



BROADCAST Dialogue

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CONTENTS AND FORMAT COPYRIGHT IN CANADA AND USA (1999) BY CHRISTENSEN COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Features from the April edition of the *Broadcast Dialogue* magazine are on our website this morning, as they are at the beginning of each new publication month. Your hard copy should be along shortly but, if you're interested in a preview, check www.broadcastdialogue.com...This being April 1, it's a very real temptation to fabricate every item in this week's newsletter. We haven't. But, the hilarity around this office with some broadcast topics was almost - emphasize *almost* - worth doing so.

RADIO: The **CRTC** has issued a call for comments on Local Management Agreements (LMAs), specifically on the commission's proposal to implement a regulatory mechanism for evaluation of LMA agreements. Until now, a station licensee didn't have to get CRTC approval to enter into an LMA (with some restrictions, e.g. that the deal wouldn't involve transfer of ownership or effective control). With the duopoly decision last year, the commission now wants to be assured that there's a mechanism in place that would enable it to assess the appropriateness of multiple ownership in combination with LMAs in any given market. It is proposing to provide a regulatory mechanism that will allow it to evaluate the consequences of either the introduction or the continuation of any LMA. It's also proposing an amendment that would

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Ben Lucas, Operations Director
CKDR Radio, Box 580
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 Ph. (807) 223-2355
 Fax: (807) 223-5090

E-Mail to GM Bruce Walchuk: bwalchuk@moosenet.net

grant existing LMAs a limited transitional period. The proposed amendment would allow a licensee to manage or operate its station pursuant to an LMA that was entered into before March 31, 1999, until the earlier of: a) the earliest date at which any licence issued in connection with a station that is operated pursuant to the agreement expires, and b) the date on which the current term of the agreement expires, excluding any subsequent renewal. Any station now involved in an LMA and wanting to stay in that relationship will now be required to get CRTC approval before the end of the transitional period. Any

WANTED: Program Director Mid-Market Combo

Monarch Broadcasting's Lethbridge/Taber operation is looking for a radio Program Director for Country 95.5 FM (Contemporary Country) and Classic Hits CKTA 1570 (Classic Rock).

The Program Director will report to the General Manager and will be responsible for every area of CHLB.CKTA's on-air product. The PD will be part of a dynamic team that is leading the growth and development of these two stations. The successful candidate will complement our existing team of forward thinking, opinionated, high energy, community-minded managers. That person will be working towards building audiences and loyalty in this competitive aggressive market. Successful experience in country and classic rock formats as well as adult contemporary and top 40 is desired. Forward written applications before April 16, 1999 to:



Georgina Knitel, General Manager
CHLB.CKTA
 401 Mayor Magrath Drive
 Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 3L8



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licensee now involved in an LMA must file with the commission a fully executed copy of any agreement governing the LMA before the end of April. Deadline for comments is May 12... The **Pelmorex Radio Network** has been sold. A new player whose Chairman is based in Calgary — **Affinitek Inc.** — does, however, include some familiar names in the management/ownership structure. They include: President **Roy Hennessy (RadioWorks Inc., Toronto, Tom Tompkins (Pelmorex Radio Network, Mississauga), Doug Bingley (Rock 95 FM Barrie), David Bray, (RadioWorks), and Sandy Davis (Post City Productions Inc., Toronto).** Chairman/CEO is **Geoff Pickering**, the operator of marketing company, **XentalDM**. Current Pelmorex clients are being promised a “complete **“Affinitek Network” information package in the immediate future.**” Plans include the 24-hour conventional broadcast via satellite as is currently operational plus programming in a number of formats to be aired around the world via the Internet... Incidental to news of the Pelmorex sale is word that former **AudioNet GSM Mark Simpson** will join Affinitek for Sales & Marketing... **BBM** says the Spring and Summer Survey data will be available sooner than thought. The Spring Survey and April MRA Trends will be available May 20 (May 26 in book form). The Summer Survey will be available Sept. 16 (Sept. 20 in book form).. Former **CHOK Sarnia** staffers are invited to **Wayne Steele’s** retirement party June 5. Steele, who sold CHOK to the **Blackburn Group**, worked at CHOK in sales, became GSM, became GM, and then bought the station. Contact **Dave Curtis** at 519/542-5500 for details... The **Canadian Broadcast Standards Council** says a spot for a local exotic dance bar on **C98 Saint John (CJYC-FM)** does not breach the advertising provision of the CAB’s Code of Ethics. The Atlantic Regional Council ruled that the complainant’s concern seemed to lie more with the nature of the business (the existence of strip bars) rather than with the wording used in the commercial. The script, says CBSC, is straightforward and does not go beyond ‘telling of [the business’s] wares’... Silent for seven years, **Edmonton Journal** Columnist **John Short** returns to **CFRN Edmonton** on Monday with his show, **SPORTSTALK**. Short did this show for about a dozen years, then moved to **CFCW Camrose** when

the broadcast rights changed seven years ago. The show’s rights were subsequently sold to **CHED Edmonton** but it already had a sports show so Short remained silent for seven years... **Danny Kingsbury**, who had been PD at **CISS-FM Toronto** before the LMA with **Rogers**, has opened a radio consulting company called **Hours Tuned Media Ltd.** He can be reached at 905/332-7787. Meantime, Kingsbury is on a six-month contract at **CFOS/MIX 106 Owen Sound** temporarily filling the hole left by former Ops Mgr **Madelyn Hamilton**... Calls for FM applications have been issued for Grande Prairie (June 1 deadline) and for Moose Jaw (May 1 deadline)...

PROMOTIONS: **The Bear Edmonton’s** millennium baby (aka nookie night) promotion — **Bearfoot and Pregnant** — will see a hotel ballroom booked where 50 couples will party, receive gifts (including custom underwear), their own room for the night and Sunday brunch. If one of the Bear couples actually has the first baby of 2000, there will be a plethora of prizes, including home cleaning for a year, use of a mini van, and lots of kids’ stuff...

REVOLVING DOOR: **CKKQ Victoria** Midday Host **Kerry Campbell** has moved into administration in a Promotions capacity... PD **Marv Gunderson** at **Country 95.5 FM/Classic Hits CKTA 1570 Lethbridge** is stepping down. Gunderson

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Fax: (807) 345-9923

This position is a salary base plus commission and bonus structure. (approximately \$2,000/month)

Knowledge of television production is a definite asset.

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will become Morning Announcer at CKTA and Music Director for both stations... **Power 107 Calgary** Evening Jock **Brad Kelly** is heading to **CISS-FM Toronto**..

SIGN-OFF: **Eric Thomas Moncur**, whose last responsibilities at the **CBC** were as Regional Director in first Alberta, then BC, has died just short of his 72nd birthday. He retired in 1990 after 25 years with the corporation... Quebec actor **Julien Bessette**, best known for his radio and television roles, died Saturday at a Montreal hospital after a long battle with throat cancer. He was 69. The Montreal-born actor performed in most French-language radio shows broadcast in Quebec during the 1950s and '60s.

