONAL	2441		
TOTAL		13,450	
UHF COMMERCIAL TV	762		
VHF COMMERCIAL TV	587		
UHF EDUCATIONAL TV	254		
VHF EDUCATIONAL TV	127		
TOTAL		1,730	
CLASS A UHF STATIONS	499		
CLASS A VHF STATIONS	110		
TOTAL		609	
FM TRANSLATORS & BOOSTERS	3830		
UHF TRANSLATORS	2655		
VHF TRANSLATORS	2084		
TOTAL		8,569	
UHF LOW POWER TV	1588		
VHF LOW POWER TV	523		
TOTAL		2,111	
TOTAL BROADCAST STATIONS		26	5,469

If you are interested in a look back to see just what has been going on over the years, visit: <u>http://www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/totals/index.html</u>. These stats are posted about every three months.

(Editor's Note: Our good friend and associate Lee Wood does a fine job of summarizing what has been going on with respect to DTV by our neighbors to the north and does so in their own words; so to speak.)

#### <u>O' Canada</u>

From: Lee Wood <u>lwood@koin.com</u>

Many here in the US seem to have completely overlooked the recent activities of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission and others of the



neighbor to the north of the United States. Here are the recent posting of my daily DTV news links that may be of interest. (If the links are broken go to the 'HDTV-Digital Television News Forum' at <u>http://www.hdtvforum.com</u> and select the appropriate date.)

#### DTV News for 11-11-2003

Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2003-61 The regulatory framework for the distribution of digital television signals [Canada] (Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission) <u>http://www.crtc.gc.ca/archive/ENG/Notices/2003/pb2003-61.htm</u> [HTML Version] <u>http://www.crtc.gc.ca/archive/ENG/Notices/2003/pb2003-61.pdf</u> [PDF Version]

Canadian television viewers poised to go digital in technological leap [Canada] (Canadian Press via Toranto Globe and Mail / Calgary Post / Yahoo News) http://www.globetechnology.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20031110.gthdtv1110/BNStory/ Technology/

http://www.canada.com/calgary/story.asp?id=475BF2F0-CF18-4B6C-8619-029276AB02F7

http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/cpress/20031110/ca\_pr\_on\_en/tv\_tec hnology\_1

#### DTV News for 11-12-2003

CRTC announces a framework for the distribution of over-the- air digital television signals [Canada] The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has issued a regulatory framework that sets out the rules for the distribution of over-the-air digital television signals by broadcasting distribution undertakings, including cable television and direct-to-home satellite systems.

(Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission) http://www.crtc.gc.ca/eng/NEWS/RELEASES/2003/r031111.htm

CRTC pushes for digital TV [Canada] In near term, satellite and cable TV forced to offer both analog and digital signals

(Toronto Globe and Mail)

http://www.globetechnology.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20031112.gtmecabcon12/BNSto ry/Technology/

TV to be completely digitalized [Canada] Quebec - Millions of Canadians who still watch television on older equipment will have time to catch up to a coming wave of digital technology.

(Canadian Press via Toronto Globe and Mail)



http://www.globeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20031111.wcrtc1111/BNStory/National/

Canadians will get grace period in switch to digital television: CTRC [Canada] QUEBEC (CP) - Millions of Canadians who still watch television on older equipment will have time to catch up to a coming wave of digital technology. (Canadian Press via Canada.com / Canoe News) http://www.canada.com/maritimes/story.asp?id=104FF0F4-58AA-4649-9516-

BD01ADBC2FF1

http://www.canoe.ca/NationalTicker/CANOE-wire.TV-Airwaves.html

DTV News for 11-15-2003 CRTC Issues Rules For DTV Distribution [Canada] (Digital Televison) http://www.digitaltelevision.com/2003/november/news1114\_5.shtml

DTV News for 11-18-2003 CBC's Hockey Night In Canada Broadcasts in HDTV [Canada] (Canadian Digital Television) http://www.cdtv.ca/old/hockey-night.htm

CRTC Sets Rules for Cable, Satellite Carriage of DTV Signals [Canada] (TV Technology) http://www.tvtechnology.com/dlrf/one.php?id=239

DTV News for 11-19-2003

CTV first to go High Definition on Wednesday [Canada] (CTV Canada) http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/1069179116840\_75/?hub=Entert ainment

CTV To Broadcast In High Definition Beginning Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2003 [Canada] (Canadian Digital Television)

http://www.cdtv.ca/old/broadcast.htm

CTV ushers in HDTV channel [Canada] (Canoe.ca) http://www.canoe.ca/Television/nov18\_ctvhd-cp.html

Clearer signal, but not clear sailing [Canada] CTV takes on HDTV with West Wing (Montreal Gazette) http://www.canada.com/montreal/montrealgazette/story.asp?id=78FAC085-F7BD-4F29-A735-FD48923DDAAE

#### Soft Ear – Deaf Ear By Charlie Nulla



The FCC has granted 104 television stations an additional six months in which to get their act together and get their digital TV plant in place and operations, but seven others

were given no quarter and denied any more time. To top that, those seven got letter of admonishment. NBC found that ownership didn't cut their Providence, RI property any slack and the FCC told them and the other six stations to get it together in the next six months or face financial sanctions. During this six-month period, these stations must submit periodic progress reports to ensure that

construction is moving along.



The commission said the seven stations failed to adequately justify further extension of their DTV deadline. The admonished stations were given six months to complete construction of their DTV facilities or face financial sanctions. The seven stations are: WJAR in Providence, RI, WVUE in New Orleans, LA; WICZ in Binghamton, NY; WKBW in Buffalo, NY; KMVU in Medford, OR; WSJU in San Juan, Puerto Rico; and WDWL in Bayamon,

Puerto Rico.

The 104 stations that got their third extension demonstrated that they were showing progress on construction since their last grant. The kinds of delays that got them the extension were construction problems; hold-ups in equipment delivery; local tower siting problems; the September 11th attack in New York; stations awaiting FCC action on rulemakings or applications; and stations with financial problems.

There are 30 stations that are classified as "satellite" stations. This means they are fullpower terrestrial broadcast stations that are authorized to retransmit all or part of the programming of a parent station that typically is commonly owned. Whether to permit these satellites stations to turn in their digital authorization and "flash cut" to DTV transmission at the end of the transition period is currently under consideration, and the FCC deferred the construction deadlines for those stations until that issue is resolved.

