

BROADCAST Dialogue

The Voice of Broadcasting in Canada

Christensen Communications Ltd. * 414 St. Germain Av * Toronto ON M5M 1W7 * Phone: (416) 782-6482 * Fax: (416) 782-9993
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Thursday, April 4, 2002

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TV/FILM: The federal government is about to take another look at Canadian content in TV and film production. The 30-year old definition of CanCon, says Heritage Minister **Sheila Copps**, needs to be reviewed. **Telefilm Canada** Chairman **Francois Macerola** will compile points/opinions generated by the review and report to Copps... Expect a **CRTC** decision soon concerning the Toronto, Hamilton, and Kitchener TV license applications. Scuttlebutt indicates the decision will become public within a matter of days... Cable and mainline TV outlets in the US have better news ratings than last year. **Nielsen Media Research** says that in the first three months of this year, the **ABC**, **CBS** and **NBC** evening newscasts together gained 930,000 viewers. **Fox News Channel** more than doubled its average daily audience and **CNN** had its best first quarter since 1995. **ABC's World News Tonight** was responsible for nearly two-thirds of the increase in viewers, jumping 6% to 10.4 million. **NBC's Nightly News** went up 2% and the **CBS Evening News** increased 1% to 9.4 million. **NBC** remains the ratings leader, with an average audience of 11.2 million. **Fox News Channel** continues to widen its lead over **CNN**. It averaged 666,000 viewers during January, February and March, a 116% increase over 2001. **CNN** averaged 546,000 viewers during the same period, a 55% jump over last year. **MSNBC** averaged 290,000 viewers, up 24% from last year. While **Fox** is widening its lead over **CNN**, **CNN** (of the two) is still tops in ad revenues. Media buyers say they don't look at numbers, "otherwise all our money would go to wrestling and Jerry Springer"... Writing on **BBC News Online**, Analyst **Tim Weber** says we are witness to the bursting of the media bubble, the third bubble to pop after technology and telecommunications. Technology, media and telecoms (or **TMT** as it was called), writes **Weber**, were once seen as the cornerstones of the economic and investment miracle of the past five years. No more. Technology firms, and especially dot.com upstarts, were the first casualties. Telecoms came next. Both industries suffered terrible financial losses, cut tens of thousands of jobs and are now hobbled by huge debts. Plenty of firms did not

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survive at all. And now, he says, it's the turn of the media industry which has a different problem. The technology is there. The world of multi-channel TV, digital and analogue, is a reality. What lacks, he writes, is the vision on how to fill it; the failure to develop a business model that suits both broadcasters and consumers. While there are difficulties in North America, the bubbles bursting are being heard especially loud in Europe. Desperate to catch up with their US rivals, European media firms rushed to expand - buying competitors and content as if there was no pay-day. The fatal mistake, asserts Weber, is that the European broadcasters "spent huge sums of money on what they thought would be the content equivalent of a "killer application" - an offer that every consumer was eager to pay for: Football and a host of other sports. Amid the media frenzy, the cost of these transmission rights escalated." What failed to grow was revenue... Meantime in Frankfurt, bank creditors resumed discussions this week with minority investors on a plan to rescue Germany's biggest private TV broadcaster - **Kirch** - from insolvency. Bailout proposals envisage a takeover by minority shareholders in Kirch's core subsidiary, **KirchMedia**. The shareholders include companies controlled by Italian Prime Minister **Silvio Berlusconi** and **Rupert Murdoch**. They would come up with more money and raise their stakes to a majority. **Kirch Group** ran into trouble after several years of borrowing to make acquisitions such as its 58% stake in **SLEC**, the company that holds broadcast and marketing rights to Formula One auto racing, and after losses at its Premiere pay TV service... **Trudeau**, the **CBC** mini-series that aired Sunday and Monday, was a hit with many who watched. Take, for example, **Doug Hughes** of Salmon Arm. Hughes was the guy on the receiving end of Trudeau's infamous one-finger salute 20 years ago. Hughes, now 70, says he never harboured ill feelings. In fact, he said, the demonstration and Trudeau's response was really democracy in action. **Eric Kierans**, who served in cabinet from 1968 to '71, says the Trudeau depiction by actor **Colm Feore**, especially in scenes depicting cabinet meetings during the FLQ crisis, was "dead on". **Pat Gossage**, Trudeau's former Press Secretary, called Feore's performance "eerie"...

RADIO: Rawlco Radio has finished construction on its new building that will house **C-95/ROCK 102/CKOM Saskatoon**. All that's left to complete in the three-storey building are the technical installations.