LOOKING: **CKDR Dryden** is in the market for a Swing Announcer with an interest in play-by-play hockey. See the ad on Page one... **Country 95.5/CKTA Lethbridge** is seeking a PD. See the ad on Page 1... **CKTB/HTZ-FM St. Catharines** is looking for Sales People. See the ad on Page 2... **Z95.3/CISL Vancouver** is needs a Promotions Director. See the ad on Page 2... **Thunder Bay Television** is looking for a Television Sales Rep. See the ad on Page 3... **CIBC-FM Drayton Valley (AB)** is looking for a Sales Rep. Contact is **Mel Stevenson**... **CIRX The Max FM94/Wild Country 620 CJCI Prince George** has an opening for a Summer Community Cruiser position. The summer job is geared toward being filled by a broadcast student. Contact **Gary Russell** or **Darren Coogan**.

GENERAL: **Okanagan Skeena Group** says it has received a takeover proposal but it won't divulge the company's name. OSG President/COO **Hugh McKinnon** is quoted as saying the OSG board has asked a special committee of independent directors "to review any proposed transaction and ensure that any transaction is fair and reasonable to all shareholders." A director, who asked his name not be revealed, said, "We never anticipated any of this. Now we're in play." The director said the suitor is expected to be identified before the end of the week and that other bidders

might emerge once the suitor is named... While **CBC** has expansion plans that include six more specialty TV services and two new radio networks, Heritage Minister **Sheila Copps** is having none of it. She calls the proposal — to be presented to the **CRTC** next month — unrealistic. Copps is quoted as saying there are funding issues. "If they're expecting their employees to work on six television stations and two radio stations in the current budget, I don't know very many people who can do six jobs at once." She said the new-networks proposal could not be examined separately from the issue of CBC funding, despite the CBC's claim that the new ventures would be self-sustaining. While the CBC proposal came to light even as a Technicians' strike continues, CBC President **Perrin Beatty** claims expansion and creation of new services represents the best guarantee for Technicians' jobs... It was only a couple of weeks back that Canada's Speaker of the House, **Gib Parent**, charmed **CAN PRO** delegates at their annual get-together with an animated and warm presentation about the history of Canada's House of Commons (He did the same thing with the **Canadian Association of Broadcasters** on Referendum Eve at their convention in 1995). This week, however, he's embroiled in controversy over an accusation that he politically interfered with a one-hour documentary called *Le Gardien de la Colline -- The Guardian of the Hill*. **National Film Board** honcho **Sandra Macdonald** is taking heat, too, because she pulled the film from its debut at a Toronto festival. Toronto director **Claudette Jaiko's** camera followed the Speaker, with his consent, throughout 1997 and 1998. Most scenes feature innocuous settings, with him answering questions from reporters, talking at his desk or chatting with friends. But Parent apparently found some voiceovers or scenes to be too personal... **Image Wireless Communication**, one of Canada's three multichannel multipoint distribution system (MMDS) operators has dumped its 20-year-old cable TV business. Image's owner/CEO (Ms.) **Kim South** says the future is in digital and wireless. The other Canadian MMDS operators are **SkyCable** of Brandon and **Look Communications** of Milton... **Shaw Communications** says it has bought 75% of **Access Communications** in

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Dartmouth which has more than 140,000 cable subscribers in Nova Scotia. With the deal, Shaw returns to a region where it sold its properties several years ago... The **Internet Advertising Bureau of Canada** says that in 1998, for every \$10 spent on advertising, 2¢ were spent on the Web...The 1999 **BEAC** (*Broadcast Educators Association of Canada National Conference*) — bringing education and industry together with the goal of providing an avenue for discussion relating to the future needs of Broadcasting graduates — will be held at **Humber College** in Toronto, June 17-June 20. For info, Conference Chair **Joe Andrews**: 519/942-2837... **Moffat Communications** shareholders have approved a proposed two-for-one split of common shares. The Winnipeg-based cable company said it expects the record date for the split will be April 12, subject to final approval from the Toronto Stock Exchange... Montreal-based **Groupe Videotron Itee** has launched its digital TV service. Eventually, the new service will offer cable subscribers e-mail on TV, along with other features such as movies-on-demand. The only other Canadian cableco to offer digital TV is **Shaw Communications**. Unlike Shaw, which has asked subs to choose between analog or digital, Videotron's digital system will allow people to continue to use both. Subscribers could watch a channel in digital while taping another analog channel with their VCR. **Rogers Cablesystems** and **Cogeco Cable** plan to enter the digital fray in the coming months. The cable companies want to bundle an assortment of improved entertainment and information services to boost revenues -- and to prevent customers from flocking to the new digital broadcasting technology rivals such as **Look Communications** and **Bell ExpressVu's** satellite television... The **National Advertising Benevolent Society** — a national, non-profit, charitable organization that assists people in advertising and related industries — has published its third edition of the NABS Advice Directory. It's a reference guide offering resource information and assistance in all ten provinces. The directory was created to offer the Canadian advertising industry a way to locate sources. It's free...

SYNDICATION: **Bob Weeks'** *The Golf Show* begins Monday on **Telemidia Network Radio**. For info, **Louann Nicholson** at 416/486-2608... Upcoming from **Sound Source** is *Your Canadian Garden '99* (90-secs), beginning April 5. Also on Monday, **Tom Petty's** 2-hour "Echo" world album premiere. Contact **Leslie Soldat** at 416/922-290...

TV/FILM: **BBM** says the rollout of its people meter service to Ontario, Quebec and Toronto will be complete by Sept. 1, 2000, paving the way for a national network service rollout one year later. The service is now operating in Vancouver. **BBM** says there has been "overwhelming" support for the expansion. The move will add 495 meters to households. By September 1, 2001, **BBM** will have people meters in 2,110 homes... The **Canadian Broadcast Standards Council** (Ontario Council) says **CFTO-TV Toronto's** use of the term "deadbeat dads" in a promo for an upcoming newscast was not discriminatory. A complainant took exception because the term should more appropriately have included the female gender. The report itself used the term "deadbeat parents". **CBSC** says if the shoe fits then deadbeat dads is not discriminatory; that it does not take a shot at all fathers who have child support responsibilities. **CBSC** says an "error of omission" had occurred and that **CFTO** couldn't have moved quicker to put the matter right. "Where an honest error occurs which is not of major proportion and is corrected quickly," says the **CBSC**, "(it) will not, in the absence of other material considerations, find a Code breach"... Director **Spike Lee**, probably best known by the general public as a Film Director, will speak at the 1999 **Bessies Gala** in Toronto May 5. Lee, however, will come prepared to speak to the television ad community because of his commercial work (Nike Air Jordan, Levi's Button-Fly 501, AT&T, and ESPN). Some years ago, he joined forces with **DDB Needham Worldwide** and created **Spike Lee DDB**, a full service advertising agency that concentrates on the urban/ethnic market. For Bessies tickets, contact **Natalie**



