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Pay TV network?

First run movies could stay on cable

By JANE MULLER
Champion Reporter

Local television viewers got a taste of what is to come in 1982 recently when the local cable company was testing satellite signals soon to be used for a pay TV network.

Halton Cable Systems, Channel 26, aired several current movie hits over a period of three weeks—repeating three movies throughout the day to fill the time slot normally dedicated to the House of Commons debates.

Halton Cable's Jim Magee said the movies were a preview of what is still to come.

"We're hoping very much a package such as that is available in 1982," said Mr. Magee.

"We're waiting for the licences now," he added.

Distribution costs will be in the \$12 range, which will give subscribers the choice of viewing from 10 to 14 movies each month, according to Mr. Magee. Although 58 to 90 per cent of the movies shown will be American productions, it is hoped revenues from the pay TV service will be channelled into the Canadian film industry—giving a much needed financial boost necessary in producing quality movies.

Mr. Magee said estimations of revenue to be derived from this new enterprise have not been disclosed.

Pay TV is not seen as a threat to movie theatres in the opinion of Leonard Burnstein, vice-president and general manager of Premier Theatres.

"They have pay TV in a number of areas in the United States, but nobody can really predict the effect it will have here," Mr. Burnstein said.

He suggests pay TV actually complements the theatre business as movies which are hits at the cinema are among the high-rated features on pay TV.

Premier Theatres is one company which already has a hand in pay TV—as part of the Premier Theatres group has applied for a regional pay TV licence to stretch from Scarborough to Ottawa. The company vice-president said his group's involvement will bring plenty of know-how to pay TV, with its vast knowledge of the movie industry.

"We have a lot to offer," explained Mr. Burnstein.

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A psychometrician, although many do not know what one is or does, is needed by the Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Board, according to Dennis Nolan, a superintendent for the board.

Psychometry is "the science of divining mental processes," says Mr. Webster's Dictionary and the provincial government's willingness to increase psychometric services has created the demand for an additional psychometrician at the separate school board.

Currently, the board has one full-time psychometrician who is a member of the special education department. She tests children who are found to have learning difficulties.

The children are first identified by teachers or principals. "These children are not necessarily slow. They have normal IQs but something is impeding their ability to fulfil their potential in class," explained Mr. Nolan.

The psychometrician tests the child according to the type of impediments he or she has and there are three very broad categories—social or emotional, behavioral and intellectual.

Once the tests have been done, the psychometrician interprets the results, which takes expertise, says Mr. Nolan, and then prepares a prescriptive program for the child to learn by.

"There is a demand for these services all the time. We now have a four to six-week waiting period for children to be assessed," said Mr. Nolan.

Permission must be received from the parents before the testing takes place and it can take at least a day per child for a tough case, said Mr. Nolan.

The board is expecting to experience an even greater increase in the number of children pinpointed for the service.

"The statistics show that the teachers deal with most of the children. This is not an opportunity to take children off their hands," said Mr. Nolan.

Mr. Nolan said, ideally, the second psychometrician would work half of the time in French, to service the board's French language schools. Most school boards have psychometricians on staff now, he added.

Most of the testing occurs in the elementary schools. Funding for the present psychometrician comes out of the board's special education funds. Mr. Nolan hopes that the second psychometrician can be hired once the new budget has been formulated by the board, later this month.

1982 Separate budget

Halton board needs 12 per cent hike

At least a 12-per cent budget hike will be needed for Halton Region Separate School Board in 1982, the board's education director expects.

Cliff Byrnes, director of education for the separate school board said the board's priority item for 1982 is the staffing of a new high school in Oakville, a school which will serve the Oakville and Milton Catholic communities.

"It's hard to predict what kind of an increase in budget we'll need," Mr. Byrnes said. "We're trying to keep within the bounds of inflation." The 1981 budget was set at around \$20 million for the operation of 30 schools in Halton Region.

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