



BROADCAST Dialogue

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TV/FILM: *CanWest Global Communications Corp.* has bought majority control (68%) of *NetStar Communications*, the parent of *The Sports Network* and *The Discovery Channel*. The deal is worth about \$875 million. US sports network *ESPN*, which owns 32% of NetStar, didn't tender its shares to CanWest and has 15 days to give notice on whether it will seek to sell its stake to another buyer. NetStar is closely held by five groups. Besides ESPN's stake, Montreal's **Stephen Bronfman** and pension fund Caisse de depot et placement du Quebec own about 22.5% each. *Reitmans Ltd.* owns about 16.5%. NetStar Chief Executive **Gordon Craig** and a management team hold about 6.5%... *CanWest's* profits in the first quarter (ended Nov. 30) were up 7% to \$51.7 million from \$48.2 million a year ago... Meantime, *CanWest's* Prime - will broadcast the CanWest Global Communications Annual General Meeting this afternoon (Thurs., Jan. 21) at 2 PM ET. Executive Chairman **Izzy Asper**, President/CEO **Peter Viner** and COO **Leonard Asper** will make presentations... *CTV* and *Shaw Cablesystems* say they will launch *TALK TV*. Shaw says it will add the channel to its digital cable TV line-up when the service is launched (Shaw now offers digital service in Toronto and Calgary). *TALK TV* will provide 24 hours a day of talk programming, 68% of it Canadian content... *Headline Sports* is now repped by *Brydson Media Sales* of New York in the



March 4-6, 1999 -- Toronto's Westin Harbour Castle
**The Ontario Association
of Broadcasters**
ANNUAL CONVENTION
in association with Canada Music Week
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US... Meantime, Shaw and *LOOK Communications* (Toronto) are in dispute. LOOK says Shaw Cable has been blocking TV ads for its service, that it is "anti-competitive." LOOK says it will file a complaint with the *CRTC*. The ads, airing on *Toronto Star TV*, describe Look's digital TV product... *YTV Canada* will launch a kids entertainment magazine in May called *YTV WHOA!*. The three-time-per-year mag will be aimed at children aged seven to 11 and be distributed to 200,000 children nationally through Pizza Hut restaurants. *YTV WHOA!* will also be available at libraries, by subscriptions and at retail outlets... *Cinar Corporation* and Toronto's *H+a*, a leading Internet company, have signed an agreement to co-develop a TV animation series based on H+a's popular Web stars *NIKOLAI*

CHIEF ENGINEER REQUIRED

Okanagan Radio Limited

Okanagan Radio requires a **Chief Engineer** with 10+ years of experience, strong studio and transmitter skills, and an excellent working knowledge of computers, networks and digital systems. Knowledge of MTS and DCS would be an asset. Must be able to train, motivate and manage junior technicians and be able to work closely and communicate effectively with non-technical managers.

Resume or letter of interest in confidence to:

Michael Tindall, Senior Vice-President, Okanagan Radio Limited
Fax 250-860-8856

and *NEOW-NEOW*. This marks the first time in Canada - and one of the first times anywhere - that digital characters will be used to develop a tele-animation series... Judges for the **1999 Bessies** are: **Winnie Alford**, Partner, 2nd Unit - **Jody Colero**, Producer, Einstein Brothers - **Bill Durnan**, President & CEO, Ammariti Puris Lintas - **Greg Frier**, Writer, Garneau, Wurstlin, Philip - **Dale Heslip**, Director, Blink Films - **Carlos Moreno**, Art Director, MaLaren McCann - **Briony Wilson**, Associate Creative Director, BBDO - **Michelle Zukor**, Editor, Panic & Bob. The Bessies Gala is set for May 5 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

REVOLVING DOOR: **Peter Liba**, *CanWest Global Communications* Exec. VP and Exec. Director, is Manitoba's newest Lieutenant-Governor, effective in February. Liba, honored in 1998 as the *Western Association of Broadcasters* Broadcaster of the Decade and by the *Canadian Association of Broadcasters* in November when he was inducted into the Canadian Broadcast Hall of Fame... While **Rod Gunn** has left *CKNW/CFMI-FM Vancouver*, **Ted Farr** is not his interim successor. Farr remains *WIC Radio's* National AM Program Co-Ordinator (which includes CKNW) and Ops. Mgr. at the WIC Calgary stations... **David Asper** has left his position at *CanWest Global Communications* to head up the Asper family businesses. He remains on the CanWest Board and Executive Committee... **Pierre Rousseau**, ex of *CFCF-TV Montreal* where he developed and sold 'CF's promotions to retail and national clients, has moved to the Promotion Director's slot at *CKGM/CHOM-FM Montreal*.

