EVLVING DOOR: Stephanie Smyth, who’s been with 680News Toronto since 1993 and worked her way up to News Director, is moving to Global Television in Toronto as ND. It’s expected she’ll be aboard at Global by month’s end. Vicki Dalziel (ex VP/GM at CMT and who managed her own broadcast consulting company) and Diane Johnson (ex LG73/CFOX Vancouver, Global TV Vancouver and the Walt Disney Company) have joined forces in a new Vancouver-based company, Descriptive Video Works. For more info, click here...

Bruce Davis, GM/GSM at C Kov/CKLZ-FM Kelowna, has been promoted – in addition to his duties at Kelowna – to VP of Sales for The Jim Pattison Broadcast Group. The appointment was effective April 1. Davis oversee all sales activities related the development and growth of the 23 Pattison radio and TV stations in Western Canada... Michele Erskine has joined Solutions Research Group in Toronto as VP. She had been Director of Research and Managing Partner at the Youth Culture Group

SIGN-OFF: James Duncan Patterson, 80, in Victoria. He was with the National Film Board, the CBC (and launched CBUT Vancouver) before moving to Toronto where he was CBC Director of Planning.

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LOOKING: 680News Toronto is looking for a News Director. Click here for details (and see the ad opposite)... Other jobs we’ve heard about include: CHUB-FM/BIG 105 Red Deer searching for a News Director; Corus Entertainment in Toronto looking for a Human Resources Generalist/Compensation Analyst; Canadian Broadcast Standards Council seeking a Broadcast Analyst; Global BC (CHAN TV) looking for a Producer in the newsroom; CanWest Global Winnipeg looking for a Payroll Supervisor; Global TV Toronto seeking a Programming Assistant; Corus Radio Vancouver is looking for an Engineer; Nelvana in Toronto looking for a Supervisor, Merchandising Operations; Corus Radio Toronto searching for an intermediate Accountant; CHEX-TV Peterborough seeking a part-time Videographer and a part-time general Operator and an Account Exec; CKNW Vancouver looking for a Newscaster; and CTV Toronto seeking a Traffic Coordinator.

RADIO: KISS 969 (CKIS-FM) Calgary, a Hip Hop/R&B format, has re-launched as 96.9 JACK FM. It’s the same format and frequency another CKLG-FM Vancouver uses. The similarity goes further, the Rogers’ stations even share the same frequency and the same Web site (www.jackfm.com)... Despite what you may have heard, CHUM Toronto hasn’t banned any “war” songs. An item last week in some dailies claimed the AM Oldies station had. But PD Brad Jones says such a notion is ridiculous; that CHUM helped make those songs popular over its 40 years of airing them... The Canadian Association of Broadcasters says it is disappointed by the recent Copyright Board of Canada decision on royalties payable for the reproduction of musical works. This new payment by radio stations – amounting to $6.5 million annually and retroactive to 2001 – requires payment for the likes of recording from a CD to the station computer system. CAB President/CEO Glenn O’Farrell says broadcasters shouldn’t be penalized for using efficient technology, particularly when there’s no economic value to stations. For details, click here... An Ontario Securities Commission panel has questioned whether some of the sanctions proposed against financial guru and long-time radio money broadcaster Brian Costello are appropriate. They include having his Web site content, newsletters and seminars monitored; having him prohibited from acting as a director or officer of a securities issuer for three to five years; and requiring him to hire an expert to monitor his Web site, newsletters and seminars. It was in February that the OSC panel found that he violated securities rules by recommending investments although he wasn’t registered as a financial adviser. That contravenes the Ontario Securities Act... Personalities at four of Clear Channel’s five New York radio stations – Classic Rock WAXQ, CHR/Rhythmic WKTU, Mainstream AC WLTW and Urban WPPR – have voted to seek a strike authorization from AFTRA. They’ve been in
negotiations for months, rejecting Clear Channel's plan for voice tracking... **Team 990 (CKGM) Montreal** has won English broadcast rights for **Montreal Expos** games this season. The Major League Baseball team is already on **CKAC** and **CJMS Montreal** in French... **Haliburton Broadcasting Group Inc.**, owner of nine Ontario radio licences, has bought **CJWL-FM Iroquois Falls** and the recently-licenced FM station in Cochrane, Ontario, from **Tri Tel Communications**. Both purchases are subject to **CRTC** approval.

