

Emmy awards mark new era for cable TV, commercials

By LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — TV's Big Three networks aren't just suffering viewer erosion because of cable. They're suffering awards erosion, too.

For the first time ever, a cable channel — HBO — got more Emmy nominations than any of the major networks.

Home Box Office got a whopping 90 nominations in the 49th annual Emmy nominations announced Thursday, edging NBC's 89.

Symbolically, that small gap is vast. After a half-century of dominating the medium, the networks are losing ground in both audience and prestige.

"It's a significant acknowledgment within the industry of the sea change that has been taking place among viewers within the last decade," said Larry Gerbrandt, an analyst with the media research firm Paul Kagen Associates. "What viewers are increasingly finding is there is programming as fresh, as original, as well-produced on cable" as on the major networks.

NBC's medical drama "ER" led with 22 nominations and remains TV's most-watched show. But HBO's "The Larry Sanders Show" beat the network sitcoms with 16 nominations, the most ever for a comedy in one year.

Among HBO specials, "Miss Evers' Boys," received 12 nominations, and "Bette Midler: Diva Las Vegas" got 10.

"This is a landmark moment,"

HBO executive Chris Albrecht said.

Other programs making strong showings included "The X-Files" on Fox with 12 nominations and ABC's "NYPD Blue" with 11. "Frasier" and "Seinfeld," both on NBC, got nine each.

The Emmy Awards will be announced Sept. 14.

CBS got 60 nominations, ABC 44 and Fox 19, for a network total of 212. HBO and 14 other cable channels got a record 138 nominations in all. In 1988, the first year cable was even recognized by the Emmys, HBO received six nominations.

Thursday's nominations opened the door on another era: The first Emmy recognition of TV commercial excellence.

The five nominated commercials included a Levi's jeans spot in which two strangers' eyes lock in an elevator and they share a funny, fast-forward fantasy of courtship and marriage.

Members of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences proved unsentimental, failing to nominate Roseanne for the final season of "Roseanne."

Also overlooked were series unveiled during the 1996-97 season, including the acclaimed "The Practice."

Voters saluted Ellen DeGeneres of "Ellen" with a best comedic actress nomination during a year in which the ABC sitcom drew both praise and criticism for outing DeGeneres' character as a lesbian. "ER" hunk George Clooney, who



Richard H. Frank, president of Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, and past Emmy-winner Dana Delany read the nominations for best actress in a comedy series during the 49th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards. This year marked the first time a cable channel received more nominations than any major network and also the first recognition of TV commercials.

has been splitting his time between TV and movies, was bypassed for the first time in the show's three years. Co-stars Anthony Edwards, Julianna Margulies and Sherry Stringfield got lead acting nominations.

"Home Improvement" star Tim Allen, last nominated in 1993, missed out again. But his co-star Patricia Richardson got nominated.

"Friends" didn't receive a best-comedy nomination, although an error during the awards announce-

ment briefly had the show among the nominees. A real supporting actress nomination did go to Lisa Kudrow as flaky Phoebe.

"I was expecting to be disappointed," said "X-Files" creator Chris Carter.

Nominations run from pop to obscure

Nominees in top categories for the 49th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences:

DRAMA SERIES: "Chicago Hope," CBS; "ER," NBC; "Law & Order," NBC; "NYPD Blue," ABC; "The X-Files," Fox;

COMEDY SERIES: "Frasier," NBC; "The Larry Sanders Show," HBO; "Mad About You," NBC; "Seinfeld," NBC; "3rd Rock From The Sun," NBC.

MINISERIES: "In Cold Blood," CBS; "The Last Don," CBS; "The Odyssey," NBC; "Prime Suspect 5: Errors Of Judgement," PBS; "Stephen King's The Shining," ABC.

VARIETY, MUSIC OR COMEDY SERIES: "Dennis Miller Live," HBO; "Late Show With David Letterman," CBS; "Politically Incorrect With Bill Maher," ABC; "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno," NBC; "Tracey Takes On..." HBO.

ACTOR, DRAMA SERIES: David Duchovny, "The X-Files," Fox; Anthony Edwards, "ER," NBC; Dennis Franz, "NYPD Blue," ABC; Jimmy Smits, "NYPD Blue," ABC; Sam Waterston, "Law & Order," NBC.

-by The Associated Press

Barbershop chorus comes back in style

By MELISSA STENZHORN
Collegian Arts Writer

Scattered colorful umbrellas and sun visors sheltered people from the sun. Some enjoyed a picnic and sipped lemonade to pass time.

Soon the sound of melody from a ragtime piano filled the air and people bopped their heads to the beat.