Saskatoon-based **Pippin Technical** provided project management as well as design, supply and installation of technical systems... **CJAD Montreal** has signed a new five-year broadcast deal with the **Montreal Canadiens**, keeping the Habs with CJAD through 2007... **Red Robison** and **Doc Harris** are back on the air in the West, doing back-to-back shows every Sunday on **CISL Vancouver** and simulcast on **CFRN Edmonton**. Robison kicks off at 11 a.m. PT and Harris follows at 3 p.m... **Celine Dion's** latest CD won't play on computer CD drives in Europe. **Epic/Sony**, which released *A New Day Has Come*, embedded it with **Key2Audio** copy protection. If the consumer tries playing Dion's CD on a PC or Macintosh, the computer likely will crash. More than 10 million discs using the CD-audio copy protection have been produced and sold, again primarily in Europe... **LIFE 100.3 Barrie** held its annual two-day listener *Sharathon*, helping to raise \$38,470... **CJCS Stratford** - in an example of non-traditional revenue generation - is hosting its 19th annual *Stratford Spring Home Show* this week at the local fairgrounds. The station expects over 110

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exhibitors and a crowd of 14,000... The **Alberta Advertising Standards Council** says billboards for **K-Rock (CIRK-FM) Edmonton** have got to come down by April 10. K-Rock PD **Steve Jones** says that's fine, the campaign was going to end April 8 anyway. The Standards Council took exception to the billboards which featured morning Hosts **Terry Evans, Steve Zimmerman** and **Bill Cowen** standing naked, holding strategically placed walnuts with a caption reading: *See, they're nuts*. The big signs have been up since early February... **The Juno Awards** are set for this Sunday at St. John's **Mile One Stadium**, the first time the event has been held outside Ontario.

REVOLVING DOOR: **Gilbert Paquette** has been appointed Director of Programming and Operations at **MétéoMédia** (the French arm of **The Weather Network**) in Montreal... **Ron Dann** is new Sales Manager at **Radio Sarnia Lambton (CFGX (Fox FM)/CHKS-FM/CHOK Sarnia)**. Dann was promoted to his new position and has been with the stations for 16 years... Former **Toronto Blue Jays** GM **Gord Ash** has joined **TSN** as a baseball analyst...

SIGN-OFFS: **Harry Brown**, 72, in St. John's after a short illness and two days after undergoing heart surgery. Brown's career spanned nearly five decades, including beginnings at **VOCM St. John's**, and stints at **CBC's As It Happens, MorningSide, Marketplace** and **Take 30**. Harry Brown retired from CBC about six years ago after 30 years with the public broadcaster... **Milton Berle**, 93. In Los Angeles. The acerbic, cigar-smoking vaudevillian who embraced a new medium to become "Mr. Television" died of colon cancer at his Los Angeles home. "Uncle Miltie" was the king of Tuesday nights. Store owners would put up signs: "Closed tonight to watch Milton Berle"; and the popularity of his program spurred sales of TV sets... **Maurice 'Mo' Carter**, 80, at Pincher Creek, Alberta. Carter was Sports and Special Events Director at **CJCA Edmonton** and at **CKOC Hamilton** during the 50s. While in the East, he did a number of **Grey Cup** broadcasts. In 1963, he got out of broadcasting and became a Hamilton car dealer when he bought **City Chevrolet**.

LOOKING: A whole range of radio jobs are up for grabs in Toronto. See the ad on Page 1. Other jobs we've heard about include Toronto-based **On The Wall & matrix produxions** looking for three on-air TV journalists between 18-25 for a 13-week series. Check www.onthewallnow.com... Check the Classified section of the **Broadcast Dialogue** Web site (www.broadcastdialogue.com) regularly for job opportunities.

GENERAL: The **Canadian Judicial Council** remains opposed to cameras in the courtroom but, at a meeting in Ottawa, it emphasized that its position doesn't apply to appeals courts. Many of the council's 39 members remain concerned about the potential impact cameras may have on witnesses and jurors. Ironically, one council member – **Beverley McLachlin** – didn't take part in the discussion. She was hearing a case dealing with broadcasters' access to trials... The latest data from the **US Bureau of Labor** statistics show that employment at TV stations dropped 2.2% between December and January, down 1,700 jobs to 135,700. Radio station employment fell 1.4% to 115,600, off 600 jobs. Cable-system employment fell 1.3% to 244,500, off 700... Visits and purchases from adult Web sites is on the decline. Once powerful money generators, new numbers show hits to such sites were down in February, to 4.39 million Canadians from 4.8 million in the same month the year before. The porn business isn't exempt from what's ailing the music industry – the pirating and glut of content. Not helping the porn producers' sales efforts is the outright rejection by **American Express** of card use from online porn sites. And **Visa** is moving in that direction although it is specific about what kinds of adult material it will allow to be purchased, or not...

