A breath of fresh air... | Surprise of all surprises... | look who called on this past week. | Herb Forge... | a promotion person extraordinnaire. | Too bad he got so good he was promoted. | It seems that all the good pro- | motion people move on and what a terrible void that's left the promotion field. | RPM's staff was so knocked out with Herb's visit, | they want him back. | He's warm in return is milk and cookies... | and he'll call on us every week... | so he said (EC: Milk and cookies? That's our Herb...)

Square holes for round plugs... | When you don't have in this business... | there's always a job for you. | The hiring practices of some companies is completely beyond me. | They should thoroughly research the industry, | and I mean talk to the people in the field, before making major changes and appointments. | Wow! A lot of people are shaking their heads over what's going on. | (EC: It get's worse...)

Another unofficial bit of news... | Don't look at the success of a label's artist as some hammer of financial viability. | This one isn't official yet, but Rique Dioppe is going through some restructuring and roster changes and as soon as John Caton gets back from New York, we might have a clearer picture of what's going on. | (EC: Well, it's not ALL bad news...)

Ollie Kornelsen leaves Capitol... | I haven't received anything (official) yet, but I understand Ollie Kornelsen has left Capitol after fourteen years. | He was in charge of Artist Relations, a pretty heavy responsibility for a major label... | and I'm sorry to see him go. | He was always on top of things, and had a way of pressing the press for attention that was very effective but not offensive. | (EC: He returned his phone calls too)

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the not too distant future, which he believes you don't have to digitize radio... | I think (digit) radio will take off," says Waters. | "As fat as CHUM Ltd. is concerned, Buff Roman has been deeply involved in researching digital radio after he and I have had several conversa- | tions about it and it looks like a fabulous situation. | Over the next couple of weeks, I'm going to try and learn all about the little things digital radio will do and can't do because there's going to be some demonstrations of digital radio in Toronto so you can actually hear what it sounds like." | He continues with, "They say may come to fruition within the next ten years... that's a real exciting possibility where we're all going to sound the same so there's not going to be really any technical advantage for FM radio at that point.

It is very clear that Jim Waters believes he has the best people in the industry working at CHUM, and he is very happy with the sound and the success of both the Toronto stations. | However, it is interesting to observe that he is not feeling the strain of pressure. | "Being the general manager is certainly a major responsibility," says Waters, who con- | cludes... | "This is a job that I enjoy very much..."

Sad news for independents... | It hasn't come down the official pipe yet, but it looks like The Music Brokers have closed the door. | Linda Daw and Chris Allencock and all the really nice people over there, have been fighting an uphill battle... and they looked like they were winning. | How sad it must be for these dedicated people to see the firm, which just celebrated its tenth anniversary, shutter the doors. | (EC: They were REAL promotion people...)

I.R.S. Canada signs Merritt for the world

I.R.S. Canada has announced that Canadian recording artist Scott Merritt has now been added to its roster. | Merritt, a native of Brantford, Ontario, apparently signed a worldwide recording contract with I.R.S. Canada while she was still a student, and is now formally releasing an album under Canada (where he was already signed to Duke Street Records).

Meanwhile, Merritt is planning a tour of Southern Ontario this summer.

Categories expanded for Arts Scarborough festival

Last year's "Secretariat" Competition, sponsored by the Scarborough Arts Council, was so successful that as Director Peter Panayotu explained, "We have now grown out from one category to three... with a special ice cream category for children... and it has been such a great response from that field."

The three song categories are: 1) Country, 2) Any Style - Adult, and 3) Any Style - Youth. Those are also the two age categories a) Adult and b) Youth. Under 19 years of age at deadline submissions (July 31/90).

The competition is open to Canadian citizens who live in Canada. In the Youth category only, either the composer or the lyricist must be under 19 years of age.

For further information call 416-755-2299.

Madonna keeps top spot... | Madonna held on to the number one spot for the second week, but it wasn't easy! Look for Celine Dion and Phil Collins to be battling for No. 1 next week. | Madonna's second single from her Bravolinius, Hunky Panky, enters this week at No. 92, but not without spawning a little con- | troversy. Some stations are worried about the content, a few so worried they have blacklisted it.

Colin James comes back strong The first release from Colin James' sophomore album, St. John's Strog, is receiving tremendous response. Just Came Back was an instant hit and sales at HTZ-FM in St. Catharines (MD Paul Morris) as well as adds on stations from coast to coast make it this week's highest entry at No. 49.

More big Canadian releases... The launch of Adrian's debut album, Haunted Heart didn't fall at No. 75. Andy Curran's self titled debut album isn't going unnoticed either. Licence to Love debuts at No. 58 for the ex-Coney Hatch member.

It's crowned at the top! Sireal O'Connor maintains her spot atop the album chart for the 15th week. Heart plays the same song and still wins, as it rules the fifth straight week and right behind is The New Kids On The Block. After only 3 weeks, Step By Step is at No. 3. Looks for those three to be battling for number one next week. The Pretty Woman Soundtrack, as well as albums from Madonna and MC Hammer are also within range of hitting the top while The Jeff Healy Band has the biggest surge of the albums near the top. Bell To Play adds the top 5, no. 6. With those 7 albums all being very strong, look for the congestion at the top to continue.

A man who knows how to party... I am A Wild Party from Kim Mitchell, is the biggest mover on the album chart. It climbs all the way from No. 70 to 37 and appears headed for the top twenty. The Northern Pikes' Snow In June is another hot album, it jumps to No. 20. Jeff Lynne's Armchair Theatre is a big mover as well, climbing 14 spots to No. 41.

Still going strong The release of a new single has given new life to Rhythm Nation. Janet Jackson's Come Back To Me has already had an impact on the album. It is climbing once again, this time up 15 places to No. 44. New releases have also helped Midlife Crisis (Dr. Feelgood up 19 places to No. 62) and Aeromith (Jump 5 spots to No. 28), despite all those albums being on the chart for over half a year.