SIGN-OFF: **Gaétan Girouard**, 33, a household name to more than a million Quebecers, was found dead - apparently a suicide - in his suburban Quebec City home. Girouard was co-host on the *TVA* network's show, *J.E...* **Randy Ravlich**, a News Producer for *MCTV Sault Ste. Marie (Baton)*, was killed Saturday in a two-car crash on the Trans-Canada Highway (#17) near Surgeon Falls.

LOOKING: *Okanagan Skeena Radio* is looking for an Engineer. See the ad on Page 1... *CKTA Lethbridge* is

There is a full-time opening at

**CKPR/ROCK 94/KISS 105
in Thunder Bay.**

It involves reporting 3 days during the week with some on-air work . . . and weekend news reading. The successful candidate should have some experience in a radio news environment. Send tape and resume to:

John Haley or Vic Krasowski
87 North Hill Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7A 5V6

looking for on-air and news talent. See their ad on Page 3... *CKPR/Rock 94/KIXX 105 Thunder Bay* has an opening for a Reporter/Anchor. See the ad above... **Jerry Bellikka** is off the air and looking to make a move. His mid-day program on *CHED Edmonton* was replaced last Friday by **Dr. Laura**. Bellikka, long-time News Director and talk show host, can be reached at 403/450-0277 (his area code will switch to 780 Jan. 25).

RADIO: *Interep*, a New York City ad sales and marketing company, says taken as a whole, AM's core constituency is made up of people aged 65 and older. Twenty-four per cent of AM listeners in the top-25 US metro markets fall into this age group. At the far end of the spectrum, 18-24s make up only 4% of the audience. But analysis of share data at the far ends might result in advertisers overlooking a strong showing among groups in the middle age segments. 20% of the AM radio audience is 35-44, and 19% 45-54, while 15% is 55-64 and 14% 25-34... The Canadian music industry is backing off a plan to charge a retroactive levy on blank tapes and CDs. While the exact chargeable amount hasn't been determined, the five groups representing composers and publishers had won permission to start collecting the levy Jan. 1. But they've back off for the moment. Instead, they say, they'll wait until the federal Copyright Board rules or the end of this year, whichever comes first... *BBC's World Service*, with an audience

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at (613) 233-4035, ext. 332 or visit our website
at www.cab-acr/canpro/index.htm

Power • Politics • Production

estimated at 124-million worldwide, has denied it faces deep cuts. **BBC** says it's still in talks with the British Foreign Office, which finances the news service. There had been reports that BBC had finalized plans for cutbacks, including closure of its German and Czech operations... The public's response has been overwhelming since **CFRA Ottawa** began a special series on bone marrow transplants



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Monday, and Tuesday's live broadcast of a news conference featuring patients' families anxiously hoping for a marrow match. CFRA's commitment to dramatically increase the number of people registered as potential donors is deeply personal for many of the staff members, it affects one of their own. Morning newscaster **John Brenner's** son **Stevie**, who will happily tell you he's "almost four," has a rare blood condition doctor's describe as "smouldering leukemia." After medical tests to determine the cause of Stevie's chronic fatigue, Ottawa specialists referred the Brennens to specialists at Toronto's Sick Kids Hospital. Doctors there have recommended a new procedure -- Stevie will undergo a pre-emptive bone marrow transplant to prevent the inevitable onset of leukemia or other childhood cancers. When CFRA PD **Dave Mitchell** learned of the situation he began working with the Canadian Blood Agency to recruit potential marrow donors. "In over 50 years of station history," he said, "we've been involved in countless community drives. I think this is the first time we've ever had to go to our listeners and ask for help for one of our family members." Canadian Blood Services is co-ordinating the drive.