According to the FCC, there are currently 1,061 (one more than NAB says), or 81 percent of all licensed commercial and public stations, now on the air with a DTV signal

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#### THE BROADCAST FLAG

HDTV Magazine News By Dale Cripps hdtvmagazine@ilovehdtv.com

A major bone of contention between broadcasters of H/DTV programs and manufacturers of HDTV equipment has been the "broadcast flag" initiative. This initiative was designed to protect from devaluation content that could be re-distribution over the Internet. The Napster impact upon recorded music and the predictions of 100 Mb/s digital internet connections within ten years being common from Andy Grove of Intel fame raised a very serious concern among content owners and those who license that content. A technical barrier, it was concluded, needed to be erected as a pre-strike cure. Most broadcasters and content providers came behind the "broadcast flag" as their first line of defense.

Manufacturers were not uniform in their concerns over this "broadcast flag." They feared that consumers would think it a fault in their own products rather than a control in the hands of the broadcaster. There was also an issue of legacy equipment and its useful life. Concern that a denying of consumers the traditional controls they already enjoy with standard broadcast would be met by confusion and worse. There was also the concern that many HDTV and DTV products have been made and sold which could be made less useful with the engagement of the broadcast flag. The CEA was not alone in not being favorably disposed to a Federal mandate for this scheme, at least as it was presented. Those for it felt that anything less than a Federal mandate put all of their product at the risk of severe devaluation as it made its way unobstructed to the more powerful Internet with its greatly expanded low cost massive data storage. Something had to be done and the initiative passed its first hurdle yesterday with the following announcement coming from the FCC:



(Editor's Note: Here's a different take on the Broadcast Flag showing its "irrelevancy".)

Wave the Broadcast Flag From: Scott Kipp

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is expected to enable "broadcast flags" in digital television (DTV) broadcasts. The broadcast flag will prevent future, compliant equipment from distributing the high-quality content over the Internet. The entertainment

industry has pushed for this petty security feature for years and the FCC should approve it and move on to more important things.

The DTV movement has been stuck in a quagmire for five years and the broadcast flag could be granted as a sign of surrender. The Advanced Television Systems Committee agreed on the format of DTV broadcasts in 1998, yet fewer than one million people watch DTV, which carries high definition television (HDTV). DTV is the transmission of digital television signals over-the-air and is technically known as digital terrestrial television. DTV is usually broadcast from the same TV towers as old school, analog, color TV, but DTV broadcasts are digital streams of 19 megabits-per-second (Mbps). This digital stream can carry multiple kinds of information including one HDTV signal, several standard definition television (SDTV) channels, or a few enhanced definition television (EDTV) programs. The broadcast flag is the last piece of the DTV puzzle.

While over 1,000 television stations broadcasting unprotected DTV in the U.S., less than one percent of Americans have a tuner to decode the broadcasts. While over 6 million Americans have purchased HD ready sets, only 700,000 have bought a DTV tuner that could be ruled obsolete by the broadcast flag. Viewers have not jumped in because they feared buying a product that would become obsolete.

The FCC has mandated that all televisions over 13" include a DTV tuner after 2007. This FCC regulation will lead most television manufacturers to become display manufacturers that sell monitors without an analog or digital tuner. Detaching the intelligence (tuner) from the display will feed the growth rate for external devices that include a DTV tuner. The FCC regulations have pushed television manufacturers into a corner where they will not support DTV.

The broadcast flag could be the cornerstone that the television industry can build upon. The Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) will force DTV tuners to incorporate technology to protect the high quality digital broadcasts. The flag is a rather simple protection that would need to be incorporated into televisions that include DTV tuners. This rule would not apply to digital cable set-top boxes or satellite set-top boxes found in over 40 million homes today, because these devices do not decode DTV. The FCC mandate does not affect most devices and will only affect DTV tuners.

The broadcast flag is acceptable curb-high security. It will keep the majority of people and businesses on the righteous path to high-quality digital entertainment. It will not stop pirates from recording shows with HDTV cameras or cracking software that bypasses the broadcast flag. The flag is the appropriate term for this technology because it is a symbol of security that everyone agrees to. If we want high-quality movies and television, a symbol of security should be granted to the producers of that content. Once the broadcast flag is used, Hollywood has signed up to distribute their treasures in HDTV.

In five years, the broadcast flag will be seen as an insignificant hurdle on the road to pervasive digital content. The flag is an insignificant bit of a minor player in the broadband spectrum of entertainment. Ninety-one percent of Americans subscribe to pay

television services and rarely watch over-the-air broadcasts. Instead of getting a few over-the-air stations, most people receive tens or hundreds of stations through a video service provider. The future of home entertainment is evolving quickly into a digital whirlwind of content where DTV is like a little breeze.

The home of the future will receive content from a variety of sources that are more adept at delivering content. DTV broadcasts are an inefficient method of delivering content because better compression technologies exist than MPEG-2. MPEG-4 is the latest compression technology that delivers over twice as much content in the same amount of bandwidth. Before 2 million people buy DTV tuners, MPEG-4 satellites will be broadcasting tens of channels of HDTV to the entire United States in 2004.

Cable networks will continue to deliver content to the majority of homes with efficacy. Two-way communications over hybrid fiber-coaxial (HFC) networks can deliver gigabits-per-second (Gbps) of audio, video, gaming, voice, and the Internet to homes. Over 50 million analog cable subscribers receive 10s of stations, while 20 million digital cable subscribers receive hundreds of channels. The broadcast flag can be seen as a white flag of surrender when compared to these numbers.

The broadcast flag is the last gasp of a dying mode of communication. The 5 or 10 stations of DTV in the largest urban areas are irrelevant when compared to hundreds of channels that a satellite dish can scoop from the air. The connection of the Internet to the television will usher in a realm of uncensored possibilities that has never been seen in the history of human kind. Other broadband networks will evolutionize the television industry, and the over-the-air broadcasts will continue to be pushed into obscurity.

Pre-publication copies of Mr. Kipp's new book, Broadband Entertainment, are available at <u>http://www.broadent.com/</u>

#### Cuts Expected at Sony

By Fred Lawrence



According to a recent story in Broadcasting & Cable, Sony Corp. is expected layoff reportedly as much as 10% of its work force.

