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References to the Tiffany Network have been scarce in the latest corporate brawl over control of CBS. The phrase harks back to a time when network TV was awfully important. Network TV isn't what it used to be, but the CBS battle is sufficiently juicy to have occupied the New York and L.A. media for the past several weeks. In one corner is Shari Redstone, who controls 10% of the stock and 80% of the voting rights in thriving CBS. She wants CBS to acquire flailing Viacom, in which she also owns 80% of the voting rights.

In the other corner is CBS's long-serving CEO, Leslie Moonves, and a majority of his board. They apparently have been chomping to get out from under Ms. Redstone's special powers. They now see her conflicted role in the Viacom proposal as a chance to free themselves. Our own view is that voting-rights lockups are a mixed bag but public investors can choose not to live under them simply by not buying the stock. To give the standard plug, such lockups allow ruling families to consider the public interest rather than Wall Street when running media companies. Even a defender like veteran studio executive Edward Bleier, however, recently took to the pages of industry publication Broadcasting & Cable to [chastise](#) Viacom for giving the practice a bad name.

But the matter is complicated. Mr. Moonves himself has blown hot and cold on a Viacom deal. A reunion (the companies were under the same roof until 2006) would actually fall pretty much in line with the strategic reaction of other TV powers to the streaming revolution, which has been to double down on traditional TV content.

Comcast is chasing after the cable and studio assets of Fox; AT&T is buying those of Time Warner. In both cases, physical network operators apparently see television as a sweetener in the battle for broadband subscribers. They also see digital TV as a platform for competing with Google and Facebook in targeted advertising. Even more relevant to CBS and Viacom is the Disney example. Disney also seeks the Fox assets because it says it wants to compete directly with Netflix in the streaming business. Disney even says it will stop selling its own shows to Netflix when current deals expire.

Believe the first part. Don't believe the second part. Disney will certainly launch its own streaming apps in a multifaceted strategy to lure top dollar for its many valuable franchises (e.g., "Star Wars"). But Netflix is hardly turning out to be the hit factory that its own big content production budget was supposed to make it. Netflix will remain a buyer of Disney content. So will Amazon, the broadband companies, Facebook, Google and Apple as they pursue their own ambitions.

Disney is seeking to become a stronger version of what it is now, a premium content purveyor to many customers. If you own and can create great shows, this will certainly be the safest place to be among the tsunamis that are breaking. And if it makes sense for Disney, why not for CBS-Viacom, which would bring together the rights and talents embodied in the CBS broadcast network, Showtime, MTV, Comedy Central and the Paramount movie studio? One of these tsunamis is the

[budget season: A show void of value](#)

Pennlive

[Pa. Supreme Court changes mind on hearing former state House Speaker Bill DeWeese's conviction appeal](#)

long-promised broadband assault on the traditional cable bundle, by too many players now to list. The other is the arrival of 5G wireless.

Cable guys once comforted themselves that after their TV profits withered, they could still count on the fat margins generated by their local broadband monopolies and duopolies. Not any more. T-Mobile, keen to win Washington backing for its own proposed merger with fellow wireless operator Sprint, is already promising to roll out a full-blown TV offering over wireless later this year that will be available not just on your phone, but on the big screen in your rumpus room. Hold on tight. How Americans buy access to the internet and video content is about undergo a major shakeup.

CBS's boardroom uproar is mostly a distraction from this main event, but it fulfills a demand for human drama, with identifiable characters: the frustrated heiress waiting to come into her glory; the long-serving CEO chafing to be his own man. As a side note, Amazon is perhaps your best bet to turn the CBS maelstrom into a future movie or miniseries. Amazon is big in video, but video isn't big to Amazon; other candidates like Fox and Comcast's NBCUniversal may find that the family boardroom issues cut a bit too close to home.

In fact, Amazon's Jeff Bezos stands out in the tech and media sandboxes as one founder who has not endowed himself and his heirs with special voting rights. And depending on how things play out at the Tiffany Network, CBS's Mr. Moonves, who began life as a TV actor, may even be available to play himself. – *Wall Street Journal*

Geoffrey Starks, assistant bureau chief of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, will be nominated by President Donald Trump to fill a vacancy on the commission. Starks' term will run through June 30, 2022. He'll fill the slot of Mignon Clyburn, who stepped down recently with the pending expiration of her tenure.