NEW SUBSCRIBERS THIS WEEK INCLUDE: **Ginny Townson Sedik**, Toronto. Welcome (back)!

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TV/FILM: The **CRTC** has licensed **Craig Broadcasting** with a new Toronto TV station and a repeater in Hamilton. And **Rogers Broadcasting** won a second ethnic station in Toronto. Craig's station will be called **Toronto One** while Rogers' will be known as **CFMT Too**. The decisions represent a major upset for **Torstar Corp.**, which had been considered the front-runner in a five-way race with its plan for **Hometown TV**, a network of stations covering the Toronto, Hamilton and Kitchener areas of southern Ontario. **Drew Craig**, President of **Craig Broadcast Systems**, says "Toronto One ... will create system-wide benefits for the Canadian broadcast industry." Craig's reach of English Canada has now tripled. The Torstar shut-out was a surprise that's likely to see an appeal. **CHUM** opposed the Craig application, estimating it will lose at least \$10-million a year in revenues. **Alliance Atlantis Communications** was also denied. The CRTC concluded it made more sense to strengthen an established player than to licence a new one... **CFJB-TV Swift Current** is going out of business and **CBC** has purchased some of the assets. **CJFB-TV**, an independent, carries a number of CBC programs as an affiliate and CBC is making arrangements to ensure that its network signal is carried in southwestern Saskatchewan and for the purchase of **CFJB's** transmission assets... Actor **Sonja Smits** will host the **2002 Women in Film and Television - Toronto (WIFT-T) Crystal Awards** Monday, April 29. The Crystal Awards honour the outstanding contributions of exceptional men and women in media and entertainment. This year's recipients are: Outstanding Achievement Award – **Phyllis Platt**, President of **Platt Productions**; Friend of WIFT-T Award – **Norm Bolen**, Exec VP of Programming, **Alliance Atlantis Broadcasting**. WIFT-T will also pay tribute to **Trina McQueen** and **Tom Berner**, who both have had a longstanding commitment to the association and to women in the industry... Political irony on US TV – on hiatus for a while

after Sept.11 – came back with a vengeance, according to the Washington-based **Center for Media and Public Affairs**. In fact, it only took until mid-November before political jokes surpassed pre-9/11 averages.

RADIO: **Rock 101 (CFMI-FM) Vancouver** is off the hook with the **Canadian Broadcast Standards Council** over a prank phone call. The call, a dub of a call-out originally made on a US station, concerned a man posing as a rep from a company conducting drug testing for employers. He told a woman that her results indicated high drug use. The woman insisted that there had to be a mistake and, in desperation, offered to sleep with the tester if he'd re-do the test. **CBSC**, though not happy with the call, said

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the broadcaster didn't come on to the woman; that she herself had introduced the matter of sex. Full text of the decision may be found at www.cbsc.ca ...

GENERAL: **Quebecor Inc.** claims **BCE Inc.** is engaging in unfair competition with its satellite TV subsidiary, **Bell ExpressVu**, and has asked the **CRTC** to intervene. CEO Pierre **Karl Peladeau** says BCE is allowing ExpressVu to tap into cash generated by sister company **Bell Canada** and that, he says, defies CRTC policy (allowing a regulated company like Bell to subsidize ExpressVu). Quebecor owns **Videotron Group**, Quebec's dominant cable TV provider, and lost 46,000 subscribers last year; 25,000 since the start of this year... **Cogeco Inc.'s** newly acquired stake in **TVA** – Quebec's second-largest TV network – and its other media interests helped the cable company boost revenues and triple its profit in the second quarter. Cogeco had net income of \$36.5 million, or \$2.24 per share, for the three months ended Feb. 28. Earnings included a \$34-million gain from the transfer of Cogeco's six TV stations and 13% interest in the **TQS** TV network, acquired from **Quebecor**, to a joint venture owned 60% cent by Cogeco and 40% by **Bell Globemedia**...

REVOLVING DOOR: **Bill Hunt** has been appointed VP/GM of Specialty Television for **Global Television**. In 1997, he helped launch and then managed **Prime**. At the time of his promotion, Hunt was VP, Specialty Affiliate Relations for Global Television... New PD/Morning Host at **SILK-FM Kelowna** is **Andy James**, ex mornings at **Hot 103 Winnipeg**... **Doug Brooks** has been appointed Chief Marketing and Sales Officer for **CBC Television**. He had been Executive Director of Sales... **Mike Pietrus** is new ND at **A-Channel Calgary**. Pietrus had worked at **CBC** and was most recently with the **Alberta Mental Health Board** as Director of Communications... At **BMG Canada** in Toronto, **Warren Copnick** has been promoted to Director, National Radio Promotion... **Louis Rukeyser**, forced out of **PBS Television** last month after 32 years, is returning -- on **CNBC**. His new show will air directly opposite his former time slot on PBS, and CNBC says it will make the show available to PBS stations that want it... **ABC** and **Ted Koppel** have reached an agreement that will keep **Nightline** in its familiar late night time slot...

