



Cartman, Kyle, Kenny and Stan are the kids of 'South Park,' the cartoon juggernaut on Comedy Central.

## TCI: Digital cable does have upside

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technology is still new and is currently reaching very few homes. ESPN, for example, didn't want to commit The Deuce to an unknown, wave-of-the-future technology. Instead, they offered the past, committing Classic Sports Network to the digital package.

Still, despite the disappointment I felt after looking over the digital listings, there are some gems in the package that make it worth the money for some.

The addition of Bravo and the Independent Film Channel to accompany the mainstream movie networks is sort of like adding the Bijou Art Cinema to Eugene to join the theatres at VRC and Gateway. The films are a little smaller and not as well known, but often are marvelous. You'll find films such as "The Full Monty," "Shine" and "The Ice Storm" on Bravo and IFC. Bravo also has an extensive library of foreign films.

Pay-Per-View is back, which is a good thing, but there are actually nine PPV channels, which I find a

little excessive. Another slightly excessive channel is Much Music, the rival of MTV. Hopefully, Much Music, unlike MTV, will actually show a music video now and then.

Maybe most noteworthy is that the digital cable system is broken up into a network of nodes. Basically, that means if a tree knocks down a cable wire, instead of the whole city losing cable, only those within that node will. That cuts the number of local subscribers affected by an outage down to about 2,500.

It still remains to be seen what number of subscribers will be willing to shell out the extra \$10 a month on top of their normal cable costs, plus \$3.30 a month to rent the digital cable box, plus the installation fee of \$12.95 to upgrade to the node-friendly digital system.

What am I going to do? Well, I might just forgo all of the above, and upgrade on the basis of the 10 audio-only channels also included in the digital package. I'm hurting for some "Super Sounds of the '70s." Just kidding.

### Digital cable's new channels

- BBC America
- Bravo
- CBS Eye on People
- Classic Sports Network
- Discovery Kids, Science, Travel
- ESPNews
- Fox Sports World
- Game Show Network
- History Channel
- Home & Garden Television
- Independent Film Channel
- Much Music
- Outdoor Life
- Preview Channel
- Romance Classics
- Sci-Fi Channel
- Turner Classic Movies
- Encore Love Stories
- Encore Mystery, Western
- HBO 2 & 3
- Showtime 2
- STARZ! 2
- The Movie Channel
- Nine Pay-Per-View channels

A Robinson Theatre Production

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88.1 FM KWVA Top 10



COURTESY PHOTO

AIR: KWVA's No. 4 pick this week based on DJ airplay is Air. The French duo's music is a mix of cinematic ambience, trip-hop and mid tempo-beats. They use everything from moogs to guitars to clarinets, which nicely compliment the French and English vocals.

— Information provided by Jon Setzen, KWVA Music Director

- 1 The Pastels  
Illumination
- 2 DJ Shadow  
Pre-Emptive Strike
- 3 Cheeky Monkey  
Four Arms to Hold You
- 4 Air  
Moon Safari
- 5 Unwound  
Challenge for a Civilized society
- 6 Front Line Assembly  
Flavour of the Weak
- 7 Sicko  
You Are Not the Boss of Me
- 8 Various Artists  
What the World is Waiting For
- 9 Radiolaria  
Fuzz is Verse
- 10 Aerial M  
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