## Dis'ing on the (satellite) dish; Cable TV can offer much more



out the door to buy a mini-satel-lite dish this hollite dish this hol-iday season, read this and think twice. I'm going to "dish" It out to you on the dish.

to "dish" it out to you on the dish.

Being the value consumer that CALDERONE you are, you'll probably want to know first the cost of the minimum of the cost o

tom of the dish will make the pleture look better and the sound will be improved but the catch is in the "up to" 175 channels. They don't have 175 channels on the system yet. The transle on your cable service. Guess what the other channels on the minidish are composed of? Some are strictly audio channels which deair compact disc quality audio programming and play without interruption.

But you can get that on cable too — it's called DMX. The majority of the other channels are pay-per-view channels. Herein lies the real advantage of the minidish, more pay-per-view channels. Herein lies the real advantage of the minidish, more pay-per-view channels. Anyway, many cable systems, including Time Warner in our communities, will be upgrading to fiber optice. According to Dan Dinsmore, Time Warner Marketing Manager, "This will mean added channel capacity, clearer pictures with greater reliability and even interactive services such as video games and libraries of information right at your fingertips."

By the fall of 1996, subscribers will see the completion of a fiber optic system in Farmington, Novi and Farmington Hills.

If you're still set on running out and buying the mini-dish, I sure hope you won't miss watching the local news on your broadcast affiliates (CBS, NBC, FOX and ABC) because federal regulations prohibit satellite program services from carrying broadcast-network affiliates' programming into areas already serviced by local TV channels.

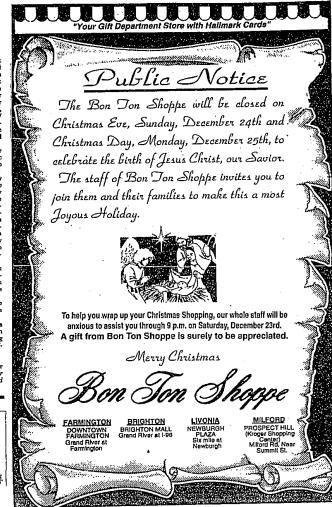
That means you also won't get local sports coverage on the local affiliatos. And, sports fans bowere, some mini-dishs don't carry PASS. With the mini-dish you'd also be missing all of your local access channels, like our Community Bullottin Board, Channel 3, City of Farmington/Farmington Hills Channel 8, Educational Access-Channel 10, the City of Novi-Channel 13 and INFO TV-12-Community Access. You can always hold on to your TV antenna or subscribe to hade cable TV service. But, aren't we right back where we started from? While the mini-dish does truly give excellent video and audio quality, it's not perfect. Heavy winds and storms can blow the dish out of tune, causing the pleture to freezoframe or go out completely for a few minutes at a time. After your one-year warranty, service isn't free either. With cable TV dif the picture gets fuzzy or the box goes bad) there is no charge for normal service and repair.

Last, but not least, check with our municipality. Some cities require permits to put up a dish and other cities are in the process of revising ordinances.

I guess I've put the "dis" on the dish. Anyway what good is a dish if you can't eat out of it?

The next SWOCC meeting is Jan. 9 at 4:30 p.m. in Farmington City Hall. The next CAC meeting is Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. in SWOCC office.

Mary Linda Calderone is the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission.



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