**GENERAL:** The Minister of Industry, **Allan Rock**, says his department has appointed a National Antenna Tower Review Committee to “ensure that the voices of Canadians are heard” on the matter of procedures for placing towers. He says such procedures “must embrace community involvement and expand the economic and social benefits of wireless, broadcast and wireless broadband technologies across Canada.” The demand for broadcast and wireless services has caused a jump in infrastructure, including the number of antennas being erected. For details, click here... The US **Federal Communications Commission** (FCC) will likely decide June 2 on reformulated ownership rules for the radio, TV and newspaper industries. Chairman **Michael Powell** says he expects existing rules to be liberalized and is calling for proposals to support media ownership rules thrown back at the FCC by a federal appeals court. Right now, rules limit how much of the US national TV audience one entity can reach (now 35%) as well as a ban on common ownership of a newspaper and a TV or radio station in a market... **Cogeco Cable** says Video on Demand (VOD) service has been deployed to 85% of households it serves, 92% in Ontario and 71% in Quebec. Among their digital cable customers who are aware of the new service, 53% have tried it in Ontario compared to 63% in Quebec. The VOD service enables digital customers to watch movies with the functionality of a videocassette recorder (pause, stop, rewind and fast forward). All commands are activated on the remote control of a digital box.

**TV/FILM:** **Craig Media** has dropped **Airtime Sales**, the Toronto rep house, after six years. Instead, says Craig, national sales operations will go in-house beginning May 31. Click here for details... Still with **Craig Media**, its new **toronto|one** station finally has a home; 25 Ontario Street. **toronto|one** is scheduled to launch in September... Independent TV producer/reporter **Dale Drewery** and **CTV's Ed Watson** are the 2003 recipients of the **Jack Webster Foundation Standard Broadcasting Fellowship for Broadcast Journalists**. The annual award provides up to $16-thousand for professional development. For more information on the fellowship program, e-mail at infojackwebster.com.

**NEW SUBSCRIBERS THIS WEEK INCLUDE:** **Dan Williamson**, **Williamson Voice Imaging**, Toronto and **Matthew McBride**, **Central Island Broadcasting Ltd.**, Nanaimo. Welcome!
RADIO: A stand-alone Internet radio that Mom can set up in the kitchen is on its way, expected by as soon as June. Texas-based Rochelle Communications says their Internet radio will be priced at $129, will support an Ethernet computer network connection, and have optional Wi-Fi capability... CJTK-FM-1 North Bay, a repeater of religious station CJTK-FM Sudbury, wants to up its power from 33 watts to 800 watts. It also wants to move from 89.5 to 99.3 MHz. That would raise the station’s status from a low-power to a regular Class A FM’er. The CRTC has set an intervention deadline of May 9... Last Friday, the National Post reported that Canada's private broadcasters fear an expected CanCon hike. There’s a possibility radio will be compelled to go from 35% to 40% at the end of a review expected this year.

GENERAL: The days of free online access to newspaper content – that cannibalizes circulation – are numbered, says CanWest Global Communications COO Rick Camilleri. Speaking at last week's annual conference of the Canadian Media Directors' Council in Toronto, he said CanWest plans to begin an electronic overhaul of its 11 dailies this summer. Offering a glimpse of the company's convergence future, Camilleri fused content that includes digital newspapers, video on demand and product placement in a new reality-TV series, saying that the “vision for us and the company is integration.” Digital newspapers, he said, will include full-motion video promoting Global Television stations and advertisers... Cogeco Inc. reports a lower second-quarter profit based largely on seasonal factors at its French-language TQS television network. Profit totalled $756,000 (or 5-cents a share), compared with a year-earlier profit of $36.5-million (or $2.24), which included a $34-million dilution gain. For the second quarter, operating margin declined compared to the same period last year due to the TQS network acquisition... Total attendance at this year’s NAB in Las Vegas was 89,000, down from last year’s 92,000.