In what appears to be another yoyo move, Sony Electronics Corp. in the United States has plans to move some of its marketing divisions from northern New Jersey to either San Diego or San Jose, Calif., early next year. It was only a couple of years ago that Sony moved a great deal of their operation from San

Jose to northern New Jersey. Not everyone wants to make these moves and it is a cheap and dirty way to reduce their work force without having to lay anyone off.

Sony operations related to broadcast and production gear, as well as media, will remain in New Jersey for now.

#### FCC's DTV must-carry decision around the corner?

Source: Warren Publishing, Inc.



The FCC hopes to complete a DTV must-carry decision before the end of the year, Commissioner Abernathy said Wed. She said the commission is still weighing whether to require cable systems to carry both analog and digital signals, as well as whether cable systems should be forced to carry multiple digital streams from each broadcaster. Abernathy said she doesn't believe requiring cable systems to carry both a digital and analog signal is sustainable. However, she also said multicasting represents a significant economic opportunity for broadcasters. Left unanswered, she said, is whether consumers will embrace multicasting; whether Congress's DTV mandate is broad enough to authorize the FCC to require multiple carriage; and whether must-carry rules violate cable's First Amendment rights.

# DTV Tuners a Must, Court Says



An appeals court has upheld the FCC's schedule intended to speed the transition to digital television by setting July 1, 2007 as the effective date by which all new TV sets with screens 13" or larger must be capable of receiving digital signals. The first phase of the tuner requirement begins next year, when half of all TV sets 36 inches or larger are required to have DTV tuners.

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\_public/attachmatch/DOC-240448A1.doc

FBI: Sorry, but Security Vulnerabilities Aren't Microsoft's Fault

From: Cary Enoch R. aka Enoch's Vision, Inc. <u>enochsvision@earthlink.net</u>



According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Carnegie Mellon University, all the complaints about Microsoft having security problems are bunk. In fact, a report from the two organizations specifically calls for all the finger-pointing to stop because all technology is inherently vulnerable, and simply blaming Microsoft for everything obscures a bigger problem: Microsoft doesn't own or control the Internet infrastructure, which is extremely vulnerable to attack. Furthermore, the report says, more than 90 percent of all Microsoft-related attacks--including the two most infamous recent attacks, MSBlaster and SoBig.F--involved vulnerabilities that the company had already fixed.

http://www.enochsvision.com

#### **Microsoft Goes After Google**

From: Stacy Cowley, IDG News Service



Microsoft has reportedly approached Google about a potential buyout of the search technology company.



Mountain View, California-based Google, one of Silicon Valley's few business <u>success stories</u> in the post-dot-com era, has been meeting with investment bankers over the last several months and exploring its options for a public offering.

During that process, Microsoft approached Google to discuss alliance options, including a takeover, according to an article in Friday's New York Times. Not Interested?

Google hasn't been rushing to take Microsoft up on the offer: Executives there seem to favor a public offering rather than an acquisition, the newspaper reported.

Microsoft and Google declined to provide comment to the New York Times for its story.

Calls placed to both companies by IDG News Service weren't immediately returned. Microsoft has been <u>looking into the Web search market</u> now largely dominated by five-year-old Google.

While Microsoft has denied plans to enter the paid search industry, it has increased the staff on its search team to more than 200 and deemed MSN Search one of the company's key businesses.

#### SOLAR UPDATE

From the ARRL Newsletter



Solar seer Tad "You Are the Sunshine of my Life" Cook, K7RA, Seattle, Washington, reports: The three sunspots that raised so much havoc at the end of October are back after journeying across the sun's far side. The planetary A index of 117 on Thursday, November 20 indicates a very strong geomagnetic storm. The mid-latitude A index was 67, and Alaska's College A index was 161. Average daily sunspot numbers for the week rose to 63 from 32.6 last week. Average daily solar flux rose from 94.8 to 117.7, and average daily planetary A index went from 23.4 to 31.7.

Over last weekend, a solar wind disturbed Earth's magnetic field. Conditions were disturbed until November 19, when the planetary and mid-latitude A indices were in a normal range. The day before, Tuesday, November 18, sunspot 486 pushed a coronal mass toward Earth. This was the event that caused all the upset two days later on November 20.

Rough conditions should subside over the weekend. Current projection shows the planetary A index from Friday to Monday, November 21-24, at 45, 35, 20 and 20. Predicted solar flux values over the same period are 180, 190, 200 and 210. High sunspot and solar flux levels are expected to remain through Thanksgiving, November 27.

Sunspot numbers for November 13 through 19 were 25, 34, 52, 54, 72, 90 and 114, with a mean of 63. The 10.7 cm flux was 102.1, 98.9, 97.8, 104.4, 121, 144.3 and 155.1, with a mean of 117.7. Estimated planetary A indices were 42, 37, 40, 35, 34, 20 and 14, with a mean of 31.7.

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#### German Way to Go Digital: No Dawdling

By MARK LANDLER of the New York Times

The New York Times has an interesting story about how Berlin, Germany made the transition from analog to digital. Basically the local cable companies told subscribers to cough up nearly \$175 equivalency in Euros for a set top box so they could receive 25 crystal clear channels compared to the snowy 6 they were getting before. It also speaks of the over the air reception as well.



The switch to digital is under way in other German cities, including Cologne, Hannover and Düsseldorf. By next May, Professor Reimers said, digital signals will reach 23 million of Germany's 82 million people. By 2010, he predicted, "Germany will be analog-free."

It is important to remember, in talking

about digital television, that the switchover affects only viewers who receive their TV over the air. Of Germany's 34 million television households, 19 million have cable and 12 million use satellite receivers. Both industries remain predominantly analog.



That leaves 3 million German homes still using rooftop aerials or even more antiquated rabbit-ear antennas. (In the United States, an estimated 10 million of 106 million television households still rely on over-the-air signals.) In Berlin, which has 1.8 million TV households, 160,000 homes had over-the-air reception before the switchover, while 90,000 homes used over-the-air broadcast for second or third sets

In Lander's story, he observes: "Nobody expects the Congressional deadline of Dec. 31, 2006, for a digital conversion to be met, because Congress said it would exempt any local market in which fewer than 85 percent of the households were equipped with a digital TV or converter. That threshold seems unlikely to be reached in most markets until closer to 2020, some broadcast executives say. As long as millions of American households are still receiving their television over the air, many of them in remote areas, politicians are understandably loath to cut off even a single one."

