

Hildebrand drives CAB into future

OTTAWA - On the eve of a new decade that heralds a free trade relationship with the United States, Elmer Hildebrand is the new chairman of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB).

Hildebrand, president and general manager of Golden West Broadcasting in Altona, Manitoba, says the association with a television membership of 62 television stations and three networks must remain flexible to changes brought by free trade.

"The objective of the free trade agreement is to strengthen economic ties between Canada and the U.S. and this should have a positive



impact on Canadian radio and television. Anyway, we are looking at a 10-year phase-in period which is a lot of time to work out problems," says Hildebrand.

A new Canadian broadcast act will also demand much time and attention, says the new chairman who also foresees many legislative and technological developments on the horizon that will have a lasting effect on radio and television well into the 21st century.

Hildebrand's background is radio. He has headed CAB's radio board and has served a term as the association's treasurer. He is the former president of the Broadcasters' Association of Manitoba and of the Western Association of Broadcasters.

Rudy Inc. in space

TORONTO - The year is 1957. Sputnik is launched and the world is changed forever.



Rudy Buttignol, just six years old, couldn't decide whether it was the end of the world or a change for the better. When he woke up the next morning to find the world still in one piece, he decided on the latter and became fascinated with space.

In 1974 Buttignol graduated from the film program at York University and went on to produce *Neon: An Electric Memoir* with Jackie Burroughs for his own company, Rudy Inc. He co-wrote and directed *The Space Experience*, a six-part series for TVOntario, hosted by Canadian astronaut Marc Garneau. It was nominated for this year's Gemini Award in the Best Documentary Series category.

Now Buttignol is putting together a new series that could lead him to the Soviet Union to film their space program at firsthand. *Spacewatch* is a pilot children's series about kids who, through the magic of their crazy computer called Walter, can zap to wherever they want in the universe. Houston Public Television picked up the rights for the series in the U.S. and received a \$600,000 grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to help finance the deal. Continental Airlines has thrown in \$50,000 and Buttignol is still in the process of putting together the rest of the financing.

Meanwhile, Houston PBS is negotiating with the Russians

under the auspices of the Gorbachev-Reagan cultural initiatives, and if all goes well, *Spacewatch* will be the first television project exchanged under the accord. Buttignol hopes that a contra-deal can be worked out which would allow him to film some of the segments on-location at Soviet space facilities.

Buttignol's documentary *Space Pioneers: A Canadian Story*, which he produced with David Sobelman, one of the producers on the CBC Gemini Award-winning documentary *Runaways - 24 Hours On The Street*, was previewed at this year's Festival of Festivals.

Rasky goes to Moscow

TORONTO - Harry Rasky, one of Canada's better-known producer/directors, is on his way to Moscow after bringing honour to his country, in November, at the 1988 International Film and Television Festival of New York.

Rasky's *To Mend the World*, won the gold medal in the Culture and Arts category in New York where there were 3,000 entries (overall) from 22 countries.



But Rasky says it is a greater honour just to be invited to show his Oscar-nominated *Homage to Chagall* (1977) in January at the International Documentary Film Festival in Leningrad and again at the Moscow Film Festival in July. However, he has decided to avoid the Leningrad winter.

Instead, he will teach in Sarasota Fla. and travel to Moscow in July for the first time.

"It is very gratifying to be invited to Moscow. My parents are from Russia and this is the first time a Canadian feature has been invited to the Moscow festival."

He explains that prior to the spring thaw of *glasnost*, Chagall, the Russian-born painter, was *persona non grata* in the Soviet Union.

Klein shot by mother

MONTREAL - Seth Klein says working with his mother the film director has both a high



and low side. Professionalism tends to slip, says Seth - "You tend not to pull yourself together" - when the worst that can happen is a reprimand by your mom.

"On the other hand I had never watched her at work calling all the shots. And it was nice having her around when we were on the road," says Seth.

Seth, age 20, is one of four young Montrealers who are the focus of *Mile Zero: The SAGE Tour*, NFB co-production with Dark Lullabies Inc. directed by Bonnie Sherr Klein.

This 48 min. documentary follows Seth and the other members of Students Against Global Extermination (SAGE) across Canada on a speaking tour of over 300 schools in 1986.

Launched in eight cities in late November, *Mile Zero: The SAGE Tour* is billed by the NFB as being "about young people making a difference."

"The film captures the message in the medium," says Seth, who is studying international relations at University of Toronto, "it is about four young people who are doing something about what really concerns them."

Bonnie Sherr Klein is the award-winning director of *Not a Love Story: A Film About Pornography*. *Mile Zero* is her second film about peace following *Speaking Our Peace* co-directed by Terri Nash.

According to Seth, the idea for this latest film and the tour occurred to Seth and Bonnie at a United Nations Youth Association conference in London, Ontario, May 1986, where they were both guest speakers.

The other three touring members of SAGE are: Alison Carpenter, Désirée McGraw and Maxime Faille.

Howe top 'achiever' in B. C.

VANCOUVER - Thomas Howe of Thomas Howe and Associates is the first winner of B. C. Film's Industry Achiever Award. He received a trophy and a cheque for \$5,000 at the B. C. Motion Picture Association's annual 'Wrap Party' on December 1st.



Film CEO Wayne Sterloff said "it was difficult to decide who was the hardest-working person in the greatest year in the history of B. C. Film, but Tom triggered more production and will recycle more Film Fund dollars than any other player in the province."

Howe's 1988 resumé includes 18 non-theatrical programs, 23 videos, guaranteed distribution revenues for nine network broadcasts and involvement in three features, *Kingsgate*, *First Season* and *Matinee*.

Medjuck produces Twins

TORONTO - Joe Medjuck returned to Toronto for a preview screening of *Twins* held by the Canadian Centre for Advanced Film Studies' Second Monday Reel Club. He was the executive producer on the film and he has just finished performing the same function on *Ghostbusters II*.

Medjuck, who is originally from Nova Scotia, taught film at Innis College at the University of Toronto in the late '60s and was the publisher/editor of *Take One* magazine. He knew Ivan Reitman from McMaster University, and when Reitman went down to Los Angeles permanently, Medjuck was asked to join him. "Ivan had phoned me around August in 1979," Medjuck told *Cinema Canada*, "and said, 'do you want to come to L.A.', and I said no. I was having a good time doing what I was doing."

However, he changed his mind. "I took a year's leave of absence from U. of T. Then I extended it to two years. Then in three years we were starting *Ghostbusters* and I told them I wasn't coming back. And to my shock, they accepted my resignation! Since then we've been doing a movie about every two years.