Features from the April edition of Broadcast Dialogue magazine are in the Broadcast Dialogue Website. For a preview, www.broadcastdialogue.com

Spiro at the TVB, 416/923-8813 Ext. 239... Film and TV Production crews say they've been hassled or turned back from US entry points at Toronto and Vancouver International Airports. Scores of them have been said to have been turned back since January. US Immigration officers at the airports have apparently told the crews they're taking jobs away from Americans. There's been no comment from US Immigration but many of the Canadians believe the action is part of the continuing cultural trade "war" between the US and Canada... **CBS** is said to be in talks to buy **King World Productions**, the production and distribution company behind such programs as **Jeopardy** and **The Oprah Winfrey Show**, for as much as \$3-billion (US)... New digital video recorders being introduced in the US have the potential to topple the current model of broadcast and cable networks. A new **Forrester Research Report** estimates that 14 million US homes will have the digital VCRs within five years. The technology will allow viewers to watch any program at any time and easily skip past commercials. In addition to making time-shifting of programs easier, the PVRs require no tapes or rewinding and allow for playback of live TV programming or the delayed start of a program. The new PVR is essentially a computer hard drive that records and stores from three to 28 hours of programming on hard drives, with capacity expected to climb to 1,000 hours in five-to-ten years. The report predicts revenue for the networks from affiliates, syndication and cable networks "will all dry up as TV ads become less effective". PVRs will be introduced by two independent Northern California companies. The report predicts that a disproportionate number of **NBC** viewers will be adapting to PVRs in the next five years and that **Fox** "will take the largest profit hit"... Product placement is nothing new. We've seen it in movies and, of course, professional sports. But, a couple of weeks back, a Coca-Cola can and a Wells Fargo billboard were in the background of a US network's weekly show ("Seven Days"). It was the first prime-time test of technology that allows advertisers to have products digitally added to a scene. "I don't see it taking off like a rocket," said **Ave Butensky**, President of the US Television **Bureau of Advertising**. One reason cited is that people see so many commercial messages in real life that TV product placement may be too subtle... Dundas-based **Levfam**

Holdings says it has made a deal to acquire control of **Sportscope Television Network**, which operates the **Headline Sports** specialty channel. **Levfam**, which already owns 47.85% of Sportscope, says it has agreed to buy **Digimation Inc.'s** 4.3% of Sportscope. Less than two weeks ago, **Alliance Atlantis Communications** said it was paying **Shaw Communications** \$16.2 million for Shaw's 47.85% interest in Sportscope... The Federal Court of Appeal has turned down **CTV Sports Net Inc.**, which wanted to appeal a **CRTC** decision refusing **Rogers Communications Inc.** the right to double its stake (to 40%) in the specialty channel. The commission said potential conflicts of interest are created when cable companies own specialty channels at a time when there is a shortage of channel capacity on many cable systems..

SUPPLYLINES: Waterloo-based **Inscriber Technology Corporation** has been awarded a multi-year contract to produce the new **Namedropper XL**, a video insertion graphics system, for the **National Broadcasting Company** and its affiliate stations. The system enables the network and stations to insert call letters, logos or other identification information into a network promotion or program... **Wescam's** entertainment subsidiary has received a four-year multi-million dollar supply contract from **ESPN Productions**. **Wescam**, based in Flamborough, ON, says its Broadcast Sports group will be ESPN's exclusive supplier of equipment, technicians and operators for all of the NASCAR Championship Auto Racing teams and International Race of Champions auto racing and NASCAR truck racing events over the next four years... Quebec's first all-digital mobile truck, an eight-camera mobile, owned and operated by Montreal-based **Reference Video Inc.** will travel to sporting events, concerts, award shows and a host of other venues to deliver digital pictures to local, national and international TV audiences. The mobile was designed and engineered by the Systems Integration and Marketing division of **Sony of Canada** and Reference Video's technical team.



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GENERAL: **CBC** and its 2,000 technicians have come to an agreement in their contract dispute, the techies ratifying the new contract by an overwhelming margin. Under the agreement, workers get a 10- to 11% wage increase staggered over 37 months, including a \$1,000 lump-sum payment for retroactive pay. Technicians hit the picket lines Feb. 17 to fight for more job security and better wages. CBC says viewership was down by 20-25% and CBC Director of Research, **Barry Kiefl** is quoted in a *Canadian Press* despatch as saying the 10 p.m. newscast that replaced *The National* during the strike retained 85% of its audience. However, because it was only a 30-minute program, he admits the numbers were very poor in the second half-hour with repeats of a Brit sitcom. Kiefl declined to translate the lost audience into declining revenue numbers... The **CRTC** says it won't be a "bargaining chip" in the division of the assets of **WIC Western International Communications Inc.** It has cancelled a May 3 hearing to determine whether **Shaw Communications** should be allowed to own a 52% stake in WIC it bought last year. The commission, said one source, didn't want to be used as an instrument of company posturing, and cancelled the May 3 hearing when it became clear **CanWest Global Communications** and WIC wouldn't settle their differences by then. (CanWest has a lawsuit filed in BC challenging WIC's ownership. A favorable judgement for CanWest could give it a much bigger share of WIC.) Meantime,



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CanWest and Shaw have been negotiating since last summer to split WIC's radio and TV stations and other assets. Both companies say it makes the most sense for Shaw to take the dozen radio stations, satellite operations, and specialty TV channels, and for CanWest to complete its national network with WIC's nine TV stations. Neither CanWest nor Shaw wants to be stuck owning a large chunk of a company it doesn't control... As of April 1, cablecos must refrain from placing marketing calls to former customers for 90 days following a cancellation. Also, and in the interests of competition, the **CRTC** ruled that cablecos must stop offering pricing discounts or service inducements to subscribers for 90-days after a

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cancellation. Prior to that decision, there were no rules governing cable companies and their "winback" policies. Shaw's Sr. VP of Corporate and Regulatory Affairs, Ken Stein, says the ruling unfairly limits how cablecos can address customers who have cancelled or switched because of a specific problem, such as service malfunctions or billing mixups. On the flip side, Scott Colbran, Pres/CEO at Look Communications, said "The cable companies have been threatened by our success, and have deliberately attempted to block our momentum at every turn. These guidelines protect the long-term rights of customers and ensure a level playing field for all new companies"... **Yahoo!** has agreed to buy **Broadcast.com** for \$5.7 billion. Broadcast.com got its beginnings from the transmission of college basketball games from a spare bedroom, helping to pioneer the delivery of audio and video online. About a million people a day are viewing any of dozens of college and professional sports events or sampling its nearly 400 radio stations. The downside is that it has the problem of huge demand getting in the way of delivering content. Also, only a fraction of Internet surfers have the speedy broadband service needed to enjoy the full fruits of Web-based video and audio. Broadcast.com has so far failed to show that it can turn a profit, posting a net loss last year of \$16.4 million on revenues of just under \$14 million... **Rupert Murdoch** is buying out **John Malone's Liberty Media Group** stake of 50% to expand his control of US regional cable networks and his share in two New York professional sports teams for \$1.4 billion. Under the deal, **News Corp.** takes control of **Fox/Liberty**, which has interests in more than a dozen regional sports channels as well as in cable networks including **Speedvision**, **Outdoor Life Network** and the **Golf Channel**. Further, Liberty sells Murdoch its half of the partnership's 40% stake in the **Staples Center** (under construction in Los Angeles), as well as its share of the partnership's 40% interests in the **New York Knicks**, the **New York Rangers**, **Madison Square Garden** and **Radio City Music Hall**.