For the full story visit:

http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/03/technology/03digital.html?th



#### Two Birds with One Stone? Or Another Chapter of the Peter Principal.



By Fred Lawrence

Now it looks like Valenti may finally be ready to retire, and rumors are running rampant that Billy Tauzin, Louisiana Congressman who runs DTV matters for the House leadership, has been chosen to replace Jack Valenti as head of the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA). Valenti's departure, the New York Post reported recently, is "imminent."

As one story put it, "It will be refreshing to see Valenti muzzled - he dishes out more farcical spin than the 24/7 cable news channels and both political parties combined.

And it will be refreshing to be rid of Tauzin in Congress - he has been a key factor in allowing this

whole DTTB fiasco to spin out of control for more than a decade.

There is good reason to be concerned. It seems that the FCC is about to give Hollywood (including the MPAA) tremendous new powers; powers that may enable Tauzin to exert significant control over the design and capabilities of almost every digital media appliance that will be manufactured in the future.



On CNBC last week, Hilary Rosen, the former head of the

Recording Industry Association of America, said, "I think this is a done deal. I could have egg on my face in a couple weeks, but I think this is a done deal."

For more, visit: <u>http://www.nypost.com/business/41882.htm</u>

#### 

#### If someone has your phone number, do you want him/her to be able to find your house?

From: Stephanie Wilde stephaniewilde@sbcglobal.net

This has been Stephanie Tested -- and it is real.



Google has implemented a new feature where you can type someone's telephone number into the search bar and hit enter and then you will be given a map to their house. Before forwarding this, I tested it by typing my telephone number in google.com. My phone number came up, and

when I clicked on the MapQuest link, it actually mapped out where I live. Scary.

Read below for details. Think about it--if a child, single person, ANYONE gives out his/her phone number, someone can actually now look it up to find out where he/she lives. The safety issues are obvious, and alarming. Mapquest will put a star on your house on your street. In order to test whether your phone number is mapped, go to: www.google.com

Type your phone number in the search bar with dashes (i.e. 555-555-1212) (dashes & not spaces very important) and hit enter. [I also got the same result using just the 10 digits.

This will divulge your name and address. You will see a link option to the right for Mapquest and Yahoo maps (click on it), which will use the address to provide a map to your home. If you want to BLOCK Google from divulging your private information, simply click on the telephone icon next to your phone number. It opens a window with a form; scroll down and fill out to block your info from showing up. It takes 48-hours. If you are unlisted in the phone book, you might not be in there, but it is a good idea just to check.

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KLCS SENDS DTV TO CLASSROOMS WITH SUNDANCE DIGITAL Steve Krant <u>Sales@SunDig.com</u>



In order to realize its goal of sending content to the desktops of more than one million students and teachers in the Los Angeles County School District, KLCS, the district's television station, needed an



automation system that could mature along with the project itself. After assembling an

extensive set of specifications, KLCS entrusted the automation portion of the nearly \$6 million project to Sundance Digital's highly scalable Titan(tm) solution.

KLCS has set a high bar for itself. The district plans to repurpose its system several times within each day. From 8am to 4pm, it will broadcast a DTV channel that replicates its analog signal -as well as four to ten streaming channels - to its potential of one million young viewers. From 4 to 8pm, it will convert to a traditional four-channel environment, and from 8 to 11pm it will broadcast one high-definition and one DTV channel.

Next came what Alan Popkin, KLCS' Director of Engineering, calls "The cool part." From 11pm to 8am the next morning, KLCS will utilize its bandwidth to send content (video, PowerPoint presentations, lesson plans, etc.) to the desktops of the district's students and teachers. Content browsed and selected from a digitized and thumb-nailed media library is forwarded and cached at each school's edge server and then a hotlink for the content is sent to the viewer's desktop.

KLCS expects that it will take some time for its end-users to adopt the system and fully realize its benefits, which is where Titan's flexibility becomes key. Said Popkin, "We needed a system that can handle a minimum of four channels to start with, and then expand up to 10, as even our streaming channels will be handled by automation. We needed a system that would tie everything together to coordinate at a single source and still be expanded in the future. Sundance offered the feature set we were looking for."

"We had very limited automation prior to this. My staff spent a great deal of time writing specs for the bid, and through that process we found that Sundance was the most responsive and the best value for what we needed done."

\*

STATEMENT OF ENFORCEMENT BUREAU CHIEF DAVID H. SOLOMON ON \$1.2 MILLION CONSENT DECREE REGARDING ALLEGEDLY MISLEADING TELEMARKETING CAMPAIGN BY LONG DISTANCE CARRIER NOS COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

> Federal Communications Commission Enforcement Bureau Chief David H. Solomon issued the following statement regarding the Consent Decree between the

Enforcement Bureau and NOS Communications, Inc. and related companies (NOS) approved by an FCC administrative law judge last week. See Public Notice, DA 03-3498 (Oct. 30, 2003).

"This Consent Decree demonstrates again the FCC's strong commitment to ensuring that American consumers get clear and accurate information from telecommunications companies so that they can make informed choices. In addition to making a payment to the U.S. Treasury of \$1.2 million, NOS has committed to alter its telemarketing practices

in significant respects so that consumers are not misled by NOS's campaigns to win back former customers. The Enforcement Bureau will be carefully monitoring NOS's compliance with the Consent Decree and stands ready to take further aggressive enforcement steps should NOS fail to comply fully."

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#### Statement of FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell Regarding FCC Enforcement Action on Do-Not-Call Rules



following statement:

The Federal Communications Commission announced that it has proposed a \$780,000 forfeiture against AT&T Corporation for violating the FCC's Do-Not-Call rules. Chairman Michael K. Powell issued the



"Today's enforcement action demonstrates our resolve in the fight to protect consumers from unwanted and intrusive telephone calls. This puts telemarketers on notice that we will take all measures necessary to protect consumers who chose to be left alone in their homes. Together with our partners at the Federal Trade Commission, we will remain vigilant to ensure that telemarketers respect the wishes of consumers."