include 3,000 of 15,500 music division employees. And, as many as 200 artists could be cut, including **Sheryl Crow**, **Boyz II Men**, **Nine Inch Nails** and **Luciano Pavarotti**. Seagram said when it acquired PolyGram it would fire workers and artists as part of a plan to save \$300 million by combining the Universal and PolyGram music operations... Meantime, Seagram's will sell off the rest of its PolyGram film library assets for \$150 million in cash to London-based **Carlton Communications Plc...** **CBC** presented a report on how it's doing in a video package on **CBC-TV** during the weekend, then President **Perrin Beatty** and Chairperson **Guylaine Saucier** went to two hours of phone-ins on **CBC Radio**. Callers complained of too much repeat broadcasting, bias on radio towards the left-wing, and deterioration in literacy standards on the part of CBC broadcasters... Canadian cablecos have been signing high-speed Internet services customers like mad, thus boosting bottom lines and throwing large roadblocks in rivals' way. Seeming to back that up are Montreal-based **Cogeco's** first-quarter results. Revenues jumped 19%. Cogeco had added 7,500 customers to its Internet service in the quarter ended Nov. 30. **Shaw Communications** of Calgary, too, showed similar gains in revenues for the same period. As of late last week, Shaw had more than 81,000 Internet customers... Online news publisher **CNet Inc.** and **NBC** will create the first Internet portal service aimed at users with high-speed modem connections. The news comes just as high-speed, cable-based Internet service provider **AtHome**

GENERAL: It's expected that Montreal-based **Seagram Co.** will lay off more than 500 people in the first round of job cuts as it merges its **Universal Music Group** with **PolyGram NV**. The layoffs, expected to begin as early as today (Thursday) in New York and Los Angeles, will eventually



Country 95.5 FM Lethbridge

has an opening for.

Afternoon Drive.

Duties include 3-7 PM on-air, a production shift, community cruiser reporting and public appearances. A passion for country music, a desire to be part of the community and strong on-air/telephone skills a must.

The position of **Morning News Anchor/Co-Host** is also open. Strong background in News and Agriculture a necessity. The successful applicant will have at least 3 years experience.

Send your tapes and resumes to either:

Marv Gunderson
Program Director

Country 95.5 FM
401 Major Magrath Drive
Lethbridge, AB T1J 3L8

Merv Caven
News Director

www.broadcastdialogue.com

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Corp. agreed to buy **Excite Inc.**, a Web search engine and directory, for \$6.7 billion... The **Canadian Broadcast Standards Council** (CBSC) says "*Everybody and their dog can come to Canada*", in commentary by **Mike Duffy** on **CFTO-TV Toronto**, did not demean immigrants and refugees. Rather, says CBSC, Duffy was targeting Canada's refugee policy... The CBSC, on the other hand, found fault with a **CFRA Ottawa's** *The Lowell Green Show* where Green's tongue-in-cheek approach to the Somali Inquiry Commission saw a listener complain that it was racist and incited hatred. The Ontario Regional Council said the "*rhetorical tools of sarcasm, parody, facetiousness, irony, hyperbole and the like may be an effective means of expressing an editorial perspective, [but] the use of these devices does not ... render the user impervious to any claim that the host has, in a particular instance, overstepped the bounds of Canada's broadcast standards*"... The **National Association of Television Program Executives** (NATPE) meets in its annual convention at New Orleans Jan. 25-28. NATPE is an international association dedicated to furthering excellence in TV programming... **ABC's** lockout of 2,400 employees has ended. The **NABET** members had been

on picket lines for eleven weeks... **John Wright**, Sr. VP at **The Angus Reid Group**, will present *The 1998 Canadian Media Review* next Thursday at a Toronto hotel. The survey of 108 leading print and broadcast jouranlists last summer shows how the Fourth Estate is changing. For info, call 416/360-1988... Coming up in Vancouver next month, the **Women in the Spotlight** awards. The new annual event will represent the achievements of women in broadcast communications, high technology, film and video and music. Sponsors are **Canadian Women in Communications, Wired Woman, Women in Music**, and **Women in Film and Video**.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS THIS WEEK INCLUDE: Dennis Dunlop, **CKCK-TV Regina**. Welcome!

TVB-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE TAKES ON THE RITZ MONTREAL



The Ritz-Carlton in Montreal is the place to be February 7th - 9th for the 1999 Television Bureau of Canada annual Business Development Conference.

This year's 2½ day conference - "Relationship selling: Beyond Technology", features 17 leading speakers from inside and outside the broadcast industry. Each will explore new ideas and strategies on how commercial TV sales executives can create and leverage long-term profitable relationships with customers so their advertising needs are better served.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JIM QUANCE, VICE PRESIDENT, MARKETING DIRECTOR AT THE TELEVISION BUREAU;
(416) 923 8813 OR BY E-MAIL AT jim_quance@tvb.ca.