RADIO: The **Canadian Broadcast Standards Council** (CBSC) says no breach of the **CAB Code of Ethics**

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Ben Lucas, Operations Director
CKDR Radio, Box 580
Dryden ON P8N 2Z3
Ph. (807) 223-2355
Fax: (807) 223-5090

E-Mail to GM Bruce Walchuk: bwalchuk@moosenet.net

occurred when **CFNY-FM Toronto's** morning team - **Humble & Fred** - aired an excerpt of the TV cartoon series **South Park** in which one of the characters said that he was "licking carpet" so that he could become a lesbian. The hosts added a parody choral conclusion to the tune of Beethoven's Ninth which went "That's disgusting, Hallelujah." A complainant said "the joke disparaged lesbians based upon their sexual orientation". The Ontario Regional Council said it did not consider the "joke" to be abusively discriminatory. Said the release: "In this case, while the Council is fully aware of the attempt to make fun of a sexual proclivity of lesbian couples, it is equally aware that the particular sexual practice is one engaged in by heterosexual partners as well"... The **CRTC** has approved the flip of **CJSS Cornwall** to FM. Station execs say they hope to be in a test mode on 101.9 by late next month. Meantime, the new website for both **CJSS** and **Variety 104** can be found at: www.1220cjss.com... We should have had this one last week but it somehow eluded us. The **Canadian Broadcast Standards Council** says a spoof by the **Larry and Willy** morning show on **CFOX-FM Vancouver** was unfair and that it did breach the Radio Station Contests and Promotions provision of the **Canadian Association of Broadcasters'** Code of Ethics. A complainant said a contest giving away seats to a **Bryan Adams** concert would be won by the first caller

giving Adams' middle name (and that the complainant was the first caller with the correct name). It didn't take long, says the BC Council, to determine that Larry and Willy weren't looking for the real name but rather a spoof name they'd made up. The BC Council said it had "little doubt that the application of common societal standards would lead any fair-minded person to conclude that the contest was ... not legitimate to the consumer/listener." The complete decision can be found at www.cbsc.ca... **Radio World Corporation** of Pacific Palisades, CA, says it has merged with New York-based **Intercom Technologies** to begin acquiring stations in mediocre financial situations and to connect them by satellite or fibre-optic network. The goal, says a press release, is to build a radio network for a worldwide audience. The company says it will offer what it calls "a rare opportunity" to its corporate sponsors; the "first ever" worldwide private advertising network. Further, says RAWO, it will then create its own thematic frequencies and broadcast centrally-produced material through every network station... Another year of radio April Fool's jokes at stations all across the country. Far too many to tell you about and, frankly, we've never used them anyway. There is an exception, though, for historic reasons. **CHEZ-FM Ottawa's Jim Hurcomb**, doing research on April Fool's day, found that the origins trace back to a misprint in a newspaper ad 275 years ago. An entrepreneur in Bimbrighton, England, listed land for sale at one pound per acre, instead of the intended 100 pounds. When the entire town lined up at his office the next day, April 1, the developer went ahead and racked up deals, selling phony deeds to 2,000 acres of land he didn't own. He immediately took off with the money and from that day forward the owners of the fake deeds were called April fools. The next year the town members resold the 2,000 acres to another town 240 km away, and from that day forward April 1 was called April Fool's day.

REVOLVING DOOR: Helen Bradley, former GSM at **RCFBG-FM Bracebridge**, rejoins **Telemedia Communications** at **EZ Rock Orillia (CICX-FM)** as an Account Executive... **David Wannan** is the new **KISS 92 Toronto** Promotion Director, in from **Z95.3 Vancouver**... Also at **KISS-FM Toronto**, **Melanie Curtis** is new MD and Drew Keith is MD for both **CHFI-FM Toronto** and **KISS-FM**.

LOOKING: **Hits 103.5** is searching for a Secretary/Assistant. See the ad dead centre on this page... **CKDR Dryden** is looking for on-air talent. See the ad at the top of page 2... **CJSS/Variety 104 Cornwall** is looking for some fresh and raw part-time on-air talent. Could be an opportunity if you're just starting out. Call Ops Mgr **John Divinski** at

613/932-5180.

SYNDICATION: The **CHUM Radio Network** has renewed its contract with **Premiere Networks** for the Canadian rights for **Dr. Laura** for three more years, until August, 2002... **Sound Source** has **Silverchair - Superstar Concert** - next week, April 15.

TV/FILM: **CTV Inc.** has posted a small net profit for its fiscal second quarter. CTV says it earned \$112,000 in the three months ended Feb. 28 compared with a loss of just over \$1.3 million in the same period last year. Quarterly revenues rose to \$125.8 million from \$122.3 million... **CFMT-TV Toronto** and **Carsey-Werner International** have reached an exclusive South East Asian marketing alliance to encompass all CFMT international productions. Carsey-Werner will retain the South East Asian territory rights to all CFMT international productions... **Women in Film and Television - Toronto's 1999 WIFT-T Crystal Awards** are coming up at month's end. Award honorees are: **WIFT-T Lifetime Achievement Award - Annabel Slaight** (Co-founder, **Owl**, President, **Owl Children's Trust**, Chair, **Shaw Television Broadcast Fund**); **WIFT-T Lifetime Achievement Award** (posthumous) - **Joyce Wieland** (Artist, Filmmaker); **WIFT-T Award for Excellence in Training or Professional Development - Jan Miller** (Chief of Operations and Creative, **IMX Communications**); **WIFT-T Award for Creative Excellence - Stacey Stewart Curtis** (Director); **WIFT-T Award for Excellence in Production - Camelia Frieberg** (Producer); and, **Friend of WIFT-T Award - Wayne Clarkson** (Exec. Dir., **Canadian Film Centre**). For info on tickets, call 416/322-3430, ext. 27.