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Following is the URL for a neat new Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) web page for help and support on a wide variety of topics. Clicking on "Find Support by Topic" will generate a master index page containing several items of importance to broadcasters. Check it out at:

http://esupport.fcc.gov/index.htm

#### NAB ENGINEERS DISCREDIT MITRE LPFM REPORT



NAB engineers have torn apart the LPFM report prepared by Mitre Corp. for the FCC, and NAB says in no way should the FCC conclude from the report that

third adjacent channel protections can be eliminated in order to squeeze more low power stations into the FM band.

For more, visit: http://www.rwonline.com/dailynews/one.php?id=4022

StarBand Emerges from Bankruptcy



StarBand said it received approval from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Delaware to emerge from Chapter 11 protection, the final clearance required for the company to implement its reorganization plan.

The company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in May 2002. After settling a dispute with a strategic partner, renegotiations of key contracts, reductions in staffing, creation of a new sales force and the addition of new customers, the company said it is "poised to emerge a stronger, more financially stable company."

The company said its capital structure has improved with the conversion of about \$113 million of bank debt to equity. In addition, approximately \$90 million of debt to Gilat Satellite Networks will convert to equity and a \$14 million post-emergence note. Also, StarBand and Gilat have entered into a new technology and hardware supply agreement providing for \$7.5 million in additional financing.



A new monitoring panel from Panaromadty.

**NEW PRODUCT - PRELIMINARY INFORMATION** 

**MON8-1** Eight 1.8" LCD Color Monitor



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For more info visit: http://www.wohler.com/

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**Features History & Opinions** 

#### My observations By: Burt I. Weiner biwa@earthlink.net

![](_page_28_Picture_1.jpeg)

People seem to forget the intent of "Freedom of Speech". It is the right to say what you think, what is on your mind. It was never intended to be a right to shove your way into someone's home or privacy.

On one side you have a person standing on a

soapbox or an editorial on the radio, TV or newsprint. On the other side you have corporate mentality and lawyers twisting the intent of Freedom of Speech into the blessing of aggressive sales or Yelling "FIRE!" in a theatre in order to make fun radio by the (obviously) mentally retarded.

Which one do you support and how many kids have you personally raised?

Burt Weiner Pissed off Citizen (**Editor's Note**: See Parting Shots below.)

![](_page_28_Picture_7.jpeg)

**Commentary** 

![](_page_28_Picture_8.jpeg)

ATSC OTA Works! From: Craig Birkmaier <u>craig@pcube.com</u>

High signal availability is most important when people rely on OTA rather than cable. Which describes this country before the 1980s certainly, as much or \*more\* than it describes any other country. And the penetration of cable occurs only in wealthier countries, because it's an expensive proposition.

This DOES NOT describe this country before the 1980's. Nor does it describe the situation in Europe at that time.

The very existence of cable in the U.S. came about BECAUSE of LOW signal availability in many areas. Poor reception because of multipath in the cities, and poor reception because of the lack of coverage in rural areas. In Europe, broadcast networks were required to provide a very high level of access to broadcasts. Because of this, and the reality of many nations sharing congested spectrum that does not understand geographic OR political boundaries, Europe developed networks of lower power facilities and many satellite facilities, to comply with the mandates for high signal availability. Thus there was very little incentive for cable to develop in Europe before the '80s.

After the '80s cable became a factor around the world because of programming choice, in addition to high reliability/quality. It fared better or worse across Europe based almost entirely on the regulatory environment in each country.

I agree that economics IS a factor in cable penetration, but again, this has much to do with national priorities. As was mentioned, some areas of Europe have very high cable penetration rates. This has almost NOTHING to do with being a wealthier nation - it has everything to do with the regulatory environment and the priorities of the regulators. In the Netherlands, for example, the government helped to shape the market by making cable part of the basic telecommunications package; as is the case in Germany, the cost to the consumer is significantly lower than any difference in income levels between Europe and the U.S. would suggest.

Poor RF coverage DID allow cable to get a foothold in the U.S. Those early CATV system DID NOT offer extended choice. They DID deliver higher quality versions of the content available over-the-air than could be achieve in many locations with an antenna. The use of tall receiving antenna towers in rural areas to bring in distant signals also made broadcast content accessible in areas where off-air reception would have been impractical.

No argument that ultimately, choice fueled the growth of cable and then DBS around the world. But there are many factors that affect cable adoption rates in different countries.

Cable can be a good alternative if it is a national priority. There are a number of countries in Europe where it was a government priority...and some, like the U.K where it was not.

The size of the market is generally irrelevant. Each market is unique and the transmission network needed to serve it can and should be optimized to provide high availability throughout the coverage area.

The problem is that the big stick provides high levels of interference outside of the desired coverage area.

This is a highly inefficient way to use the spectrum, with the side effect of disrupting the market based system of coverage that we have chosen for the U.S.

Big sticks only make sense where they help serve large geographic areas with low population densities, with little interference into adjacent markets. I would note that the U.S. has many large areas where the big sticks will still be useful. This DOES NOT justify their use everywhere.

Regards Craig

![](_page_30_Picture_2.jpeg)

<u>**TiVo – Gadgets We Love**</u> From: Scott Woolley

![](_page_30_Picture_4.jpeg)

Tivo is both a wonderful--and wondrously frustrating--product. Anyone who owns one adores it, usually to the point of obsession. A recent crosscountry move required putting my stuff into storage for a couple of months. I packed TiVo separately. I wasn't trusting it to movers, and it wasn't spending even a week without me.

The frustrating part is this: People without TiVo think our obsession is silly. New owners make it worse by accosting the uninitiated with a half-hour sales pitch. We old owners don't bother. We know the pitch won't work.

For more, visit: http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2003/1110/166.html

![](_page_30_Picture_8.jpeg)

Barry Mishkind <u>barry@broadcast.net</u>

![](_page_30_Picture_10.jpeg)

Amazingly, I've heard from at least four people who suggest their stations were the "originator" of the chimes - a situation not unheard of in historical research! And here is the question I wonder about: The gentleman from Florida, who passed away and can't be interviewed, said WSB originated the tones in "the late 1920s...." Since the NBC network had been doing some tones earlier to signify the end of programming, I wonder if the complete answer is

that the three tone sequence used by WSB came to the attention of the folks at NBC who adapted it, figuring those three tones were the best of the alternatives heard out in the world.

Regarding reproductions of the chimes, a collector wrote to inform me that "many" were made, but not all of them are valuable.

