



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

449 BROADWAY, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138 • TEL. 498 9080

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION

6 February 1989

TO : Robert W. Healy, City Manager

FROM : Ned Casey, Communications Coordinator *Ned Casey*

SUBJECT: RAI SATELLITE PROGRAMMING AND VIDEOTAPING OF CABLE SERVICES

This is to update the Honorable Members of the Cambridge City Council, through your office, on the Cable Issues discussed at last week's meeting.

o ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAMMING

Discussions with this office, Teleitalia, Continental Cablevision, and Cambridge Community TV led some time ago to an agreement to run RAI Satellite Programming on one of CCTV's Public Access Channels.

The programs, delivered by RAI via satellite and marketed by Teleitalia, were to be downlinked into the satellite dish at the Arlington Headend and fed to CCTV over the Institutional Network Cable. The hold up has involved transmission on the I-NET. I have been told by Rob Picardi, Technical Engineer Chief and Mike Leone, I-NET Supervisor, that Continental has now cleared up their problems and Italian Language Programming will be available from Italy via satellite over Cable Channel 54 on Monday through Thursday from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. RAI broadcasts out of a transponder on the Satellite Satcom III. After 8:00 P.M. "BRAVO" a premium service uses this transponder so service from RAI is only available from 6-8.

Service should also be available on Friday and the weekend by some time in March. On the weekend, RAI switches to a transponder on a satellite out of range of Continental's Dishes. Mr. Anthony Iaccavone of Teleitalia has informed us that RAI will move to a more accessible satellite within a month or so thus providing our viewers with Italian Language Programming 7 days a week.

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

6 February 1989
Robert W. Healy

o VIDEOTAPING OFF CABLE

The picture presented at last week's meeting by yourself and Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi was quite accurate.

It is, and has been for some time, a consistent problem that the cable industry and the Consumer Electronics/Television Industries do not agree very often on compatibility of systems or on System Design.

The "Cable Ready" TV set, for example, is a clear misnomer. Any TV set is in fact cable ready. 90% of the Systems in the U.S. require a converter to display cable signals and switch channels no matter what kind of TV you own. This is because the various frequencies allocated to certain cable services and local channels change in almost every system and often do not match those of "Cable Ready" TV tuners. (Also many signals are now scrambled and require the converter to de-scramble them for viewing.)

The concept of taping one program while watching another is very popular with many VCR owners, but in practice -- especially when your signal comes in over cable -- it's not always so easy.

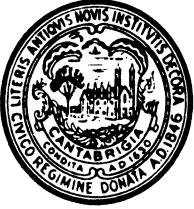
Here is how it works: TV signals are fed into a television tuner (the device that receives and selects channels) over either airwaves (Broadcast Signals) or coaxial cable (RF Signals).

A VCR with a built-in tuner when attached to a regular TV set which get their signals over the air allow one to watch a channel on the TV tuner and tape a different one off the tuner in the VCR.

In order to simultaneously watch and tape two different cable channels, both tuners need to be fed separate signals. This requires two converters in order to provide signals to both the TV and the VCR. Of course, one can watch a cable channel on the TV with a cable converter and tape a show off a broadcast channel over the VCR's tuner if the reception is good in your area.

Although this is not an ideal situation, Cambridge, along with every other Cable System must bear with it until the various industries involved develop the appropriate equipment and system configurations.

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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

February 13, 1989

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed please find copy of a report from Ned Casey, Communications Coordinator of the Office of Cable Television, relative to RAI Satellite Programming and videotaping of Cable Services.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mbf

Enc.

Agenda Item No. 2 *S-108*

Re: enclosed report from Ned Casey, Communications Coordinator, Office of Cable T.V. Re: RAI Satellite Programming & videotaping of Cable Services.

In City Council,

February 13, 1989

2-13-89

Placed on file.