TV/FILM: While CBC News has seen a 50% jump in viewers, and CTV News is holding steady, CNN is the most popular in Canada since the Iraqi war began. The National with Peter Mansbridge has seen its "average minute audience" jump 36% to 884,000 viewers. Midway through last week, The National’s AMA was up 50% over its regular season viewing. CTV’s National News with Lloyd Robertson, on the other hand, has held steady with a 3-to-5% jump in its AMA to 928,000 since the war began. CNN, however, garnered a 12.2% viewing share among Canadians in the first week of the war. Before the war, CNN had a season-to-date average of 2.6% in Canada. In a "report card" compiled by Comquest - and commissioned by CBC - the question asked of those surveyed was: "Which network is doing the best job of covering the war?" Thirty-nine per cent chose CNN... CHUM has pulled the plug on
its licensing agreement with Rainbow Media Holdings for use of the MuchMusic brand and original programming on Rainbow’s US channel. MuchMusic USA launched in 1994 as a partnership between CHUM and Rainbow. CHUM subsequently sold its 50% interest in the channel to Rainbow in March 2000 and entered into an agreement authorizing Rainbow to continue the use of the MuchMusic trademarks and programming. This agreement expires at the end of next month. MuchMusic/MuchMoreMusic VP/GM David Kines says CHUM will be looking for new opportunities in the American market... The CRTC has found that CTV did not breach either the Broadcasting Act or the Television Broadcasting Regulations by airing The Sopranos. A complainant alleged that the series presented a negative portrayal of Italians. After a Canadian Broadcast Standards Council (CBSC) ruling that the series was not in breach, the complainant went to the Commission... The Canadian Society of Cinematographers has presented its 2003 Roy Tash Award for Spot News Reporting to CTV British Columbia’s Shawn Foss for his work at the Guns N’ Roses riot at Vancouver’s BC Place. The award is presented annually to one news photographer for exceptional work. The award is usually won by network photographers. This is the first time in a decade the award has been won by a local CTV station... As of next month, CBOT-TV Ottawa will be available to Star Choice satellite service subscribers... CTV’s Sunday night broadcast of the 2003 JUNO Awards drew 2.2 million viewers (2+) – a 53% jump in viewership compared to last year’s broadcast.

REVOLVING DOOR: Tracy Gard, long-time GM at CHAS/CJQM Sault Ste. Marie is no longer with the Rogers operation. New GM/PD is Scott Sexsmith, formerly the Ops Manager... Bob Dearborn is new morning host at AM740 (CHWO) Toronto. Dearborn, a Canadian, became famous on Chicago radio, notably WCFL. Dearborn succeeds the late Tom Fulton... Peter Garland, the morning show Host at CFPL London – after 22 years in that position – will sign off May 30. Garland, 62, spent nine years doing the morning show at CKSL London before “going across the street” in 1981... CBC Prince Edward Island morning Host Wayne Collins is retiring after two decades in that post... Tom Rivers is back at CHUM Toronto, effective last Saturday. Rivers, who most Torontonians remember from his CHUM morning show in the 70s and his long-time morning show stint at CFTR Toronto, is host of weekend daytime programming. He’s still doing his AM740 (CHWO) Toronto Saturday night oldies show, staying with the station through the end of ratings... Jason Moore is new ND at CKLW Windsor, returning to the CHUM station after a couple of years as ND at CHYR Leamington. Current ND Rob Shervill becomes Ass’t ND and continues to anchor the morning news run.

LOOKING: CKPG Prince George seeks a hockey play-by-play announcer; Corus Entertainment in Kingston is looking for a GSM for its radio and TV properties; Alliance Atlantis Toronto is looking for a Festivals Manager, a Human Resources Coordinator, and a Graphic Designer; Global Television Vancouver is looking for a Producer and Traffic Coordinator; CJOB Winnipeg seeks a Producer/Researcher; Corus Radio Vancouver is looking for an Engineer; CTV Toronto seeks a Market Research Analyst; CHUB-FM/BIG 105 Red Deer is searching for a ND; CTV Winnipeg is looking for a VTR Operator; and, MCTV Sudbury is looking for an Account Executive.