SIGN-OFFS: **Bill Merrill**, of **CFCF-TV Montreal**, last week. Merrill was a part of the station when it signed-on in 1961 and held positions from Stagehand to VP of Programming. The day before he died, Merrill sent Broadcast Dialogue an e-mail telling us how much he enjoyed **Nancy Smith's** column in the April magazine about the late **David Mintz**.... **J.H. Jim Browne**, the former owner of **Okanagan Broadcasters**

(**CKOV Kelowna**). His son, **Jamie**, succeeded his father, running the Okanagan operation in recent years before selling... **Joe Irvine**, 74, in Saint John of complications that developed after he had major heart surgery in early March. He was GM of **CKCW-TV Moncton** and was one of the key architects in the development of the **Atlantic Television System** (ATV). He was VP/GM of ATV when he retired in 1993...

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This week's edition is coming to you from the **NAB** convention in Las Vegas. Thanks to technology, or my inability to handle it, this week's newsletter may be short of material which you otherwise would have seen here. Internet and e-mail access was sporadic at best... Don't forget that all Web sites and e-mail addresses in the e-mail version of **Broadcast Dialogue** are now 'clickable', with direct access from the newsletter... For those still receiving the newsletter via fax, please consider opting for e-mail delivery. If you'd like a sample, get in touch with me at broadcastdialogue@rogers.com .

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GENERAL: At the **Broadcast Executives Society** luncheon in Toronto today, **Canadian Association of Broadcasters** President/CEO **Glenn O'Farrell** addresses "Why Profit is Not a Dirty Word." O'Farrell will argue that without access to additional revenue streams, Canada's private broadcasters will not be able to meet the obligations of their two bottom lines... **CRTC** Chair **Charles Dalfen** has promised to take action against the piracy of cable TV signals. He says black market systems allow people to steal cable services and that takes away money that could be going to the cable industry and to Canadian programming. He was in Vancouver speaking to the **Canadian Cable Television Association** (CCTA). Estimates range from 200-thousand to one-million pirate dishes in Canada... Sydney, Australia's **Morning Herald** reports that **CanWest Global Communications** has plans to sell its New Zealand radio and TV properties, probably approaching prospective buyers within the next two weeks. CanWest calls the item "speculative". The Sydney Morning Herald, quoting industry sources, says CanWest is looking for ways to reduce its \$3-billion-dollar US debt... Broadcast winners at the annual **Canadian Association of Journalists Awards for Investigative Journalism** at the association's 24th annual conference, this year in Ottawa, were: OPEN TELEVISION (less than 5 minutes) – **Kelly Crowe, CBC News - The National**; OPEN TELEVISION (greater than 5 minutes) – **Tom Clark** and **Ann Hainsworth, CTV - W-FIVE**; REGIONAL TELEVISION – **Natalie Clancy** and **Gary Symons, CBC News - Canada Now**, Vancouver; RADIO -- **Sandra Bartlett** and **David McLaughlin, CBC Radio**, Toronto; and, for the CONFLICT ANALYSIS AWARD – **Mike Hornbrook** and **Sandra Bartlett, CBC Radio**, Toronto... In a related item, the CAJ awarded the federal Department of

Justice its second annual Code of Silence Award, recognizing the most secretive government department in Canada.

TV/FILM: **Stan Keyes**, Chairman of the Liberal caucus, is calling on the federal cabinet to return the Toronto TV licensing decision to the **CRTC**. Keyes doesn't believe **Craig Broadcast Systems** will provide community-based programming for Toronto and Hamilton. In a letter to **Prime Minister Chrétien** and **Heritage Minister Sheila Copps**, Keyes came down in favor of **Torstar Corp.** who, he said, would have provided community-based programming. Torstar did promise 85% Canadian content, with a minimum of

