

**Capital Cities/ABC** last Friday (Dec. 15) **adopted shareholders' rights plan**, designed to bolster role of company's board of directors in case of hostile bid for company. Plan would allow shareholders, who will receive one right for each share of common stock owned, to purchase additional Capital Cities/ABC stock, or in certain cases, stock of acquiring company, at half market value price. Announcement said that Berkshire Hathaway, which already owns roughly 19% of stock, would be exempted from 20% ownership by outsider rule that would trigger rights. Thomas S. Murphy, chairman and chief executive officer, said it is unaware of any current takeover attempt.

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**Hilmer I. Swanson**, senior staff scientist at Broadcast Division of Harris Corp., Quincy, Ill., **will receive NAB's annual Engineering Achievement Award**, association's engineering conference committee announced last week. Swanson is being recognized for development of pulse modulation techniques and digital modulation for AM radio transmitters. NAB credits Swanson's advancements, which have been built into AM transmitters built by Harris and several other manufacturers worldwide, with saving broadcasters millions of dollars in power expenses over several years. Award will be presented on April 3 at annual engineering luncheon during NAB convention in Atlanta.

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**Texas Rangers baseball team last week finalized new three-season (1990-92) TV rights agreements with both KTVT-TV Fort Worth, Tex., and Home Sports Entertainment.** Flagship for Rangers' 15-station regional broadcast network since 1984, KTVT will expand schedule from 64 to 65 away games, and will, for first time, add home games—eight in 1990 and 1991 and 10 in 1992—usually province of local cable. Ed Trimble, Gaylord Broadcasting Co. VP and GM of station, said team will help KTVT pick home games most assured of high attendance and so not likely to lose dollars at stadium gate. Regional cable sports channel HSE, which claims 1.5 million subscribers in Texas and four other states, will carry up to 60 home games as it has since 1983. All parties declined to reveal value of either deal.

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**Comcast Cable President Robert Clasen has moved to London to head up company's new international division**, whose interests include UK joint ventures with telco U.S. West. Comcast has named Thomas Baxter, former senior VP of operations, as president to replace Clasen, overseeing company's 2.5 million subscriber operations.

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Five months after it ejected second Voice of America correspondent in connection with coverage of student uprising in Beijing, **Chinese government has invited Voice of America to send full-time correspondent to cover that country.** Foreign ministry called in VOA's stringer, Heidi Chay, last week to say it had approved application of VOA correspondent Stephanie Mann Nealer for accreditation. She has been with service since 1978 and has covered Eastern Asia. Decision on application—on file for several months—came without advance notice, but some observers were tying it to visit to Beijing earlier this month of national security adviser Brent Scowcroft and Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger. Admission of new VOA correspondent and cessation of jamming of VOA broadcasts, begun by China at time of student uprising last spring, were said to be among items on agenda U.S. officials followed in talks with Chinese officials. Chinese had complained about VOA coverage when it ejected first Al Pessin, in June, and Mark Hopkins, in July. In formal statement accompanying announcement of deci-

sion on acceptance of Nealer's application, Foreign Ministry asked VOA to "do its best in its reporting to be factual and objective so as to contribute to the enhancement of understanding between the two peoples of China and the United States and the improvement of the development of relations between the two countries.

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National Association of Public Television Stations appointed South Carolina Educational Television public information director **John Lawson** to newly created director of national affairs for NAPTS. Credited with establishing and expanding South Carolina legislative support for SCETV, and experienced as state coordinator for two presidential campaigns there, Lawson will develop strategies to demonstrate value of public TV to U.S. Congress, White House and federal agencies.

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**Board of trustees of noncommercial WNET-TV New York**, elected Henry R. Kravis chairman and Richard I. Beattie and Mrs. Felix Rohatyn vice chairmen. Three new officers, all current members of board, will assume positions on May 1, 1990. Kravis is founding partner of merchant banking firm of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.

### Western TCI on Satcom satellite

*Western Tele-Communications Inc. (WTCI) joined the new age of pre-launch commitments to future satellite capacity in a big way last week, agreeing to occupy 12 of 24 C-band transponders aboard GE Americom's next-generation Satcom C-1 satellite.*

*Four regional cable sports services partly owned by WTCI parent company Tele-Communications Inc. and five superstations, all currently delivered via GE Americom's Satcom FIR satellite, will be transferred to Satcom C-1, once the latter is launched in early 1991.*

*The agreement, which runs through the year 2000 (three years shy of the satellite's 12-year design life), also includes options to expand services, according to Robert Lemming, executive vice president of WTCI. "We have been pleased with the service GE is providing us and have been impressed with their flexibility and responsiveness to our growing needs for regional services," Lemming added in a prepared statement.*

*Terms of the deal were not disclosed, but the cost of the capacity aboard Satcom C-1 would likely fall well under the \$8 million-\$12 million-per-transponder range of purchases and leases announced earlier this year (BROADCASTING, July 17). The lower cost would result from the fact that C-1 is designed to serve as in-orbit backup to GE's primary cable birds, Satcoms C-3 and C-4, meaning that capacity on Satcom C-1 was almost certainly leased to WTCI in the form of preemptible, unprotected transponders. National cable services that have purchased transponders aboard C-3 or C-4—including Viacom's Showtime, MTV and Nickelodeon—would move to and preempt the WTCI transponders should C-3 or C-4 fail in orbit.*

*The block of services due to transfer from FIR to C-1 contains four regional cable sports services—Denver-based Prime Network, Houston-based Home Sports Entertainment, Tallahassee, Fla.-based Sunshine Network and San Francisco-based Pacific Sports Network—four of the "Denver Five" superstations marketed by TCI-owned home dish distributor Netlink—ABC affiliate KUSA-TV, NBC affiliate KCNC-TV, KMGH-TV and KWGN-TV, all licensed in Denver—and superstation WGN-TV Chicago, a service so far sold exclusively to home dish subscribers by Netlink (Tulsa-based United Video sells WGN-TV to cable).*