SUPPLYLINES: Bell ExpressVu has purchased a Panasonic DVCPROHD camera to begin producing its own programming in high definition. The camera will be recording all of Bell ExpressVu’s in-house promotional spots for movies, sporting events and other pay-per-view specials. Most spots are two to three minutes in length and will run multiple times each day on the 60 pay-per-view channels. The DVCPRO HD camera (AJ-HDC27FP) is available at a suggested retail price of $100,000 (without lens)... Leitch Technology says it has partnered with Craig Media in the construction of a dual-format broadcast facility at toronto|one, Craig’s new Toronto licence. In support of the station’s launch, Craig is installing Leitch VR400 series multi-format servers; Opus(TM) SD/HD master control; NEO(TM) and 6800+ SD/HD modular infrastructure products; the new LogoMotion II SD/HD branding system; the Juno(TM) upconverter; Panacea(TM) routers; the dpsVelocityQ(TM) non-linear editor and DPS-575 digital processing synchronizers.
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programming at CBC, agree that the priority system used by CTF "is broken". CRTC Chairman Charles Dalfen wants to see Canadian dramas and comedies rival those from the US. He’s appointed Trina McQueen, the ex CTV President, to study the issue. Her report is expected this spring. Meantime, the Canadian Association of Broadcasters is calling on the Departments of Finance and Canadian Heritage to take immediate action. CAB wants them to work with the broadcasting industry to address the consequences of the CTF reduction. Association President Glenn O’Farrell says “the Fund was created to support the production and broadcast of high quality, distinctively Canadian television programs. The fact that so many projects are not being funded, in an environment where the Government and the CRTC are emphasizing the need to produce high quality Canadian programming, demonstrates a serious disconnect.” The Canadian Film & Television Production Association and a host of representatives from Canada’s film and TV production industries let loose at a Tuesday news conference in Toronto, criticizing the federal government’s funding cuts. During a question period, Alliance Atlantis partner Seaton Maclean said bluntly that “The system is f***ed!” CFTPA intends to fight to restore the $25 million funding cut. Astral Media, TQS and TVA – Quebec’s three largest private French-language broadcasters – say they’re convinced that the financing decisions for Canadian programming will have negative consequences and thus cannot be considered final. Corrective measures, they say, are unavoidable, and that they must be taken in the coming weeks. If a better balance in the financing of public and private sector programming isn’t achieved, they say, the momentum and success of the private French-language TV industry, which took years to build, will be compromised. The three are proposing a special budget of at least $8 million be allocated to finance the private French-language programs that were refused funding... CHUM Limited has provided details of its applications for new independent stations at Calgary, Edmonton and a re-broad at Red Deer. The CHUM news release may be found here. At the same time, Global Television wants to revitalize CKRD Red Deer, disaffiliating from CBC and instead introducing the CH (CHEK Victoria and CHCH Hamilton) program schedule. The Global news release may be found here. The CRTC will hear the rival applications at a June 16 hearing in Edmonton. But many industry observers already see the CHUM applications as a done deal. There’s also much agreement that the Commission will endorse CHUM Ltd. President/CEO Jay Switzer’s bid for CHUM Television to become Canada’s third private network... Torstar Media Group Television (TMG TV) has changed the name of its 24 hour infomercial channel from Toronto Star TV to SHOPTV Canada. VP/GM Don Shafer says the change “reflects what we do as well as creates more opportunities for us in Direct Response Television.” For details, click here... Canadian digital TV subscribers increased by 21% in 2002, according to a new Decima report. That’s 600,000 new Canadian homes with digital TV penetration via satellite, cable, wireless cable, and phone companies. While new DTV viewers are still coming, the 2002 figures are down sharply from 2001. For the complete news release, click here... A US government-backed TV service to be launched in Iraq will air American news programming with
Arabic-language captioning, reports Crain Communications. Programming includes unedited repeats of ABC World News Tonight, CBS Evening News, The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer, NBC Nightly News and Fox News Special Report With Brit Hume. CNN, however, has refused to provide content, saying: “We didn’t think that as an independent, global news organization it was appropriate to participate in a United States government video transmission”... Astral Television Networks’ M2, M3 and M4 pay-channels – part of the Movie Network – will be renamed MFun (general audience), Mexcess (young audience), and MEscape (mature audience). The new branding takes effect May 1... CHUM Television and the National Film Board of Canada, have announced the Expression Awards / Les Prix Expression, sponsored by the Department of Canadian Heritage. They’ll be held in Ottawa next Tuesday (April 22) as part of the Minister’s Forum on Diversity and Culture. The Expression Awards were created to celebrate diversity in the arts and media, across Canada. For more info, click here.