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118 hours per week of local and regional programming... The US **Screen Actors Guild** has a new rule coming up that bars American performers working in Canada from being paid Canadian rates. And **ACTRA**, the Canadian union, seems to be backing the May 1 change. **John Barrack**, VP of industrial relations and counsel at the **Canadian Film and Television Production Association**, says guaranteeing US performers working in Canada the same pay and working hours they get at home won't be good for the Canadian production business. Said Barrack: *"What differentiates any of us is price, and what happens when it goes up, US productions go somewhere else, or they stay home"*... A report on **CHAN-TV (Global) Vancouver** about a bicycling accident was not too graphic, determined the **Canadian Broadcast Standards Council**, but the inability to provide a logger tape violated CBSC membership requirements. The April 2001 news item, which reported the death of a cyclist who had fallen in the path of a truck, showed firefighters hosing down the road surface. A viewer felt that this scene was unnecessarily painful for the victim's friends and family in that *"the implication for viewers was that the victim's blood was being washed away."* The complete decision may be found at www.cbsc.ca... The 12-17 demos in the US are down a full 12% from last season, according to **TV Business Confidential**. Viewing among adults 18-49 has held steady, slipping 3% from last season. The decline, save for **NBC** and attributable to its Olympic coverage, can be seen at every other network. Season-to-date, NBC is +9% in teens; **UPN**, -5%; **CBS**, -11%; **The WB**, -14%; **FOX**, -15%; and **ABC**, -29%. An unofficial study suggests 12-17s are spending more time with cable nets such as **MTV**, **Nickelodeon** and the **Disney Channel**, or not watching at all. Some nets are beginning to acknowledge and address the slippage. FOX is making an attempt to go after teens with its upcoming summer series *Pop Idol*, and The WB has announced that ***N Sync's** IMAX film, **N Sync: Bigger Than Live*, will make its TV debut on **The Frog Network** April 25. ABC is said to be mulling a return to its former **TGIF** style of programming that featured young-skewing comedies... Is teenage violence attributable to TV? Some don't think so, including **University of Toronto** psychologist **Jonathan Freedman**. He says: *"It has nothing to do with TV, it has to do with lifestyle. People who watch more than three hours of TV (a day) are different than those who watch less than an hour."* A study, published about a month ago, said the risk of aggressive behaviour increased five-fold for 14-year-olds who watched three hours or more of TV a day, compared with those who watched less than an hour. Among 16-22-year olds who watched more than three hours a day, 28.8% were involved in aggressive acts such as threats, assaults, fights, robbery, and using

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weapons to commit crimes. What wasn't factored-in, say the experts, were things such as childhood neglect, family income, neighbourhood violence, parental education and psychiatric disorder. Once you adjust the odds ratio and factor in those other variables, says **Nancy Reid**, Chair of the department of statistics at the University of Toronto, the five-fold increase in violence reported gets smaller... **ROB TV** will re-launch April 29 with new programming, a new schedule and a new on-air look, created by **CTV** in-house. Look for new sets, graphics and music.

RADIO: Anyone who's ever had to run through a list of sports scores on-air knows the frustration of those tired old terms: "beat", "demolished", "nuked" and so on to describe which team won over the other. Getting creative is a challenge. But, says the **Canadian Broadcast Standards Council**, saying one team "bitch-slapped" another steps over the line. CBSC says **Xfm (CKVX-FM) Vancouver** violated the **Canadian Association of Broadcasters Code of Ethics and Violence Code**. The complete decision may be found at www.cbsc.ca... **Mojo Radio (CFYI) Toronto** has struck a deal with the **Toronto Argonauts** to air their **CFL** home and away games through the 2002 season. The deal also includes promotional activities with other **Corus** radio stations... The **Radio Sales Training Academy** will be held at the London Club in London, Ontario July 30-August 1.

Organized by **The Jetset Media Workshop**, the training program for radio salespeople was developed by the US **Radio Advertising Bureau**... **Barry Rueger**, former manager of **CKCU Ottawa**, and now manager of **WMMT Whitesburg** (Kentucky), has been elected to the Board of the **Association of Independents in Radio (AIR)**. AIR is "a non-profit membership organization of culturally diverse independent radio producers; station and network based producers; audio artists; radio stations; educational and cultural institutions; media art centers; and others in public broadcasting"... I should have had the **CFRB/MIX 99.9 Toronto** "bunny" pic last week. Unfortunately, it was excluded because of **BD** having originated from Las Vegas and the **NAB**.



The Ugliest Easter Bunny Ever?

CFRB Toronto Toronto GM Pat Holiday sold Easter Eggs to **Standard Radio** staff to raise money for charity.

Giving Holiday an 'ear up' is **Standard Radio** President **Gary Slaight**.

REVOLVING DOOR: **Jeff Turl**, after 23 years with **Mid-Canada**, then **CTV** at North Bay, leaves the twin-stick operation this Friday. His departure is among the cutbacks announced earlier this year by CTV... **Doug Beeforth** has been appointed President of **Rogers Sportsnet**. It's a promotion from his VP/GM duties... At **106.9 The BEAR/Ottawa**, Promotion and Marketing Director **Rebecca Crow** is off on maternity leave. Her successor, for the foreseeable future, is **Erin Loney**, ex of **House Of Blues Concerts** and **BMG Music**. On-air Host **Lea Miller** moves from The BEAR to **MIX 99.9 Toronto**.

