

Fred Upton introduces an amendment to his own bill that lets a licensee stay on the air until it exhausts all its appeals. (That should remove some constitutional and fairness questions.) Rep. Gary Sessions' amendment requires the GAO to conduct a one-year study of the number of indecency complaints the FCC gets, how they investigate them, and what the outcome is. But the NAB boos the bill: Eddie Fritts says "voluntary industry initiatives" are a better way to go. NAB's holding a "Summit on Responsible Broadcasting" March 31.

Entercom spins off a standalone FM along the Oregon coast. Entercom got KCBZ, Cannon Beach (96.5) as part of its deal with Broad Spectrum Communications in November 2002. But it really doesn't fit: Cannon Beach is 80 miles west of Entercom's Portland cluster. So Entercom sells KCBZ to Thomas Hodgins and Christopher Gilbreth's ALC Communications for \$175,000. This is the second station Hodgins and Gilbreth have bought together. Last Fall they picked up classic rock KHTO, Othello, WA (97.5).

Bill Sherard's back in the game, this time with Sydney Abel. They're "Two Rivers Communications." We remember Sherard as the longtime Washington, D.C. GM (at the onetime WCXR), and the principal of the former Spring Broadcasting. Sydney Abel once owned stations in Annapolis, MD and Manassas, VA. Now they're acquiring WKWI in southeastern, Virginia, a class A at 101.7 licensed to Kilmarnock, VA. The area's known as the "Northern Neck", and the seller is Buffalo Broadcasters.

Amador Bustos continues his return to ownership with two FMs around Salt Lake City. The sellers are familiar, too: Chris Devine and Bruce Buzil, who bought KDUT, Randolph, UT (102.3) and KOTB, Evanston, WY (106.1) under the name Millcreek Broadcasting. Bustos Media is paying \$12 million for the pair, and it quickly flips KDUT to regional Mexican as "La Gran D de Utah." KOTB will also switch to some kind of Spanish-language format as soon as the FCC grants a technical upgrade. The veteran Amador Bustos hires Ed Distel to run his new Salt Lake City group as VP/Market Manager ("Edistel@BustosMedia.com").

From Thursday's Kagan Radio/TV Summit in New York City

"A hockey stick recovery"? Several folks were using that metaphor — meaning that the recovery begins slowly, where the bottom of the hockey stick would be. Flat for a while. Then radio revenues race up the shaft of the stick. Kagan Media itself is forecasting 6.5-7% revenue growth this year, up from a measly 1% for 2003. That would put radio at \$20.9 billion. That may foretell a barnburner for the last half of 2004, since most groups are saying "flat, flat, flat" for January and February. Thus — a hockey stick recovery.

Kagan says deal volume is down — way, way down. Senior analyst Robin Flynn opens up the day showing a bar graph that looks like Mt. Everest — and the deal volume is on the down slope, around maybe picnic level. Just \$200 million in proposed radio station sales so far in 2004 — 69 stations for an average price of \$2.6M per station. That compares to \$2.3 billion for all of 2003, and \$5.4 billion for 2002. Later on in the morning, broker Michael Bergner says "something always happens" just when he thinks the deal flow is shut off at the faucet. But: "There are still a bunch of private owners, and if they've withstood 500 calls from brokers, another 500 calls won't change 'em. Very few people are under any pressure to sell."



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"MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD" to be inducted into the NAB Hall of Fame

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir's "Music and the Spoken Word," will be inducted into the NAB Broadcasting Hall of Fame at the Radio Luncheon on Tuesday, April 20.

As part of this induction, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir will perform at the luncheon.

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