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SUPPLYLINES: **Radio Computing Services** is installing **RCS Master Control Digital Studio** at **CHUM's** four radio stations in Windsor: **CKWW, CIDR, CIMX** and **CKLW**... Meantime, at **CHUM Television's MuchMusic** and **MuchMoreMusic**, **Joe Knapp's A-Ware Software** has been installing **MusicMaster**... Waterloo-based **Inscriber Technology Corporation** says it has sold and shipped its first **LIVE!CG High Definition Character Generator System** to a Japanese broadcaster. The HD systems now shipping were originally demonstrated last November at the **InterBEE Exhibition** in Japan. One model of **Inscriber's HD character generator** will be shown at **NAB'99**.

Send your news items for inclusion in Broadcast Dialogue to either our fax — 416/782-9993 or to our E-Mail address — tvradio@interlog.com



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GENERAL: *Scotia Economics* in its report, *Trends In Canadian Advertising*, says specialty TV and the Internet are expected to be the top growth sectors for Canadian advertising in 1999. A **Scotiabank** senior economist says "Internet advertising is expected to grow by 82% this year from an estimated \$20.7 million in 1998. As electronic commerce grows in popularity, the Internet will expand as a major advertising medium, particularly effective in reaching specific target audiences. As well, the convergence of the Internet and television into 'web TV' will have a major impact on future media advertising patterns." Canadian TV advertising is expected to grow by 8% in this year, boosted by rapid gains in specialty television. The economist predicts that radio advertising will increase a solid 3-4% in 1999. Industry consolidation -- spurred by a recent **CRTC** ruling -- is likely to boost radio ad spending, says the report... Gains from the sale of part of its Internet services and cable modem businesses helped **Shaw Communications** earn \$30.7 million in its fiscal second quarter, reversing a 2.4-million loss in the same period last year. The company said yesterday (Wednesday) that it made an after-tax gain of \$38.2 million in the second quarter from the sale of 230,000 shares of (a)Home Corp., owner of Shaw's **At Home** Internet business, and 250,000 shares of **Terayon Communications**, the cable modem unit... In

Winnipeg, strength in its program line-up and an increase in TV revenues pushed **CanWest Global Communications'** second-quarter profits up by 27 per cent%. CanWest said improved performance of its international operations helped the company earn \$39.2 million for the quarter ended Feb. 28, up from earnings of \$30.8 million or 21 cents a share a year earlier. Per share profit rose to 26 cents from 21 cents... The **CRTC** has opened an office in Regina (2125 11th Avenue, Suite 103) in Regina. It will provide access to documents and applications currently being considered, either in broadcasting or telecommunications... Toronto-based **Star Choice Communications** is offering a 30-day money back guarantee on satellite dish purchases, installations and programming. The radio and print campaigns begin this month and run throughout 1999.

RADIO: Coming up June 12 in Hull, the **CRTC** will consider - among other applications - **Affinity Radio Group's** acquisition of **Robert Redmond's CHRE-FM St. Catharines**. Affinity already owns **CKTB/CHTZ-FM** in that city. Also on the agenda is **CJRW Summerside's** application to flip its AM operation to a 50,000 watt FM'er. **CJKL Kirkland Lake** also wants a flip to FM, to 101.5 at 23,000 watts... Getting set for a change of locale, **OK Radio Group's** Victoria stations,



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100.3 The Q, and **CKXM** are finishing construction on new studios, with the move set for next month. Some neighbours in the commercial/residential neighbourhood claim they were surprised to see the antenna tower, apparently not realizing that's part of having a radio station next door. OK owner **Stu Morton** is quoted as saying there should be no surprises, since the city granted a permit for the tower last fall. He says he's willing to paint the tower if it'll make his new neighbours happy... Also from Victoria, the **CRTC** hearings set for Vancouver in May could see some changes on the dial. Among applications is a bid from **Rogers** to flip News/Talk **CJVI-AM** to an oldies-based FM'er. And **Seacoast Communications** is still hoping for a FM sister for **C-FAX 1070**... The **CRTC** has approved **CKLN-FM Toronto's** application to use a SCMO for Greek-language programming... Following approval for a flip of **CJSS-AM Cornwall** to FM, Ops Mgr **John Divinski** says the new station ID will be **THE BLAZE**, programming "the valley's hottest Country Music at 101.9 on the dial." A former Cornwall radio personality, **Wayne Thompson**, steps into the Morning Host duties April 19.

SYNDICATION: With **TSN's** decision to cease operating **SportsRadio**, their updates and **Dave Hodge's** commentary are set to end May 1. Meantime, **CHUM Radio Network** will launch **Headline Sports** June 7; a joint project of CRN and Headline Sports. CRN says it will take over most of the TSN windows on **BN Satellite**, delivering at :50 beginning at 3:50 pm Monday to Friday and 1:50 pm Saturdays and Sundays.

PROMOTIONS: **The BEAR Ottawa's** 2nd annual rock auction, held this week, pulled in close to \$45,000 for the **BEAR Children's Fund**. The money goes to the **Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario**.

TV/FILM: Contract talks between **TVOntario** and its union employees have broken down. The **Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union** says it will apply for a provincial conciliator's assistance. TVO and its employees, among other concerns, are split over union

demands to convert term contract positions to staff, and the replacement of staff positions with freelancers... **CBC** President **Perrin Beatty**, defending the Corporation's applications, says six new specialty channels will be self-financing and will help ensure CBC remains relevant. In its document *Our Commitment to Canadians*, CBC renews its commitment to regional programming and outlines specialty service plans (two English, four French) and two more radio stations (English youth and all-news French)... **Justice, Global TV's** prime time series about federal justice department lawyers, has been postponed, possibly until the 2000 TV season, after failing to secure the required financing from the **Canadian Television Fund's** drama envelope. **Loren Mawhinny**, VP of Canadian Production at Global, says Global ordered only 13 episodes of its other high-profile series **Traders** so there'd be enough money for 13 Justice episodes, too. Both series are produced by **Alliance-Atlantis**... American TV is seeing a lot more advertising clutter. An average hour of prime-time had 15:44 of commercial content last November, up 25 seconds over the year before. Two prime elements are blamed: Declining viewership, thus more ad sales to so sponsors will reach as many people as previously, and higher programming costs. Daytime US network TV is even more cluttered, now up over the 20-minute barrier... **ABC** says it will start a cable TV network devoted to soap operas. Daytime shows will be repeated in prime-time later the same day. Expect a launch next year.

LOOKING: **CKPG/CKKN-FM Prince George** is looking for a copywriter... At **CHTK Prince Rupert**, they're looking for a combined morning talent and sales person.

SIGN-OFF: Former BC broadcaster **Cheryl Cox** has lost her battle with breast cancer at 36. She was among the original on-air staff at **Victoria's 100.3 The Q** when it signed on in 1987.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS THIS WEEK INCLUDE: **Howard McClure, Itelco**, Westminster, CO. Welcome!