RADIO: The CRTC will hold hearings June 16 on – among other things – licences for Edmonton and Red Deer. Applicants for FM frequencies in Edmonton include: O.K. Radio Group Ltd. for 102.9 MHz (64,000 watts) with a Modern Rock format; CHUM Limited/Milestone Media Broadcasting Ltd. for 91.7 MHz (100,000 watts) with an Urban music format (click here for their news release); Harvard Broadcasting Inc. for 91.7 MHz (100,000 watts) with a Progressive Modern and Urban format; Edmonton Radio Ltd. for 91.7 MHz (100,000 watts) with an Easy Listening format; Rogers Broadcasting Limited for 91.7 (100,000 watts) with a Modern Rock format; CKMW Radio Ltd. for 91.7 MHz (100,000 watts) with a format drawing from hip hop, rap, dance and rhythm & blues; Global Communications for 99.5 MHz (100,000 watts) with an Easy Listening format; Rawlco (Edmonton) Ltd. for 89.3 MHz (100,000 watts) with a Smooth Jazz format; and, Aboriginal Voices Radio Inc. for 89.3 MHz (100,000 watts) would operate as part of the AVR Radio Network and originate 9 hours per week of local programming. Those seeking new FM licences in Red Deer are: Jim Pattison Industries Ltd. for 99.9 MHz (100,000 watts) with a Classic Rock format; CBC amend the licence of CBR-FM Calgary so as to add an FM re-broad at 99.9 (100,000 watts); Rogers Broadcasting Limited for 104.5 MHz (95,000 watts) with a Classic Hits format; and, Newcap Inc. for 104.3 MHz (100,000 watts) with a Classic Hits format. The intervention cut-off for all of the above applications is May 22... A new format, called Blink 102.7, has launched at WNEW-FM New York. Infinity, owner or the station, says it offers “Contemporary music mixed with Hollywood news, celebrity gossip and features on trends, fashion and pop culture” “in a format aimed at young women”. Last week’s deal that saw Rupert Murdoch’s News Corp. acquire control of Hughes Electronics and its DirecTV subsidiary for $6.6 billion also included Murdoch’s company becoming the second-largest shareholder of XM Satellite Radio (behind only American Honda). News Corp. will have roughly 14.4% while American Honda holds 18.5%... CHTM Thompson aired a 20-hour radiothon over April 11-12, raising almost $16,000 towards the purchase of a Baby Pod for transporting very young sick children from the northern Manitoba community to the Children’s Hospital in Winnipeg. Funds remaining will go toward research for children’s diseases. This was the first time a radiothon attempt had ever been made in the community... CKLC Kingston will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in November. GM/GSM Gary Perrin is trying to contact the many people who have passed through those halls during their careers, hoping to get some bits to use on-air. Old photos, too, would be most welcome, he says. Perrin gives the example of John Bermingham, who started with CKLC 50 years ago. Today, at 72, he’s still in the same building with CKLC and running his own company, Bermingham Marketing. Gary Perrin may be contacted at (613) 544-1380 ext. 236 or by e-mail at gperrin@kos.net.
SYNDICATION: Pierre Bourque, of the Bourque Web site (www.bourque.com) and who has often filled-in as a talk show host at CFRA Ottawa, and CJOB Winnipeg’s Charles Adler are developing a new weekend talk show. Stations are being signed across Canada. For information, send Bourque a note at pierre@achilles.net.

