


ENTERTAINMENT

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Super Station WSBK enhances local cable's Pay TV packages

Halton Cable Systems has announced the acquisition of rights to distribute Boston super-station WSBK.

The station will join two others, TBS Atlanta, and WGN Chicago in the company's lineup of premium channels.

"Happily, we won't charge any additional fees for those who already receive WGN and TBS," said Marketing Manager John Ollivier. "We added the Atlanta and Chicago stations early this year, but couldn't get clearance on WSBK until recently."

Under CRTC regulations, super stations are only available to cable

subscribers who purchase Canadian Pay TV networks First Choice or Family Channel. Ollivier described it as a way to support Canadian programming, while at the same time increasing the value of the Pay TV packages.

"The way it works," he said, "is that those who have Family Channel alone pay no extra for the three super stations. We subsidize the fees out of our own pocket with the assistance of Family Channel who declined part of their wholesale charges."

"We couldn't get quite the same deal with First Choice, so the three new stations cost just \$1 a month

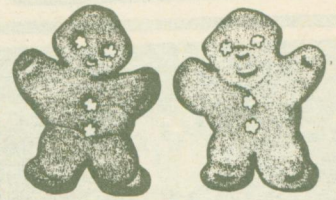
more when grouped with the movie channel," Ollivier said.

WGN and TBS have become popular because they broadcast baseball, hockey and basketball games not normally seen in this area. As well, they feature classic movies and sitcoms which are otherwise unavailable. WSBK features Boston Bruins home games and Red Sox baseball, complementing the sports viewing schedule for fans. The programme listing are features in most local guides.

Cable subscribers who presently receive TBS and WGN will automatically obtain WSBK on channel 30. TBS and WGN are currently

seen on 31 and 32. Otherwise, First Choice and Family customers who want the three stations can exchange their decoders for free at Halton Cable's office in Acton. The company will also change the decoder in the home for a reduced service fee.

"There will be a free 'preview' period of several weeks," added Ollivier. "We won't scramble WSBK until well into the new year. That will give viewers to check out channel 30, and plan to have the decoder changed at their convenience."



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Roger Ebert's Video Alert

By Roger Ebert

Universal press syndicate

NIGHT ON EARTH (R, 128 M., 1992) is a new film by Jim Jarmusch, a poet of the night, who tells five stories in five cities, all of them taking place during a taxi ride.

From Winona Ryder's chain-smoking L.A. cabbie who doesn't want to be a movie star, through strange encounters in New York, Paris, Rome and Helsinki, the film captures the lonely, moody world of the early morning hours, when people are unbuttoned and vulnerable, and ready to speak about what's really on their minds. Rating: ★★★

THE NASTY GIRL (PG-13, 95

m., 1991) tells the story of a bright young Bavarian schoolgirl who decided to do some research into her village's Nazi past, and only grew more determined as the local burghers tried to frustrate her investigation.

The story is fascinating, but director Michael Vermeulen's cheery style is curious and distracting.

With his back-projected street scenes and the way his actress poses on pedestals and addresses the audience directly, he seems to

be putting an ironic distance between himself and the material. Rating: ★★1/2

A MIDNIGHT CLEAR (R, 107 m., 1992) is a haunting parable set in the closing days of World War II, when two groups of young soldiers, American and German, find themselves in an isolated wood and try to strike a separate peace. But things aren't that simple.

Based on the novel by William Wharton ("Birdy") and with Ethan Hawke, Peter Berg, Kevin Dillon, Gary Sinise. Rating: ★★★

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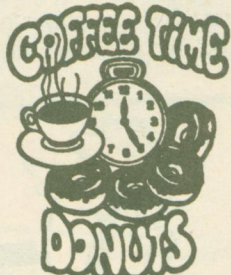
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SAT. THURS. MATINEE 2:00 P.M. **F**

CINEMA 2

THE BODYGUARD

NIGHTLY 9:00 P.M.

AA

CINEMA 3

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