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GENERAL: *WIC Western International Communications* says its operating results for the six months ended February 28 showed some positive revenue trends, but the net operating results were hit by the write-off of \$5.3 million in restructuring initiatives. WIC management is reviewing restructuring proposals which, if approved by the board, will begin during this second half of the year. WIC's radio side saw a 9.6% boost in ad revenues over last year's period. The company gives credit for that to the Edmonton and Calgary markets. The DTH subscriber base increased which gave that division a 23.9% revenue improvement but WIC TV stations slid, decreasing by 3.6% over last year. Net earnings for the six months were \$9.6 million, compared to \$17.1 million in the same period last year... Meantime, in another *WIC* story, the company says it has purchased the combined interests (49%) in *RegionalVision*, a wireless Local Multipoint Communications System (LMCS) service. *RegionalVision* was granted an *Industry Canada* licence in 1996 to serve 128 small communities. WIC President/CEO **Peter Classon** says the purchase will complement its other LMCS service provider, *WIC Connexus*. WIC's 54.1%-owned *Cancom* already had a 49% ownership stake in *RegionalVision*. In a related transaction, *Cancom* increased its stake in *RegionalVision* by purchasing the remaining 2%. As a result, WIC now owns 49% and *Cancom* has 51%... *Shaw Communications* earned \$30.7-million in its fiscal second quarter, reversing a \$2.4-million loss in the same period last year. Shaw said the growth was due to better performance from its cable TV, Internet, programming, radio and telecommunications divisions. Gains from the sale of part of its Internet services and cable modem businesses also helped... *Okanagan Skeena Group* reports consolidated operating revenues for the six-month period ended Feb 28 were \$14,562,645, up 8.6% over last year. Consolidated net income from continuing operations for the six months up 30.5% to \$578,495. While OSG continues to acquire and grow (completed *Nornet Broadcasting*

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acquisition Feb 1 and, on Feb 18, purchased **Mel Lazarenko's** stations at Edson, Hinton, Jasper, Whitecourt and Grande Cache), the company itself has come into play. A suitor, still unidentified (but rumors abound), has made an offer.

REVOLVING DOOR: **John Tory** has been named President/CEO of **Rogers Communications'** cable TV division. He succeeds **Trey Smith**, an American citizen who retired and returned to the US. Tory joined Rogers in 1995 as head of its **Rogers Media** and **Maclean Hunter Publishing** units, with responsibility for the broadcasting, publishing and new media businesses... **Tony Viner** becomes President/CEO of **Rogers Media** division, and continues in his **Rogers Broadcasting** presidency... **Power 107 Calgary's** new evening host/MD will work under the name, **Maz McFly**. He's formerly known as **Kris Mazurak**, the PD/morning man from **The Eagle Swift Current**... New VP of Broadcast & Television at **Panasonic Canada** is **Kimiya (Miz) Mizuguchi**. He succeeds **Nick Mori** who moves to VP at Panasonics' Broadcast & Digital Systems in Los Angeles... Some changes at **The Q Victoria**. **Al Ford** is new MD and **Kerry Campbell** is new Promotion Director. New at Q mid-days is **Lexine Stephens**, ex of **SUN-FM Kelowna**... **CING 108 Burlington** Promotions Director **Karen Steele** takes added responsibility as Assistant Program Director... Also at CING, **Bruce Gilbert** joins the station as Assistant Promotions Director. He's in from **HTZ-FM St. Catharines**... Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Peter Arnett** has left **CNN** after 18 years. He'd dropped out of sight after a report charging the US military used nerve gas on American defectors during the Vietnam War led to his being reprimanded...

LOOKING: **104.9 The Wolf Regina** is looking to fill it's midday position. Contact PD **Michael OIstrom**... **CJDC-TV Dawson Creek**, recently rebranded as **NTV**, has an opportunity for a Sales Rep in Dawson Creek and Fort St John. Talk to GM **Ron Clark**.

TV/FILM: The Colorado school shooting temporarily pushed pictures of Yugoslavia from screens Tuesday, replacing them with similar scenes from Denver. **ABC**, **CBS** and **NBC** broke into regular programming to give details, but it was primarily a story for the cable news networks. **CNN's** coverage was similar to **MSNBC's** early in the story, since both relied primarily on reports from **KUSA-TV**, the NBC affiliate. **Fox News Channel** used pictures from **KMGH-TV**, the ABC affiliate. CNN's effort to secure affiliate agreements with 600 local stations in the US and Canada paid off for the news network, since it was able to choose from among pictures provided by four separate local stations. By coincidence, CNN reporter **Tony Clark** was landing in Denver to cover a story on aircraft being used in the Yugoslavian conflict Tuesday afternoon, and he was quickly dispatched to the school shooting... A hot topic here at **NAB'99** in Las Vegas is how much network affiliates should financially assist the four main US networks. **ABC**, **CBS**, **NBC** and **Fox** are searching for answers as competition grows, programming costs soar and

profit margins evaporate. The average prime-time audience for the big four networks has shrunk to 49 million viewers in the season that began in September vs. 52 million in the same period last year. The affiliates, which often have profit margins of more than 40%, get network programming at no charge. But Fox has told its affiliates that, effective July 1, it is taking back

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about 22% of local time for itself. That could transfer about \$100 million dollars for Fox. While most affiliates of the four networks have contracts up to 2004, that isn't stopping the nets from playing hardball... The **CRTC** has approved **Bell ExpressVu's** national pay-per-view television service of movies, sports events and concerts, granting ExpressVU approval for up to 30 English and French channels... **CTV** is cutting 131 full-time jobs (119 people and 12 vacant positions), about 6% of its workforce. Most are from local stations, including **CJOH-TV Ottawa**, **CKCO-TV Kitchener**, **CFRN-TV Edmonton** and **CFCN-5 Lethbridge**. About 65% are in management, administrative, and operations. The reductions were necessary, says CTV, to ensure viability at its local stations in light of shifting ad revenues away from local and regional to national markets. The cuts will save about \$8 million in annual operating costs. There may be more cuts sometime down the road. That hint comes from a news release: "As CTV Inc. continues to grow, it will be looking for further cost efficiencies in order to remain competitive in a rapidly changing environment"... Regina-based **Minds Eye Pictures** has agreed to sell **Walt Disney** 26 existing episodes of the series **Incredible Story Studio**, as well as an option on 39 more episodes, for distribution in Germany, France and Britain. As well, Disney has contracted Minds Eye to produce nine original episodes especially for French and German audiences. Incredible Story Studio has aired since last year on **YTV** and **TVOntario**. Children write stories, then send them to the producers. They're then turned into 10-minute mini-movies filmed in Regina... Vancouver-based **Lions Gate Entertainment** has completed the first step in the rationalization of its TV operations. The Vancouver-based company says it has transformed the network series division and the right to use the **Mandalay Television** name to a newly-formed TV movie company owned by **Peter Gruber** and **Paul Schaeffer**. Mandalay Television LLC will be renamed Lions Gate Television Pictures LLC and will retain a 50% interest in the "back end" of two existing network series productions, three network series in development and any

other series ordered for the fall of 1999 or midseason 1999/2000 seasons.. The US **Home Shopping Network** will pay a \$1.1 million civil penalty to settle charges it violated a 1996 order to stop advertising products with unsubstantiated health benefits. The US **Federal Trade Commission** accused the network of violating terms of the settlement by broadcasting several ads for skin care, weight-loss, premenstrual syndrome and menopausal products from 1996 through 1998. HSN is based in St. Petersburg, FL, and reaches more than 70 million American viewers...

