

Battle to take over Paramount continues to rage

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The battle for Paramount Communications continues to rage with cable shopping channel operator QVC Network Inc. adding \$1 billion in financing from two huge private media companies to its hostile bid.

Cox Enterprises Inc. and the Newhouse family's Advance Publications Inc. each pledged \$500 million to QVC Chairman Barry Diller's effort to wrest Paramount away from its earlier merger deal with Viacom Inc.

The development seemingly puts more pressure on Viacom Chairman Sumner Redstone to raise the amount of his friendly merger bid.

QVC, based in West Chester, Pa., and MTV cable channel operator Viacom have each offered combinations of cash and stock for Paramount, but QVC's \$9.7 billion bid is worth \$1.8 billion more.

Paramount had no comment Sunday on QVC's new financing, but Viacom criticized the arrangements and repeated its assertion that "the Paramount-Viacom merger will be completed."

The scramble for Paramount has become one of the wildest takeover fights since the 1980s, with some of the biggest names in media choosing sides.

Paramount is a movie maker and publisher. Its library of films and TV programs are extremely attractive to cable TV and telephone companies planning to use advanced technology to deliver information and entertainment to homes.

QVC said Advance Publications Inc., the Newhouse family-controlled owner of Conde Nast magazines and Random House books, and Atlanta-based Cox Enterprises Inc., had each agreed to invest \$500 million in QVC for stock.

QVC already has identical \$500 million commitments from cable TV system operator Comcast Corp. of Philadelphia and cable programmer Liberty Media Corp., headed by industry titan John Malone.

Campus News Briefs

Two A&M engineers awarded professorships

Two Texas A&M College of Engineering professors have been awarded professorships.

Dr. Phillip Eubanks received the Joe M. Nesbitt Professorship in Chemical Engineering and Dr. Rayford G. Anthony was awarded the C.D. Holland '53 Professorship in Chemical Engineering.

Eubanks research interests include thermodynamics, plasma and spark dynamics and electrical discharge machining.

Eubanks has received more than \$1 million in research grants and contracts over the past five years. He has written and co-authored more than 120 technical papers.

Anthony is a specialist in design and synthesis of new catalytic materials. His research focuses on a method to remove radioactive metals from waste streams.

Anthony has three U.S. patents and has published three books, including two textbooks on chemical reaction engineering and more than 100 publications.

Aggie Democrats to host U.S. Senatorial candidate

Richard Fisher, U.S. Senatorial candidate and former senior foreign policy adviser to Ross Perot, will be in College Station Tuesday to address students.

Fisher will be in Rudder Theater at 8 p.m. The event will focus on re-inventing government and how politically active citizens can enhance the process. The program, which is sponsored by the Aggie Democrats, is free to the public.

Fisher said his goal is to attain Texas' U.S. Senatorial seat and unseat Kay Bailey Hutchison.

A&M named research center for transportation

The Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University has been named a Research Center of Excellence for Intelligent Vehicle Highway Systems by the Federal Highway Administration.

The center could add \$6 million to TTI's research program over the next five years.

Researchers plan to improve the nation's transportation network by researching three main areas, public transportation services, traffic management services and international border transportation services.

The new center will be supported by a federal research contract worth \$1 million per year for a minimum of two years and a maximum of five years.

TTI is the largest university-based transportation research agency in the United States. The institution is an official research agency of the Department of Transportation.

Career Center to sponsor business etiquette seminar

The Texas A&M Career Center will sponsor a seminar on professional etiquette in the business world.

The seminar will focus on "learning the p's and q's" of the business world and will be Thursday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. in Room 111 of the Student Services Building.

Officials consider laws for ice cream trucks

The Associated Press

DALLAS — The familiar jingle of ice cream trucks have sent children racing for the luscious deserts for decades. But in Dallas, that lure has turned dangerous, drawing five children to their deaths in the last three years when they darted into streets for the treats.

On Monday, the city's Health Services Commission heard different ideas on how to tighten vending regulations on the ice cream trucks in hopes of increasing safety. One proposal suggested treating the vehicles like school buses, forcing the treat trucks to flash their break lights and forcing traffic to stop.

Another idea was to lower the decibel-level of the trucks' blaring stereos.

Among those asking for rule changes at the hearing was the family of Victor Alfonso Garcia, a 7-year-old killed two weeks ago when he ran through traffic to get to an ice cream truck.

The idea of a policy change worries Hoss Rafaty, owner of the Yumi Ice Cream Co., one of the area's largest frozen-treat distributors and chair of the International Association of Ice Cream Vendors' safety committee.

He's spent four months working with city officials to tighten rules governing mobile vendors.

"Do we get rid of all the cars?" he asked "It's very easy to take on some guys who are trying to make an honest living."

Rafaty, a father of two, said he sympathizes with the Garcias.

"This accident is a very tragic thing, but the drivers cannot do everything," he said. "We have some responsibility toward our children."

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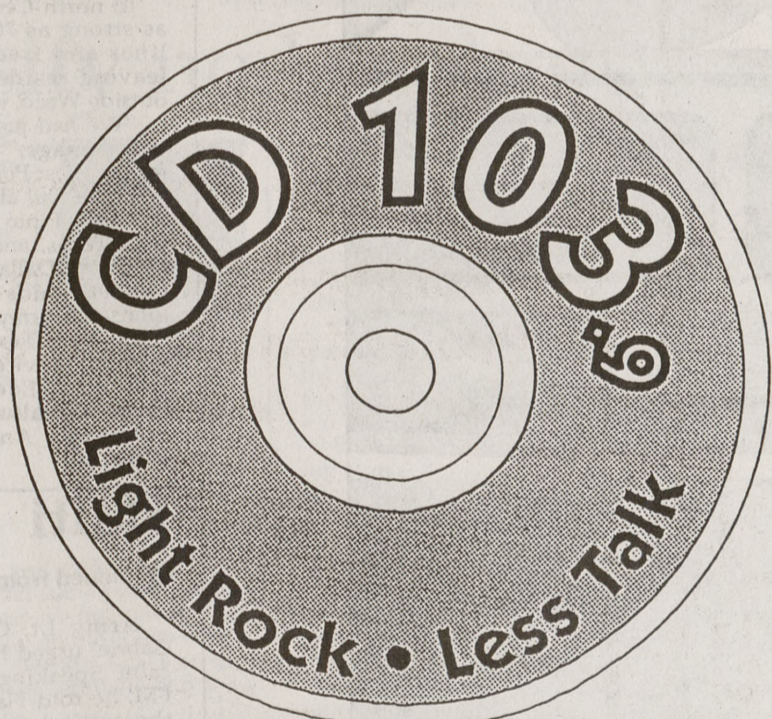
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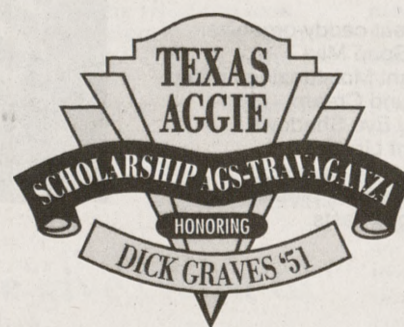
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