LOOKING: **Telemedia West** at Fort St. John, BC, seeks the services of a Senior Radio Account Executive. See the ad on Page One for details ([Click on the ad to provide immediate response](#))... Other jobs we've heard about include **Telemedia** in Kelowna looking for a Creative Writer for its Special Products Division... **Standard Radio** in Calgary on the look-out for a Technician... **DMX Music** in Calgary has an opening for a Music Programmer... **Q92 Timmins** is looking for a Morning Host... **Dougall Media** in Thunder Bay has a search on for Marketing/Sales people for **Thunder Bay Television, Radio Thunder Bay** (580 CKPR, ROCK 94, KIXX 105), the **Thunder Bay Post** and **The Source**... **EZRock Edmonton** is looking for a Summer Fun Cruiser Representative... **CFUN Vancouver** is searching for a Talk Show Producer... And **CJCD Yellowknife** has an opening for a Mid-Mornings On-Air Host.

SUPPLYLINES: **Leitch Technology** has made a major video server system sale to **TVA Group Inc.**, including Leitch's EMMY award-winning VR series of broadcast video servers to drive the company's central casting operation (Montreal and five remote sites), one east and one west coast feed, and three specialty stations.

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GENERAL: **BCE Inc.** fired a triple-barrelled volley into financial markets yesterday (Wednesday), warning of a writedown of at least \$7.5 billion, pulling the plug on its international long-distance subsidiary and reporting a first-quarter profit drop of 66%. BCE said it will end long-term support to **Teleglobe Inc.**, limiting funding to between \$100 million and \$125 million US after already pumping in \$350 million US since December. Net earnings at BCE were \$301 million or 37 cents a share, down from \$887 million or \$1.10 per share a year earlier (see **REVOLVING DOOR**)... **AOL Time Warner Inc.**, at the time of this writing, was expected to announce a flood of more red ink than any company in US corporate history. The world's biggest media company is expected to lose in excess of \$50 billion in the most recent quarter. Mitigating circumstances include a loss which is seen as being more on paper and a reflection of new accounting rules. Nevertheless, it acknowledges that the merger between **America Online** (AOL) and **Time Warner** is nowhere near expectations. Two years ago, the two companies had a combined stock market value of \$290 billion. Today, AOL Time Warner's stock is worth about \$85 billion... Six senators want an investigation of media concentration. They say they're concerned about the reduction of the Canadian media's range of voices. A steering group to launch a study of the effect of media concentration on freedom of information has been formed, spurred by **CanWest Global's** decision to publish national editorials throughout its **Southam** newspaper chain. Senator **Laurier Lapierre** asks what's to stop them from doing the same with TV stations. The senators hope to begin their public hearings in the fall... In Paris, **Vivendi Universal** faced dissatisfied shareholders at the company's annual meeting yesterday (Wednesday). Vivendi's share price has fallen about 70% in the past two years as investors -- once impressed with Chairman **Jean-Marie Messier's** capacity to pull off major acquisitions -- have grown nervous about his ability to meld together the company's diverse businesses and reduce borrowings. The French newspaper **Le Monde** reported yesterday that a minority shareholders body will ask a court to appoint an expert to look into the way Vivendi's board of directors operates. It reported that **Colette**

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Neuille, president of the shareholders' group, said the complaint would be filed with a French court next month. *"This company has posted huge losses, but we don't know how we got there,"* Le Monde quoted Neuville as saying... Even as convergence issues are being felt internationally, this year's newspaper conference – which opened in Calgary yesterday (Wednesday) – lead off with industry heavyweights from the newspaper divisions of Canada's major communication companies. **Quebecor**, **CanWest Global** and **Bell Globemedia** kicked off the conference with a debate about convergence. Discussion was to revolve around the future of papers and how they fit in with conglomerates that hold print, broadcast and Internet assets... Canada's **Export Development Council** says world economic growth is in full swing, forecasting global growth to average 2.6% this year and 3.5% next year. Canada's economy is expected to grow by 2.5% this year and up to 4% next year... **CHUM Television** has launched **MuchMobile**, a wireless entertainment service accessible on mobile phone displays. The service will initially be text only, with tie-ins to **MuchMusic**. The service will include entertainment news headlines, music trivia and MuchMusic broadcast listings. It will be a no-charge item for mobile phone subscribers across the country... **Canadian Association of Broadcasters** President/CEO **Glenn O'Farrell** told a luncheon meeting of the **Broadcast Executives Society** in Toronto that public policies governing private broadcasting must be reformed. *"Today, more than ever before,"* he said, *"private broadcasting, as a regulated industry, needs new, direct and decisive public policy parameters that will improve long-term profitability of our industry. As it stands now, many of the public policies that govern our industry and provide us with the parameters are out of step with the reality of the environment in which private broadcasters operate."* Among the realities, he said, are immense audience fragmentation, increased competition, rapid and constant emergence of new technologies, and private broadcasters' role as the first choice of Canadians for news, sports, information, entertainment and music programming. Among his wish list items: Reconsideration of the planned overhaul of the Copyright Act; Reducing CRTC fees; the safeguard of Canada's cultural policies and infrastructure from those who would challenge them at the next round of World Trade Organization negotiations... After losing \$15-million on the **Toronto Blue Jays** in its latest fiscal quarter, **Rogers Communications** says it isn't prepared to put good money after bad in its investment. The Blue Jays situation contributed to an overall loss of \$97.5 million (53 cents a share), compared to \$146.9 million (80 cents a share) a year earlier.