Mediastats, filled-in while Henderson was recuperating...**Warren Cosford** tips us that if you're a Top 40 aficionado and want to see and hear some terrific Top 40 history, head to www.reelradio.com/storz/index.html...

SYNDICATION: The *Cottage Life* radio show will not be available for the coming season. **RadioWorks**, which produced/distributed the show, says the publisher has no plans to market the feature this year... "Woodstock – The 30th Anniversary" is being carried by **CHUM Radio Network** on the anniversary weekend, Aug 13-15. Woodstock will be produced by **Doug Thompson**, who is also producing "Countdown To The Millennium" for CRN...

EDITOR'S NOTE: Some good news regarding the **Broadcast Dialogue** website. In a very short time, the password requirement for general access will be no more. By May 1, it will simply be a matter of surfing into www.broadcastdialogue.com and

getting busy with the magazine or **The Broadcast Directory**. One exception remains. A password will still be necessary to access the previous eight editions of the Broadcast Dialogue weekly electronic newsletter... This week's **Broadcast Dialogue** is coming to you from Las Vegas where **NAB'99** wraps up today. It's kind of nice to get my fingers working on a keyboard instead of my feet pounding pavement and carpets. The amount of walking here, just to get to the various activities and hotels, is more than I've done all winter!

RADIO: **CBC Radio** wants permission to place sponsorship messages at the end of its shows: "short, simple announcements intended to acknowledge partners and sponsors who have contributed, in cash or in kind, to enhancing the services provided by CBC Radio." The messages could include names of sponsors and brand-name products, as well as certain slogans, but no claims about the quality, price or availability of a product. CBC also wants to name shows after corporations, e.g. the Texaco Opera of the Air... The **CRTC** has approved **Scott Jackson's** bid for a Christian Music FM'er at Barrie (100.3 at 1,800 watts). Ninety-five per cent of the week's music must be non-classic religious. The station will be held by a not-for-profit organization (membership and management by members of the community). Jackson says he expects the new station to be on-air by August... Meantime, The **CRTC** has issued a call for applications at three locations: an FM at Grand Falls/Robert's Arm, NF; an FM at Gander; and an FM'er in Burlington. Due date for paper at the commission is May 17... At the **18th Annual Atlantic Journalism Awards** in Halifax, Reporter/Editors at the Halifax office of **Broadcast News** were honored. **John Lewandowski, Murray Brewster, Stephen Thorne, Steve Lambert and Jim Crichton** were cited for thorough, comprehensive, sensitive, dramatic and utterly professional coverage for spot news in radio for *Swissair Crash - First Night*... **1050 CHUM Toronto** Morning Host **Brian Henderson** returned to work Monday. He'd been off since October after suffering a heart attack. **John Rode**, a former CHUM Announcer and now an executive at

SUPPLYLINES: **CBC** and **Radio-Canada** have standardized on **Sony Betacam SX** and related MPEG-based technology to replace nearly 2,000 Betacam and Betacam SP videotape recorders and camcorders across its English and French networks. Over the next three to five years, the Sony equipment will replace all analogue recording technology used for CBC News, Current Affairs and Sports programming.



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RADIO: In recognition of **CJOB Winnipeg's** "outstanding support of Manitoba Special Olympics," the station has been awarded the 1999 Golden Hand Award by the Volunteer Centre of Winnipeg. President/GM **Garth Buchko** accepted the honor... At **1290 Talk Radio Winnipeg**, afternoon Talker **John Collison** has been fired after leading a campaign against a committee that would have examined ways to eliminate homophobia in the city's high schools... **CJCS Stratford** began broadcasting to the world last Friday, employing *Real Player G2*. The station's website is www.cjcs.on.ca. CJCS, celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, includes alumni the likes of **CTV** anchor **Lloyd Robertson** and **BCTV Vancouver** anchor **Tony Parsons**... Oldies 1090 Kitchener-Waterloo got involved in a new regional cancer centre to the tune of \$20,000. An auction a week back, organized by Oldies 1090, set the tone... **Hits 103dot5 Toronto** will launch *The Wall of Sound* May 22. The two-hour weekly show will showcase the artists evolving hip-hop and R&B sounds into a music hybrid.

PPROMOTIONS: **Q107 Toronto** is staging what it calls *The Mothers Day Gladiators Tournament*, a medieval battle of boxing, wrestling, and jousting on May 9. About 20 middle-aged moms are expected to go head-to-head. First place mom gets a \$10,000 diamond... **Z95.3 Vancouver** says it is giving away "the largest sticker prize in radio history." After a

summer of sticker spotting, Z95's grand prize in the fall will be a new house, a BMW Z3 sports car, a Moomba ski boat... And a dog! (The winner will be given the chance to adopt a pet from the SPCA).

REVOLVING DOOR: **Adam Ostry**, 41, has been named to head the **Ontario Film Development Corporation**. **Alexandra Raffae**, who'd held the position, was dismissed last year... **Peter Gzowski** will become the eighth chancellor of **Trent University** in Peterborough. The post is largely honorary but Gzowski will have an office there... At **CJOB Winnipeg**, **Mitch Zalnasky** takes over from **Joe Poplawski** as color analyst on *Blue Bomber* broadcasts...

SIGN-OFFS: **Arnold Anderson**, 70, a man considered by many as the voice of sports in Brantford, has died of cancer. Anderson joined **CKPC Brantford** in 1949 and stayed there up until his retirement last year... Top **BBC TV** personality **Jill Dando**, 37, was shot dead on the steps of her London home Monday. Dando fronted *Crimewatch UK*, similar to *America's Most Wanted*.

LOOKING: **MountainFM Squamish** has an opening for a Broadcast Rep. Contact **Gary Milne** at 604/877-4403... **Specialized Media Sales** in Toronto is looking for a Traffic

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email: kmcaulay@sms.ca

Manager. Contact **Kathleen McAulay** at kmcaulay@sms.ca.

OOPS: Word from **Okanagan Skeena Group** regarding our report last week of the company's earnings and the mention of a suitor for the company. OSG says no suitor has made an offer.