And finally, history buffs that happen to visit Minneapolis can see history on the Chimes at the Pavek Museum. Visitors to the Internet can see still more at:

http://www.oldradio.com/archives/prog/nbc-chimes.htm

#### \*\*\*\*\*

#### AND A FORMER NBC VP/GM JUST HAD TO CHIME IN! (SORRY)

From The CGC Communicator and Mike Lonneke W0YR@aol.com

![](_page_31_Picture_4.jpeg)

The information on the NBC chimes in CGC #596 is correct and confirms what I was told about them by some old-time employees while I was VP/GM at NBC's WMAQ-AM/WKQX-FM in Chicago (1986-88).

At that time, my office in the Merchandise Mart had a closet with a set of three brass tubes with velvet cords through the top of each one. These tubes were about 1 1/4"

in diameter and of varying lengths, around three feet long. When struck, they played the famous "G-E-C" tones. I asked one of the station's long-time engineers about those chimes and he said that when a network show originated from NBC Chicago, the announcer or sound-effects man would use them, but only if there was a studio audience. If not, a chime box was used instead.

I had planned to have a mahogany stand built and to have the chimes polished up and put on display in the lobby, but with the sale of the stations facing us, I just didn't get around to it. So on the day NBC handed over WMAQ-AM to Group-W, I gave the chimes to someone who I knew would care about them, that same engineer, and have since lost track of him.

As for the chime boxes, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the network, NBC had produced some cheesy reproductions, but I still had one real one left that I was going to keep for myself, but then the phone rang. It was Eddie Einhorn, co-owner of the White Sox and Bulls asking me for one of the chime boxes. Since we were in renewal talks with both teams, you can guess where the last authentic chime box went.

![](_page_31_Figure_10.jpeg)

Test your computer's exposure to online security threats From: "AJ" <u>albert@verbrugh.net</u>

Test your computer's exposure to online security threats and learn how to make your computer more secure. http://security.symantec.com/sscv6/default.asp?langid=ie&venid=sym

![](_page_31_Picture_13.jpeg)

#### [PSIP] Channeling

From: Art Allison, <u>aallison@nab.org</u> Director Advanced Engineering -- NAB

![](_page_32_Picture_2.jpeg)

To try to clear the confusion about the CVCT: The cable virtual channel table is for each cable digital multiplex. It may be built from 2 or more sources. While a broadcaster might be able to send it if he has appropriate business arrangements with all cable systems he serves, this is not going to be typical, and even then the cable system may have to alter it ( the MPEG TSID and the

TSID of the CVCT need to match, and each VC in the VCT 'points' to a DTV multiplex with that VC- the triplet TSIDs need to be coherent).

Also note the title of A/65 includes cable, although US cable systems, shall I say, did not rush to adopt PSIP.

Art

#### 

#### VHS is dying?

From: Marcy Magiera, editor of Video Business. mmagiera@reedbusiness.com

![](_page_32_Picture_10.jpeg)

TAPE DISPENSED -- If there's any doubt that DVD has penetrated virtually every corner of American society, two stories in last week's issue should have dispelled it. In the same week, VB reported that 80% of the copies of Buena Vista's blockbuster Finding Nemo sold on the first day were DVD and that rental chain Movie Gallery expects DVD to account for 75% of company rental.

For more:

http://www.videobusiness.com/commentary.asp?articleID=6509&catID=10

## New 2003-2008 H/DTV Migration Reports

FROM: Des Chaskelson, Research Director, SCRI International (www.scri.com)

![](_page_32_Picture_16.jpeg)

SCRI is in the process of tabulating the thousands of responses received from television stations and production and post facilities responding to SCRI's 2003-2008 H/DTV Migration. Reports are due out soon. For table of contents, see online at: 2003 - 2008 H/DTV Migration Trends Report - TV Stations

<u>http://www.scri.com/sc\_hdtv\_2003trends.html</u> 2003 - 2008 H/DTV Migration Trends Report - Production / Post – http://www.scri.com/sc\_hdtv\_2003trendsnb.html

#### **RCA Equipment History**

For you history buffs, the Broadcast Archive page that Barry Mishkind -The Eclectic Engineer maintains is probably the most complete. It should be visited. Click on the thumbnails for larger pictures. Mishkind has many other things of interest on his website.

![](_page_33_Picture_4.jpeg)

http://www.oldradio.com/archives/hardware/TV/RCA-TV.htm

# DVD Standards Comparison by Drive Generation

*Abstract: DVD-RAM, DVD-RW and DVD+RW comparison by drive generation broken down into recordable and rewritable media support as well as Linux compatibility.* 

Standard	Туре	DVD-RAM (DVD)				DVD-RW (DVD)			DVD+RW (Independent)				
	Manufacturer	Matsushita/Panasonic					Pioneer			Sony/Philips			
	Licensees	Mitsubishi, Toshiba, others				1	Mitsubishi, others			HP, Plextor, others			
	Generation	4G	3G	2G	1G	J	2G	1 <b>G</b>	pre-G	3G	2G	1 <b>G</b>	pre-G
	Products	LF- D521	LF- D311	LF- D211			DVR-105	DVR-104		DRU- 500A	DVD200i	DVD100i	
				1999	1997	1	2002	2000	1999 / 1995	2002	2002	2001	1999 (Japan)
Recordable	DVD-R(A)								/ 1x				
	DVD-R(G)	2x	1x				4x	2x	1x /	<u>(1)</u>			
	DVD+R									4x	2.4x		
	CD-R	12x					16x	12x		16x (24x CAV)	12x (16x CAV)	12x (16x CAV)	
				2x	1x (2.6GB)	J							
	DVD-RW	1x					2x	1x		<u>(2)</u>			
	DVD+RW									2.4x	2.4x	2.4x	1x (3GB)
							8x	8x		4x (10x CAV)	4x (10x CAV)	4x (10x CAV)	
Linux	Kernel Rewrite	STOCK	STOCK	STOCK	STOCK		patch	patch		patch	patch	patch	
	Record (GPL)						DVDR, CDR2+patch	DVDR, CDR2+patch	DVDR, CDR2+patch				
	Record (other)	ProDVD (2.0)	ProDVD				ProDVD	ProDVD	ProDVD	<u>(3)</u>			

#### **DVD Speeds:**

- **Constant Linear Velocity (CLV)** speeds are listed unless otherwise noted. CLV always records/rewrites at the stated speed.
- **Constant Angular Velocity (CAV)** are noted as used. CAV is rated at the highest rating on the outer track. Actual beginning/inner track performance can be half (or less).
- CLV v. CAV: CLV is always faster than CAV, especially on beginning/inner tracks and sub-50% capacities.
- DVD+RW does has an overall read performance advantage over DVD-RAM or DVD-RW in that it reads DVD+RW discs at 6x CAV.