RADIO: The **Telemedia** radio properties have been approved for sale to four new owners: **Astral**



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Media, NewCap Inc.; Rogers Broadcasting; and, **Standard Radio Inc.** Closing date for the transactions is April 29. Standard won 64 radio stations and two TV stations but will sell 14 of them to Rogers and a further 15 to NewCap. The breakdown of acquisitions is as follows: Standard will keep **CFMG-FM Edmonton, CJDC/CJDC-TV Dawson Creek, CKRX-FM Fort Nelson, CKNL/CHRX-FM** (and its radio network) **Fort St. John, CKGR Golden, CKBL/CHSU-FM Kelowna, CKTK Kitimat, CKKC Nelson, CJOR Osoyoos, CJMG-FM/CKOR** (and its radio network) **Penticton, CHTK Prince Rupert, CIOR Princeton, CKCR Revelstoke, CKXR Salmon Arm, CHOR Summerland, CFTK/CJFW-FM/CFTK-TV Terrace, CJAT-FM Trail, CICF Vernon, CKOC/CHAM/CKLH-FM Hamilton, CKSL/CJBK/CJBX-FM/CIQM-FM London, CHVR-FM**

Pembroke, CKTB/CHTZ-FM/CHRE-FM St. Catharines; and, **CJEZ-FM/CJEZ-DR-1** (digital radio) **Toronto.** Rogers Broadcasting gets: **CICX-FM Orillia; CKAT/CKFX-FM/CHUR-FM North Bay; CHAS-FM/CJQM-FM/CIRS Sault Ste. Marie; CIGM/CJRQ-FM/CJMX-FM Sudbury; CKGB-FM/CJOQ-FM Timmins; CJCL/CJCL-DR-2** (digital radio); and, the **Prime Time** radio network. NewCap gets: **CKBA Athabasca; CJPR Blairmore; CIBQ Brooks;** a new Calgary FM station recently approved by the **CRTC; CJCM Cold Lake/Grand Centre; CKDQ Drumheller; CJYR Edson; CKVH High Prairie; CIYR Hinton; CHLW St. Paul; CKWA Slave Lake; CKSQ Stettler; CKKY Wainwright; CFOK Westlock;** and, **CKJR Wetaskawin.**

Astral Media's purchase of Telemedia stations in Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia remains at a standstill while both companies try putting a stop to a federal Competition Tribunal hearing. Astral wants to buy 17 new stations and the remaining shares of two others it co-owns, creating a new network to complement its existing 14 Quebec stations... Bad taste didn't get **Rock 101 (CFMI-FM) Vancouver** in trouble with the **Canadian Broadcast Standards Council.** Sexually explicit material on the morning show (**Brother Jake**), however, was found to be in breach of the Code of Ethics. Specifically, it was a discussion by hosts about one of their sex experiences – with a woman on a workbench – that was found to be too explicit for times when children could be expected to be listening. Read the complete decision at www.cbcs.ca.

REVOLVING DOOR: **Jean Monty** has quit as Chairman/CEO of **BCE Inc.** Succeeding Monty is **Michael Sabia**, the President/COO of BCE and COO of **Bell Canada**... **Doug Ackhurst**, after 28 years as a VP at **Telemedia Ontario** radio stations, says he will retire Aug. 30. He has been with **The Fan (CJCL) Toronto** the past six years but says that with the sale of the station to **Rogers Radio** now is the “*perfect time to seek new adventures*”... **Peter Moss** becomes VP of Programming at **Corus Television** May 1. He was most recently President of animation production house, **CINAR Entertainment**... **BEAT 94.5 Vancouver** PD **Matthew McBride** has left the station. **Paul Baruzzi** assumes the Asst. PD role until a new PD can be found... **Jannat Hamid** is Chair of the newly-formed **Women in Leadership Foundation.** Hamid had been VP at **Canadian Women in Communications** in Toronto... Mid-Day Host **Scott Phillips** at **Country 105 (CKRY-FM) Calgary** adds Music Director to his responsibilities.