GENERAL: It appears more Canadians are getting connected. Almost one household in four in Canada is connected to the Internet. And more than one-third of all households include someone who uses the net from home, work or school. Statistics Canada says there were almost 2.7-million households using the net last year. That's up 44% from 1997 and represents 23% of all households in the country. In households with Internet capacity, 86% use e-mail and 78% spend time in general browsing. The highest provincial increase in Internet-savvy households last year was Alberta, where 45% of all households use computer communications. Quebec had the least number of households linked to the net at 26%... What if you threw a national convention and they called an election? The **Radio-Television News Directors Association** national convention committee in Ottawa has put together a contingency plan to deal with the possibility of an Ontario provincial election June 10, day one of the convention. Central Canada delegates are being assured that, if the vote does fall that day, Thursday's program will be rejigged and regional events moved into following days... Still with **RTNDA Canada**, Treasurer **Keith Leslie** (of **Broadcast News Toronto**) has been approached by the **Toronto Press Club** regarding RTNDA's possible involvement in the **Canadian News Hall of Fame**, which the TPC has administered since its founding in 1965. The Toronto Press Club recognizes the News Hall is heavily print oriented, although some broadcasters have been inducted (including **Peter Gzowski**, **Knowlton Nash** and **Gordon Sinclair**), and wants to broaden its appeal to all media. To that end, the Toronto Press Club has agreed to modify its exclusive rights in the Hall of Fame and will set up a new management mechanism and create a "foundation with representation from across Canadian journalism." The new foundation could "expand its position as a journalistic institution

of value to the news media and public"... **The Bell Broadcast and New Media Fund** is now operating nationally (as opposed to only Ontario and Quebec). Canadian independent producers of TV and new media from across the country may now apply for financial support. The Fund awards a minimum of \$2 million per year in grants for the production of broadcast programming linked to associated web sites... After **AT&T** launched a bid late last week to thwart an existing agreement by cable competitor **Comcast** to buy **MediaOne**, the fourth largest US cable TV operator, critics were quick to worry that AT&T's \$58 billion offer could create a new colossus controlling cable rates, Internet access and phone service. AT&T recently completed purchase of another giant cable company, **Tele-Communications Inc.** With both TCI and MediaOne, AT&T -- already the largest US telecommunications company -- would also be its largest cable operator... **VidTrans 99**, a conference and exhibition meant to address the needs of the converging areas of broadcast and telecommunications will be held Oct 4-7 in Los Angeles. The conference is to focus on the opportunities, challenges and technologies presented to the video transport industry by the growing use of digital video in broadcast, cable and satellite television, distance learning, corporate communications and other applications. For info, 608/278-8291... Viacom reports a nearly 42% increase in first-quarter income due to strong advertising sales at **MTV Networks** and video sales at **Blockbuster** stores. Viacom says earnings from continuing operations are \$68 million, or 8 cents a share, up from \$48 million, or 5 cents per share, a year earlier... New 99/00 Executive Members on the **abcom** Board of Directors are: President - **Ruth Powell**, **BCTV Vancouver**; VP & Public Relations Manager - **Alex Cameron**, **MediaGroup West**, Vancouver; Treasurer - **John Newbury**; and, Secretary - **Jody Gabourie**, **BBM Vancouver**. The Board members are: **Derek Comer**, **Global TV Vancouver**; **Lenora Kalenborn**, **Palmer Jarvis DDB**; **Nick Misisco**, **Global TV Vancouver**; **Lonnie Almond**, **CKNW/CFMI Vancouver**; **John Leckie**, **Gowling, Strathy & Henderson**; **Annette Keller**, **KVOS-TV**; **Jane Williams**, **Glennie Starnes**; **Maggie Pearce**, **CFOX Vancouver**; **James Douglas**, **MediaGroup West**; **Nancy Green**, **CBC**; **Steve Micolino**, **Young & Rubicam**; **Kim Owens**, **OMD Canada**, **Monica Mueller**,



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CKKS/CKWX Vancouver, and **Helen Fisher, VTV Vancouver**... With the understanding that *"it could happen anywhere"* (and yesterday, a similar event did [in Taber]), the **US Radio-Television News Directors Association** is urging radio and TV stations to update live coverage plans. It is sending news managers guidelines to follow when covering hostage situations, police raids, prison uprisings, terrorist actions and other crises, designed to help NDs make sound decisions when covering situations such as the one last week in Colorado. RTNDA President **Barbara Cochran** says *"The Denver stations, thrust into the world spotlight, provided information over many hours to a community that was shocked, anxious and heartbroken. We all should empathize with the difficulty of their task. Nothing these news directors had experienced before could have totally prepared them for such a horrific story."* The guidelines are available on the RTNDA International Web site at www.rtna.org/issues/crisis.htm... Tomorrow night's **WIFT-T 1999 Crystal Awards** are set for Toronto's Queen Elizabeth Building at Exhibition Place. Fort York Armoury, the original site for the event, has been converted into a shelter to alleviate overcrowding at the city's remaining shelters.

TV/FILM: TVA, the French-language network, gets onto basic cable service this Saturday across Canada and will dislodge some fringe stations carried in larger markets, for example **CKCO-TV Kitchener** will get the bump from its Channel 59 spot on **Rogers Cable** in Toronto. A more serious crunch is expected Sept. 1 when the **Aboriginal Peoples Television Network** arrives on basic cable... The **Canadian Association of Broadcasters** has intervened in opposition to all applications that would include carrying US channel **WNYO**. It says any positive **CRTC** decision in the

matter would be premature in light of the commission not having yet established a new licensing framework for specialty and pay services, including an appropriate framework for the authorization of non-Canadian services, among other reasons... US Surgeon General **David Satcher** supports **National TV Turnoff Week**, now in progress. In his statement, Satcher said his endorsement was prompted by rising obesity among young Americans, a problem for which he would distribute a *"prescription for less TV."*

SUPPLYLINES: **Gary Switzer**, ex of **Microcell Telecommunications**, has been appointed President of **Comlink Systems**, based in Oshawa... **Sylvie Senécal** recently joined **Comlink Systems** in Montreal as Quebec Account Manager, CATV Group... Waterloo-based **Inscriber Technology** says it will introduce an enhanced version of Inscriber RTX 4.0 (broadcast automation product that displays real-time graphics and video) for **SGI's** new visual workstations, Silicon Graphics® 320 and Silicon Graphics® 540.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS THIS WEEK INCLUDE: **Len Thuesen**, Edmonton. Welcome!

EDITOR'S NOTE: The May edition of **Broadcast Dialogue** magazine is now in the mail. Features will be in our website first thing in the morning, May 1. Included at the website will be an interview with **CHUM** President **Allan Waters...HDTV in Canada: Moving at a snail's pace... Where have all the techies gone?...** and other features including the decaying teenage demo for radio and television. Check those stories out at www.broadcastdialogue.com.

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