REVOLVING DOOR: Laura McGugan, morning co-Host, then morning Host alone, at CIOJ-FM Belleville the last five years – and Broadcast Dialogue magazine’s first ‘Hero of Broadcasting’ – has moved to CKWS-TV Kingston as a Reporter. She will remain in Belleville as the Kingston station’s regional correspondent... Keith Soper, who many know from his years at OZ-FM/CJON-TV St. John’s, is back in broadcasting. He’s signed-on as afternoon Host at K-Rock (VOCM-FM) St. John’s and will also continue his real estate business... David Jones has become Ops. Mgr. of the Standard Radio Hamilton Cluster (102.9 K-Lite (CKLH-FM)/Oldies 1150 (CKOC)/CHAM). He had been PD at K-Lite... Rene Huebner, after 18 years with CHUM Radio – the most recent as Creative Director at the Winnipeg stations – officially leaves that post at month’s end.

SIGN-OFFS: Bob Hosie, 89, the founder of CKOM Saskatoon in 1951. He sold the station to Elmer Hildebrand in 1985. Hosie died in late January... Andy Philip, 86, in Calgary. He began his career at CFGP Grande Prairie and retired from his News Director’s position at CHQR Calgary in the early 80s... News announcer Fred Goders, 56, died Monday in Edmonton after a heart attack. He’d been part of Edmonton radio since the mid-’70s, with the old talk radio CJCA, and then with K97 (CIRK-FM). After a first heart attack in the early ’90s, Goders cut back to part-time news reading at CHQT and CISN-FM. He’d been off air since the Corus Radio Group amalgamation.

LOOKING: Manitoba Telecom Services is looking for a Regulatory Consultant - Broadcasting. See the ad on Page 1. More details may be found here... Other jobs we’ve heard about include Astral Media seeking an Affiliate Trade Marketing Manager in Toronto; Alliance Atlantis in Toronto looking for a Production Executive; TVA in Montreal seeking for a Web Master; Corus Kingston looking for a General Sales Manager; CKDK Woodstock/London looking for a Promotions Coordinator; Corus London seeking a Producer; CFPL London looking for a Morning Show Host; CHED/CKNG/CISN/CHQT Edmonton seeking a Production Assistant; the NFB in Montreal looking for an Advisor, Employment Equity Program; The Comedy Network in Toronto wanting an Associate Marketing Manager; CFTO News in Toronto looking for a Business Manager; CTV in Toronto seeking an Account Executive-Network Sales; and, Corus Entertainment Toronto looking for a VP/GM for its Digital Adventure and Max Trax.

GENERAL: Rogers Cable employees either aren’t very effective or don’t care about a new campaign by incoming CEO Edward Rogers to attract 3000 new cable subs. Just 30 new customers have come aboard since he launched a promotion last month that would have paid employees $100 for each new hook-up. The hope had been to attract new or return customers, particularly those who have gone to satellite. A source was quoted as saying Rogers will have to add about 375 new customers each week until the end of May to achieve the target... Telesat has cleared Nimiq 2 for its full projected life span. There had been an anomaly but a manufacturer’s investigation cleared the problem. The Nimiq 2 satellite provides direct-to-home TV services for Canadians as does Nimiq 1, Telesat’s other DTH satellite. Read the news release here... Montreal-based Reporters Without Borders has voiced concern that a CNN crew’s security escort returned fire with an automatic weapon when the crew, traveling in several vehicles, came under fire at the entrance to the northern Iraqi town of Tikrit. The use of firearms is a practice contrary to all the rules of the profession, the organization said. Click here for more... At the Broadcast Executives Society Luncheon in Toronto today (Thursday), CanWest Media Sales President Jack Tomik’s address centres on his experience as a buyer – “Confessions of an ex Media Buyer.” Tickets are still available at 416/413-3870.