#### **Recordable Formats:**

- **DVD-R(A[uthoring])** recording is supported only by specific Pioneer DVD-R(A) writers. DVD-R(A) was the first DVD Recordable circa 1995. The Pioneer drives were and still are quite non-commodity and expensive. DVD-R(A) allows the writing to areas of the disc that support CSS content protection. DVD-R(A) is the most compatible format as it was introduced before consumer DVD players were proliferated.
- **DVD-R(G[eneral])** recording is supported by both Pioneer DVD-RW as well as late model DVD-RAM (3G+) drives. DVD-R(G), or commonly and simply referred to as **DVD-R**, is designed as the general purpose recordable format. It first appeared in Pioneer DVD-R(G) drives circa 1999 and adoption has proliferated after the DVD-RW drive was released in 2000. Even though it was released after consumer players became commonplace, most consumer players released after 1997 were designed to support its specification, so compatibility is near-100%. Pioneer funded development of the first CDRecord release to support DVD-R recording, hence why the GPL'd DVDRTools fork supports their drives.
  - (1) NOTE: Select 3G DVD+RW drives (e.g., Sony DRU-500A) support 4x DVD-R recording as well
- **DVD+R** recording is supported by Sony/Philips 2G+ DVD+RW drives. After running into design issues that held up the release of DVD+RW drives until 2001, Sony/Philips released the original 1G DVD+RW drives without a recordable format. Although they promised to release an equivalent DVD+R format that would be supported on 1G drives, Sony/Philips still ended up having to releasing a new 2G DVD+RW with recordable support. This has since resulted in a class action lawsuit. While DVD+R uses almost the same design as DVD-R(G), there are some variations that are not compatible with a few, older consumer players, even Sony/Philips ones. But overall, compatibility is greater than 90%.
- **CD-R** recording is supported by all drives except 1-3G DVD-RAM drives.

#### **Rewritable Formats:**

• **DVD-RAM** rewriting is only supported by DVD-RAM drives. DVD-RAM was not designed for consumers, but as an optical archiving standard, hence why it

was first. DVD-RAM 1G (1997) debuted at 2.6GB/side (typical of the proprietary optical formats of the time), and increased to 2x and 4.7GB/side in 2G (1999). Based on Matsushita's PhaseDual technology (which is why Linux support was available on day 1), using modified laser logic, write verification and uniquely sector-aligned media (even outside the cartridge, it can be immediately differentiated from any other DVD format by its "track dashes"), it solves many of the reliablity and longevity issues of magneto optical (MO) media. DVD-RAM increases media lifetime 10x, number of re-writes 100x and reduces the error rate 1,000x times (near-magnetic equivalent) over other MO formats, including CD-RW, DVD-RW and DVD+RW. The "cost" is that DVD-RAM is not readable outside of DVD-RAM itself, and the verify logic cuts write performance in half (on 1-3G DVD-RAM). Despite the emergence of consumer DVD-RW and DVD+RW, DVD-RAM continues to proliferate as the standard for long-term optical archiving.

- **DVD-RW** rewriting is supported by DVD-RW as well as the latest DVD-RAM drives. DVD-RW was introduced in 2000 by Pioneer as a consumer rewritable to complement their new DVD-R(G) recordable format. DVD-RW appears as a double-layer disc, so compatibility is around 70-80%. 2G DVD-RW drives increase rewrite performance to 2x.
  - (2) NOTE: Select 3G DVD+RW drives (e.g., Sony DRU-500A) support 2x DVD-RW rewriting as well.
- **DVD+RW** rewriting is supported by DVD+RW drives. Sony/Philips originally split with the DVD consortium over the direction of DVD rewritables in 1998, and believed it could yield a 3GB rewritable consumer replacement with CD-R/RW support well before Matsushita could reach 4.7GB for DVD-RAM, or Pioneer could create its planned 4.7GB DVD-R and DVD-RW technologies. Unfortunately, Sony/Philips ran into design issues and their 3GB DVD+RW drive wan't completed until late 1999. By then DVD-RAM had reached 4.7GB and Pioneer had its its 4.7GB DVD-R out with a rewritable planned for next year. The 3GB DVD+RW became a Japanese-only niche product while Sony/Philips worked on the first CAV speed DVD rewritable with a superior read performance (upto 6x). Unfortunately, once again, design issues ended up pushing its release back even more to 2001, and well after Pioneer had released its consumer DVD-RW drive. Very similar to DVD-RW, compatibility is around 70-80%.

#### Linux Support:

- Kernel Rewrite support for "packet writing" is equivalent to using Roxio DirectCD or Nero InCD under Windows. The system directly accesses the rewritable media like it was a removable disk. This requires direct, block device support of the drive itself in the kernel -- via "SCSI ROM" device, e.g., /dev/sr0. Matsushita DVD-RAM (and PD-CD before it) have been supported since 1998, and kernel 2.4 comes with full DVD-RAM support in the stock kernel. DVD-RW and DVD+RW have limited support via patches.
  - **NOTE:** "Packet Writing" is typically uses the Universal Device Format (UDF) filesystem (although any kernel filesystem can be supported).

Unlike ISO9660, UDF allows dynamic modification and is considered the "replacement" for ISO9660 since it can be both a "pre-recorded" image as well as a "traditional, random access" filesytem.

- **Record** support is equivalent to Roxio EZ CD Creator or Nero BurningROM under Windows. The system actually records to the media as a dumb, sequential device. This requires only basic, character device support in the kernel -- via "SCSI Generic", e.g., /dev/sg0. All the "brains" of how the data is sequentially streamed to the drive is in the user-space recorder software itself.
  - **DVDRTools Record (GPL)** is a fork of the last GPL version of CDRecord with Pioneer DVD support. It only works with Pioneer DVD-R/RW drives.
  - **CDRTools 2.0 w/DVD patch Record (GPL)** a patch to the GPL version of CDRecord 2.0 with Pioneer DVD support. It only works with Pioneer DVD-R/RW drives.
  - **CDRecord-ProDVD Record (other)** is a commercial software package ("free beer" for non-commercial use, ~\$100/system for commercial) that supports all major DVD drives that can write DVD-R media.
    - (3) NOTE: Select 3G DVD+RW drives (e.g., Sony DRU-500A) that support 4x DVD-R recording are supported in the latest CDRTools-ProDVD 2.0.