Starks previously served in the Department of Justice as senior counsel to the deputy attorney general during the Obama administration, and practiced law at Williams & Connolly. He earned a degree in social studies and graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College, and then graduated from Yale Law School. "I congratulate Geoffrey Starks on his forthcoming nomination to serve as a commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission," FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said in a statement. "He has a distinguished record of public service, including in the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, and I wish him all the best during the confirmation process." Starks must be confirmed by the Senate.

Once that happens, the agency will be split 3-2 between Republicans and Democrats. Clyburn served on the FCC since 2009. Her term expired until last year, but she could remain as a commissioner until a successor was chosen and confirmed, or until the end of the current Congress. – *Variety*

About 18 percent of eligible Democratic and Republican voters cast ballots during last month's primary election, according to unofficial returns, a slightly better turnout than the last midterm election. But it's hardly a bellwether for citizen enthusiasm in the nation's democratic electoral process. So, why haven't droves of voters gone to the

polls? Two Philadelphia-area Democratic lawmakers think they have part of the answer: It's Tuesday's fault.

U.S. Rep. Brendan Boyle and his brother, state Rep. Kevin Boyle, will hold a news conference today in the state Capitol touting companion legislation to move Election Day from a Tuesday to a Friday. In 1845, Congress set Election Day nationwide as the first Tuesday following the first Monday of November. The date was picked to meet the work and religious demands of a then mostly agrarian society. Tuesday gave farmers enough travel time to get to and from the polls without interfering with Sunday church services or Wednesday trips to the market.

The Boyles argue society has changed so much over 173 years that Tuesday is no longer the best day of the week to hold elections. They cite polling data from adults who say they don't have time to vote amid work, school and family obligations. Voters, they argue, would have more time to make it to the polls on Fridays. Their legislation would move Election Day to the first Friday in November.

Congressman Boyle is proposing federal legislation to move the day. Kevin Boyle is doing the same thing at the state level. "In presidential elections from 2000 to 2012, approximately one-fifth of registered voters who did not cast a ballot listed 'too busy, conflicting work or school schedule' as their reason for not voting," the Boyles wrote. In 2014, the last midterm election, "roughly 35 percent of those who were eligible to vote but did not do so listed scheduling conflicts with work or school as their primary reason for not voting," they wrote. In 2016, the last presidential election, being too busy dropped to third place as a reason for not voting, falling behind dislike of the candidates and a lack of interest in the election, they said. It's doubtful, however, either bill would ever become law.

The late U.S. Rep. Louise Slaughter of New York pushed similar legislation for years. In fact, Brendan Boyle named his bill after her: The Louise Slaughter Weekend Voting Act. There have been arguments for moving Election Day to Saturday to avoid the common five-day work week, said G. Terry Madonna, pollster and political science professor at Franklin & Marshall College. "Any day you pick is going to inconvenience somebody in the workforce," Madonna said.

Motivation, not the day of the week, is the main reason voter turnout remains low, he said. People are turned off to American politics because they don't think their vote matters and schools no longer emphasize the importance of voting and citizenship as part of the curriculum, he said. "Making it a tad more convenient is not the solution," Madonna said. "What we need to emphasize is the educational relevance and importance of voting."

Schools routinely hold mock elections, allow students to vote for student council, and teach the difference between the executive, legislative and judicial branches. "Schools certainly expose students through curriculum and activities," said Joseph Roy, superintendent of the Bethlehem Area School District. "We could probably do more" by taking advantage of high school students' growing interest in activism and voting after the school [shooting in Parkland, Fla.](#) "If we get people voting the first time when they are 18 — it's just my feeling — they may

be more likely to be a voter again.” At some point, however, lessons that school teach lose their relevance.

A 2016 study by the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania found that just 26 percent of Americans could name the three branches of government. That was the worst score, by far, in a half dozen years. Bottom line: The U.S. has the sixth lowest voter turnout among democratic developed nations, according to a new Pew Research Center Study. The [study](#), released May 21, found the United States ranks 26th out of 32 nations in turnout. Some of the countries with better voter participation were Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Mexico, Germany, Belgium and 19 other nations. – *Allentown Morning Call*



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