SUPPLYLINES: New CEO at Stamford, CT-based OmniBus Systems is Mike Oldham, an ex COO at Encoda Systems.
SIGN-OFFS: J. Conrad Lavigne, 86, who in 1950 - began the pursuit of opening the first French language radio station outside of Quebec. It took a year of fighting red tape and non-believers but CFCL Timmins went to air in 1951. A TV station followed which than begat the largest privately-owned broadcast system in the world. CFCL-TV Timmins began broadcasting in 1956 and over the next 24 years, Lavigne – a member of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters’ Hall of Fame – acquired three more stations and built a dozen rebroadcasting towers linked by a private microwave system. His English-language TV network reached Rouyn-Noranda, Val d'Or and other Quebec communities, helping bridge the gap between the French and English cultural groups... Frederick William (Fred) Arenburg, 79, at Bridgewater, Nova Scotia's South Shore Regional Hospital on Monday. Fred Arenburg's broadcast career began in 1948 at CKBW Bridgewater. In 1954, he joined the sales department at CHNS Halifax, later becoming PD in 1959 and GM in 1960. Under his direction, Talk Radio began in Nova Scotia. In 1970, he became GM at CKDH Amherst. Ten years later, he was majority shareholder and president of CKDH’s parent company, Tantramar Broadcasting. In 1989, he sold his interests to Maritime Broadcasting. In 1975, the station won the Canadian Association of Broadcaster’s Station of the Year Award and its news department won a Dan McArthur Award for Excellence in Radio News from the Radio and Television News Directors Association of Canada... Charlie Douglass, 93, the inventor of TVs canned laughter and other sounds, of pneumonia. His Laff Box has been supplying taped audience reactions since the 1950s. He said he got the idea when he was working as a Technical Director on many of the live shows during TV’s early days. In 1992, recognition came in the form of a Lifetime Achievement Emmy in 1992.

RADIO: The CRTC has approved Durham Radio’s acquisition of Corus stations CKGE-FM (Magic) and CKDO Oshawa. Durham Radio also owns CJKX (KX96) Ajax and CJWV (Smooth Jazz Wave 94.7) Hamilton. Magic is an AC format stressing public affairs while CKDO is Oldies featuring local
news and sports. Durham Radio says it will keep the formats but, through pooled efforts between its stations, will broadcast more local news, sports and promotion of local entertainment and community events relevant to the Oshawa community. New sister station KX96 Ajax is only about 10 km. away from Oshawa and, says the CRTC, are considered to operate in the same market. Durham paid $3.9 million for the two Oshawa stations...The CRTC has approved four new Toronto stations, each of which have up to two years to begin operating. They are: Canadian Multicultural Radio (CMR) (101.3 FM), an ethnic service directed mainly at South Asian communities; La Coopérative radiophonique de Toronto inc. (105.1 FM), a community station which will be the first French-language station in the Toronto area to be added to those provided by Société Radio-Canada (SRC); San Lorenzo Latin American Community Centre (1610 AM), a not-for-profit ethnic community station primarily programming to Toronto’s Spanish-speaking cultural groups; and, Sur Sagar Radio Inc. (Transitional Digital Radio, Channel 2), the first stand-alone transitional digital radio service. It will offer at least 80% of its programming to at least five different cultural groups in five different languages (Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu and Gujarati, as well as English)... Medianet Communications in Toronto has signed an agreement with Aboriginal Voices Radio to provide administration and production facilities and support. Programming content will be produced in the Medianet studios for distribution to AVR stations in Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver and Calgary plus new AVR stations licenced in future. Click here for the complete story... While Arbitron still wants a joint deal with Nielsen Media Research in the US for a commercial application for the Portable People Meter (PPM), there’s a back-up plan. But if there’s no deal, Arbitron says it’s Plan B would be to focus on developing a radio-only PPM plan combined with developing a national panel. The panel, however, wouldn’t produce ratings. Instead, it would measure multi-media and product usage. The goal would be what’s described as optimal media targeting and marketing Return On Investment analysis... A week or so ago, CJMP Powell River raised its new tower on its studio roof. This week, vandals got up there and cut the antenna line plus some guy wires. The community station’s new tower was toppled and destroyed.