![](_page_36_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Picture_8.jpeg)

To say that it's not the same broadcast industry as when we all got our start in many years ago is certainly an understatement. We engineers have, in many instances, engineered our selves out of jobs, but that's not what this story is about. As part of when I have my "writing hat" on, I monitor any number of engineering reflectors and forums on the internet for potential stories. What follows, after I make a few comments, is nothing more than another mile stone on what may seem to some as our escalating ride on the road to perdition.

All you have to do is listen to the radio and watch TV, and you'll hear language and

story plots that were unthinkable only a few years back. Notice I haven't even mentioned motion pictures, which went off the "decency deep end" many years ago. You pay to see a motion picture; so that kind of puts it in a different category, but there is still no excuse for using language that would make a sailor blush (I'm an expert on that having served sixteen years in Uncle Sam's canoe club, the USN) when it does nothing to enhance the story line or plot.

The same is true of radio and television, but it would appear that we are headed in the same direction that the motion picture industry took some time ago. Since you can say and do anything you wish on Cable and Satellite, it was only a matter of time when FREE, OVER THE AIR BROADCAST would find itself working its way into these same sewers as well, not that I would have an opinion on this.

One more thing: I do believe and support freedom of speech and our US Constitution. I believe anyone has the right to say and do anything so long as it doesn't harm anyone else and I do not believe our government should be our moral watchdogs or moral guardians – there in lies the true separation of church and state (or where ever else you choose to get your moral guidance from).

One such e-mail that I received stated: "I was listening to KGO (San Francisco) yesterday and the local midday talk host said '\$hit happens' twice within a few minutes. I nearly drove off the road! I remember when saying 'damn' could get you fired. At the station I started at in 1965, there was a cut on a Frank Sinatra album where you could \*almost\* hear him say "hot damn" during a big instrumental part, and we were told that we would be fired instantly if we ever played it on the air!"

All I can say is that we'd better get use to it. What brought this all to light, once again, were the comments made by a recipient of a Golden Globe Award.

According to a story by Todd Dukart, a group filed complaints against stations that aired this year's Golden Globe Awards because a performer used the F-word, the Federal Communications Commission said its okay to use it on television, as long as it's done properly.

Trash is trash irrespective of weather it is done "properly" or not. I don't care what you or I say in a personal street conversation when we are not invited guest in someone's home, but I would expect guests, when they come into in my home, to treat me and my family with a modicum of respect and that includes using language mores set by me or my host.

Perhaps that's not the way things are done today. Perhaps part of our problem is our lack of respect for each other. Perhaps this is what contributes to the distain religious zealots in other parts of the world have for us. Yet, if we don't respect ourselves, how can we be expected respect others?

The argument that children might hear such language is really a laugh today. Most kids hear much worse, but then if it is morally wrong for kids to hear it, then it should be

equally wrong for an adult to hear it. No where have I ever seen anything that says the Ten Commandments has an age clause in any of them. That being said, it would be safe to say that morality is not something condition by age.

Yes, we do take liberties here in this newsletter. There are times when I'm not sure really where to draw the line between just plane foul language and something that is funny. You'd be surprised how much input I get that gets the ax.

Back to this latest wrinkle: During the Golden Globes, the performer Bono uttered either the phrase "this is really, really, f\*\*\*ing brilliant" or "this is f\*\*\*ing great," according to the FCC's Memorandum Opinion and Order. Because of that, 234 complaints were filed against television stations across the country.

The FCC denied that the use of the F-word was indecent. "The word 'f\*\*\*ing' may be crude and offensive, but, in the context presented here, did not describe sexual or excretory organs or activities," they wrote. "Rather, the performer used the word 'f\*\*\*ing' as an adjective or expletive to emphasize an exclamation." In similar circumstances, they wrote, offensive language like that used as an insult was not indecent.

One other source said, "With Bono using the F word on the Grammy's this year forced the FCC to issue some sort of advisement in that regards. They said in essence that as long as the words are used as an adjective and not as a verb, in addition to the usual titillation and prurient lean, the words in and of itself are not obscene. (The F word is actually an acronym from old England.)

"The same can be said for the other 7 words, though only the F word carries the stigma far greater than the rest which have been on the lips of most shock jocks for several years. So....if someone used the S (or even the C) word on the air (the only two other really nasty words) and the context wasn't referring to the bodily excretion, the function, or the above referenced classifications, then it's not considered patently obscene. Like if I called my old GM a C\*\*T as a matter of expression rather than gender, it passes muster."

This all boils down to the fact that the Supreme Court ruled (actually several times) a number of factors needs to be considered when determining whether a word (or phase) is patently obscene. That being said, the application of that standard actually increases the number of "words" or "phrases" which would and could be actionable. But rarely is it done. Perhaps it's time.

Ever since the court rulings in the Pacifica cases during the 1970s, the Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the test applied to indecency and obscenity are "media-specific." In other words, you may be able to clearly get away with calling your GM a patently offensive word (whether it's an adjective, noun or verb), in one electronic forum (depending on the time, place and manner), but not in another forum.

It is also worth mentioning that indecent speech is generally protected under the Constitution's First Amendment, but obscene speech or an expression thereof is never granted protection under the First Amendment. For example, standing in a public rightof-way and shouting racially-offensive speech which is intended to incite a reasonable person, would likely fall under the rubric of "hate speech," and has been held to be an unprotected form of speech or expression in a public or governmental forum.

And just because the FCC has set guidelines with respect to what it deems to be indecent speech, shouldn't be cause for the morning teams around the country to be uttering offensive language under their breath. The FCC has its view; the courts also their own. When it comes to interpreting the law, the federal courts will trump the FCC every time.

Read the FCC ruling (uses of explicit language) http://www.fcc.gov/eb/Orders/2003/DA-03-3045A1.html

# 

![](_page_39_Figure_4.jpeg)

A few pictures from our archives.

Got any we can put on display?

Stay tuned.

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![](_page_40_Picture_2.jpeg)