The harmony of The Nittany Knights Barbershop Chorus and ragtime pianist, Mike Evock, attracted a crowd of about 200 to the South Hills Business School, 480 Waupelani Dr., Sunday.

The performance was part of the summer concert series sponsored by the South Hills Business School. The series continues every Sunday through Aug. 31.

Tunes of ragtime opened the evening and set a novelty mood. Some children giggled and danced to musical numbers such as "The Entertainer" and "The Maple Leaf Rag."

The Nittany Knights, who have been singing in the area for more than 30 years, continued the evening by serenading the audience.

The group sang both oldies and more contemporary songs a cappella. Each song was given a brief introduction by the Master of Ceremonies.

Several times throughout its performance, the chorus broke down

into different quartets to create a blend of voices.

The harmony was a mixture of melody, tenor, baritone and bass.

State College resident, Susan Trotter, said she has only seen the chorus twice this summer but she greatly enjoyed this particular performance.

"I really liked the piano player, the chorus and the quartets," Trotter said. "But I liked my father's quartet best."

Clarence Trotter, Susan's father, is a tenor for the Nittany Notes quartet and has been a member of the chorus for 35 years.

Trotter said he enjoys performing and it becomes more fun as time passes.

This particular performance was different from other shows because, toward the end of the evening, the chorus asked the audience to actively participate by singing along.

"I've Been Working on the Railroad" and "By The Light of the Silvery Moon" were among the songs sung by the chorus and audience during the sing-a-long.

The chorus participates in several performances during the summer. Past programs include performances at Centre County Memorial Park, Boalsburg and the Lions Club in Jersey Shore.

A baritone in the chorus, Elton Atwater, said singing in front of an

audience gives him goose bumps and is a satisfying experience.

"Barbershop is more than a hobby — it's a disease," Atwater said. "We get hooked on it and can't let go," he said.

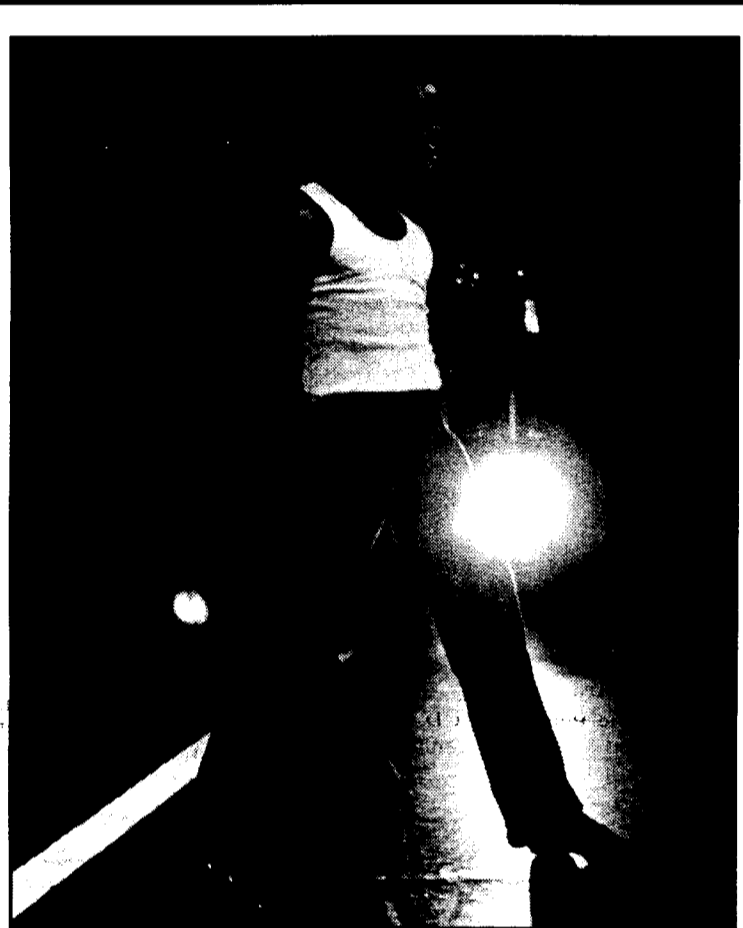
The chorus is always looking for students and other members of the community to become involved in singing with them.

Currently, there are about 25 active members in the chorus. Several members have been involved

for many years. There are only a few students singing with the Nittany Knights.

David Howard (graduate-geography), a tenor in the group, has been an active member for about three months. Howard said he believes singing with the group is worthwhile.

"Just getting together, meeting people and doing things outside of school and work is just fun," Howard said.



Collegian Photo/Christopher Mortensen

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