**GENERAL:** Astral Media says net profit for the fiscal second quarter ended Feb. 28 jumped 42% to $13.8 million (25- cents a share). That compared with earnings of $9.8 million (20-cents) in the second quarter of last year. Revenue rose 21% to $113.1 million from $93.2 million, the increase due in part to the radio stations acquired from Telemedia late last summer. Meantime, Astral Chairman André Bureau says the recent Canadian Television Fund cuts shouldn’t have a big impact on Astral’s Movie Network, Family and Teletoon – all of which purchase Canadian programming. In its last fiscal year, Astral spent close to $90 million to buy Canadian films and other content for its specialty, pay-TV and radio stations... The Ontario Association of Broadcasters has an agreement with the Ontario Provincial Police to implement the Amber Alert program on radio and TV stations across the province. OAB has established a committee of
News Directors from large and small market stations to establish the parameters of its operation... Rogers Communications reports a $23.7 million profit in the first quarter; 14% growth. The quarter ended March 31 saw net income hit six cents a share, reversing last year’s loss of $97.56 million dollars (53 cents per share)... Seattle-based RealNetworks Inc. will acquire Listen.com and its Rhapsody digital music subscription business for about $US36 million in cash and stock. The deal is expected to close in about 90 days... Tomorrow (Friday) at London’s University of Western Ontario, Corus Entertainment will announce a donation to the Richard Ivey School of Business to establish the Corus Entertainment Chair in Women in Management. Corus, in a news release, says “the Chair has been established to develop innovative research, teaching materials, and outreach programs on Women in Management and to broaden the impact of the School’s unique teaching and research programs”... Coming up next Thursday-Friday (May 1-2) is the BC Regional RTNDA meeting in Kamloops. Part of the events include the presentation to Warren Barker of the inaugural RTNDA Lifetime Achievement Award. Barker was the long-time ND at CKNW Vancouver.

Evolving Door: Long-time OZ-FM (CHOZ-FM) St. John’s morning Host Randy Snow has resigned.

Looking: Jobs we’ve heard about this week include: Metro Radio Group in Halifax looking for a Research Analyst; CHBC-TV Kelowna seeking a Marketing Consultant; Global Maritimes in Halifax looking for an Executive Producer; CKNW/AM980 Vancouver in search of a Producer; Rogers Media (Television) Toronto looking for a News Writer; Sony Music Canada seeking a Sr. Business Development Manager; and, MCTV (CTV) Sault Ste. Marie is in search of a Creative Writer/Videographer.

T.V./Film: The Alliance for Children and Television (ACT) will honour Canada’s top English-language children’s programs at the 2003 Awards of Excellence Gala June 2 at CBC’s Glenn Gould Theatre in Toronto. The awards recognize quality and excellence of productions for young audiences. Nominee and further information may be found here... The Manchester Film Festival in Vermont is inviting individuals and companies involved in the Canadian entertainment industry to attend June 21-22. Details may be found here... Ad buyers are telling Hollywood that the last thing they want are more reality shows, including content such as The Osbournes, has-been stars toughing it out in the boones, or silly singles shows. US network execs say that few - if any - reality shows will be on the fall schedules. ABC says it will roll out as many as 10 new comedies, while NBC, CBS and Fox also promise a heavy fall slate of scripted shows... Canadian Cable Television Association President/CEO Janet Yale will address the National Press Club’s Newsmaker Breakfast in Ottawa May 13. Her presentation will focus on the “View on the Viewer”, highlighting the findings of a public opinion survey undertaken jointly by CTTA, the Strategic Counsel and Maclean’s magazine... US cable news viewing continued its steady decline last week, with the combined audience for Fox, CNN and MSNBC slipping over 30% from the previous week. Fading interest in war coverage is blamed. Last week's most-watched single program on cable, at just over 5 million viewers, was Fox News' Friday coverage relating to slain Modesto woman Laci Peterson, the kind of sensational domestic story shelved during the Iraq invasion... The National Film Board of Canada and the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network have an agreement to work together in telling stories of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada. The deal will allow the NFB’s expertise to join forces with APTN to develop opportunities in areas of mutual interest... The New VI (CIVI-TV) Victoria’s newsroom has an unusual set of circumstances going on with two Anchors. They’re both pregnant... TNN is changing its name to Spike TV, beginning June 16. When TNN changed format from country a while back, it had trouble convincing viewers and advertisers that it became The National Network, not The Nashville Network. Spike TV is being billed as “the first network for men.”

Supplylines: FastChannel Network, Inc., operated in Canada by Broadcast News, was awarded one of the first NAB awards for Innovation in Media (AIMs) at NAB 2003 in Las Vegas. Details may be found here... David Peterson, the former Ontario Premier, has resigned as Chairman of Markham-based Cabeltel Communications Corp. No successor has been named.