SIGN-OFFS: **Al Erdman**, 84, after a lengthy illness. Erdman was Chief Engineer **CJOR** (now **CKBD Vancouver**) throughout the 60s and 70s. He also designed and built many amplifier circuits which, to this day, are still residing within operating consoles. The tip-off is line and cue amplifier cards bearing the inscription

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AFE3 and AFE10... **Edward De Fontaine**, 72, in Alexandria, VA of congestive heart failure. De Fontaine helped launch **AP Radio** in 1974 as its first assistant managing editor.

TV/FILM: Lots of conflict in Toronto over the recent TV licenses. Writing in the **Globe and Mail**, **Michael Posner** said **Torstar's** ignorance of its market made it a fitting loser while only the day before, his colleague at that paper – **Jeffrey Simpson** – said the **CRTC** “robbed” Torstar. Posner argues that the Torstar application “*demonstrated a profound ignorance of the local marketplace and seemed seriously out of sync with economic realities.*” As an example, he cited an overflow of proposed news programming. And that was no mystery, he asserted. It would have been cheap programming considering that Torstar owns daily newspapers in Toronto, Hamilton and Kitchener. Simpson, on the other hand, says **Craig Broadcast Systems**, the winner, offers less local content and less Canadian programming. Stranger still, he wrote, “*Craig will fill big chunks of its schedule with Western Canadian programming.*” Imagine, Simpson asks, if a licence had been awarded in Calgary on a promise to provide more Toronto programming and then the CRTC justified its decision by saying the new station would provide “*the market with a fresh perspective.*” Maybe the Commission did Torstar a favor, he wrote: “*Everywhere else,*

convergence has been a disappointment at best, a bust at worst"... **Alliance Atlantis**, having cut 35 jobs in its broadcast group yesterday (Wednesday), expects to save \$3 million in annual operating costs. The cuts are effective immediately and Alliance Atlantis says it expects to take a \$1-million one-time charge for the move on its books. The company owns **Showcase**, **Life Network**, **History Television**, **HGTV Canada** and **Food Network Canada**...

The **Canadian Human Rights Commission** has rejected a former **CBC-TV Vancouver** News Anchor **Leila Paul's** complaint of age discrimination. Paul first complained to the commission in 1989 after **Gloria Macarenko** was chosen ahead of her and other candidates to anchor the late-night newscast. Paul was then 44, while Macarenko was 27. The case has been bouncing in and out of the courts and the hands of the commission for 13 years. Paul says she's deeply disappointed by the commission's decision to reject her complaint, and accuses it of doing so out of fear of further litigation by the CBC... **Television Bureau** (TVB) President **Jim Patterson** says **TSN**, **Discovery Channel**, **RDS**, **CTV Travel**, **Animal Planet**, **ESPN Classic**, **Discovery Civilization**, **NHL Network** and **WTSN** have all joined TVB, including the **Telecaster** service. The specialty services of TVB now account for more than 60% of all specialty advertising revenues... Financially crippled British pay-TV firm **ITV Digital** has been put up for sale after it failed to reach a deal with its biggest creditor, the **English Football League**, over match broadcast rights. Administrators want to sell ITV Digital as a going concern but industry analysts are skeptical a buyer can be found. And, if a buyer isn't found, **Deloitte & Touche** may break it up and hold an assets fire sale -- particularly the broadcast licence and customer base. ITV Digital was to continue serving subscribers at least until today (Thursday)... Virginia-based **BIA Financial Network** says US TV stations are poised for recovery in 2002. An industry survey and analysis of current market conditions indicates that revenues should increase by 5.1% for all of the calendar year. Year 2001 saw a 12.9% decrease.

SUPPLYLINES: **Rohde & Schwarz** has sold two **NH7000 Series** liquid cooled UHF TV transmitters to the **CBC**. The two systems are to be installed later this year. A 5 kW NH7050 will be installed at the Peterborough site while a 40 kW NH7400 will be installed at Toronto's CN Tower during the fall.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS THIS WEEK INCLUDE: **D. J. Williams**, **The Jetset Media Workshop**, London. Welcome!

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The May edition of **Broadcast Dialogue** magazine is now at the printer and is expected to be in the mail next week. Watch for the feature 'Dialogue' column from new **CRTC** Chair **Charles Dalfen**, a feature report on **Canadian Music Week** and, specifically, the decline of the music business worldwide, and a look at how the **2002 Winter Olympics** was brought home to Canada. Some may be surprised to learn that satellite had little or nothing to do with it, that fibre optics made all the difference to the quality.