

THE RADIO WAVE  
"Keeping Radio People in Touch"

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By subscription only! Welcome to the twenty-first issue of  
THE RADIO WAVE  
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IN THIS ISSUE

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- => Sponsorship Notice
- => G'day
- => Elvis lives
- => Music charts - what's the point anymore?.
- => Boaring radio.
- => Another stunt - a HARD act to follow
- => And a costly stunt
- => Radio under siege
- => Affordable digital receivers
- => What is decode?
- => Music news - Apple sues Apple
- => Interactive radio drama - you pay, we act.
- => The Great Gregg Whiteside Mystery
- => We Have Mail
- => Top Radio Prep Sites
- => A Final Note
- => Subscribe/Unsubscribe information

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SPONSORSHIP NOTICE (SHAMELESS PERSONAL PLUG)

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"The Beginners' Guide To Becoming A Radio Star".  
is a far reaching e-book for radio beginners or people who  
want to make radio their career. All the information you'll  
discover here is "the basics" of radio. Stuff that applies  
anywhere in the world where professional commercial radio  
is established.

[www.allaboutradio.net](http://www.allaboutradio.net)

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G'DAY.

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For our first-timers let me explain that this e-letter is  
designed for people who'd like to be in radio, newbies

who've just started and full-time professionals.

If there's anything you read in it on which you'd like to comment ...feel free.

Anything you need help or advice with...ask. If I can't provide the answer I'll find someone who can.

Anything you want to market or promote (even yourself)... go ahead.

If you'd like to contribute an article...do it.

Through THE RADIO WAVE we can keep in touch with each other regardless of where we are in the world.

You can reach me at [radiowave@allaboutradio.net](mailto:radiowave@allaboutradio.net)

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ELVIS LIVES!  
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There's been attempts at All-Elvis formats on radio in the past. The fact is they didn't last too long (funny that) and , as far as I know, there are none around today.

HOWEVER...for Elvis fans...(and they seem to be growing in number every day. Witness the amazing scenes at the Graceland Candlelight Vigil this year on the anniversary of his death) ...the only All-Elvis radio station on the Net has launched.

Currently they're running the video of the "Rubberneckin" remix along with audio of hundreds of other songs by The King.

You can listen or download and burn to CD.

[www.elvissecondtone.com](http://www.elvissecondtone.com)

Stop, look and listen baby.

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MUSIC CHARTS - WHAT'S THE POINT ANY MORE?  
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Talkin' of "Rubberneckin" it's interesting that during September it was the biggest selling single of the week in America.

But the weird thing is...that alone doesn't give it a high chart rating.

The Billboard singles chart doesn't just measure sales. It also takes into account airplay. So a song can be the week's biggest seller but if radio's not playing it doesn't have

much of a chance at rating high on the chart.

This happened with the Junkie XL remix of Elvis's "A Little Less Conversation" last year. It was the biggest selling single in the USA but didn't even make the Billboard Top 50.

When you consider a situation where a mega-network like Clear Channel can decide not to play a single what hope has it got?

Mind you, sales of singles are not what they used to be, so a chart based on single sales alone probably wouldn't mean a great deal anyway. So...it's a dilemma.

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## BOARING RADIO

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Still with Clear Channel...a liberal activist group called "Essential Information" has filed a complaint demanding that the FCC deny renewal of 63 Clear Channel radio licences.

The group reckons that Clear Channel "has demonstrated that it lacks the requisite character to hold broadcast licenses." The list 36 instances over three years in which the network "violated the law" and exhibited "a pattern of illegal conduct"

They give as examples indecency, contest rules violations and several instances where on-air personalities got into trouble for stunts. This would have to include "Bubba the Love Sponge" and the boar killing incident on Tampa Bay's WXTB-FM 97.9 (98 Rock).

In case you didn't know...the production company for radio shock jock Bubba the Love Sponge Clem videotaped the killing of a wild boar to create a pay-per-view video for his Web site.

The tape that Love Sponge Productions shot Feb. 27 shows the slaughter and castration of a boar in the station's parking lot, people eating parts of the boar and people drinking a "shake" made up of dead rats. Oh...and also it shows nude women. As you'd expect.

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## AND ANOTHER STUNT - A HARD ACT TO FOLLOW

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A town in Oklahoma, (where the wind comes sweeping down the plain or something), called Agra changed it's name to Viagra. Geddit?

This was the result of a radio contest on a country music station called "The Twister". The station offered all 370 residents of the town free tickets to a country music

concert in Tulsa if they would change their town's name.

The city council voted unanimously for the change in the name of good publicity.

But like the pill, the name change will not last long - the name changed back after one week.

The deal included that a highway sign be erected so the city leaders quickly got it up...the sign that is.

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#### AND A COSTLY STUNT

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You may remember I reported in a previous Radio Wave about shock jocks (since fired) Opie and Anthony's August 2002 radio broadcast of a couple allegedly having sex in a New York church.

Well, as a consequence, Infinity Broadcasting has now been hit with the second-largest indecency fine in FCC history... would you believe US\$357,000!

Pretty expensive screw in a pew.

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#### RADIO UNDER SEIGE

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The following story is from the Melbourne (Australia, not Miami!) Sun-Herald newspaper. It points up a quandary that radio stations can find themselves in. To report in the public interest which could put people's lives at risk or not to report at all.

19th. September

Paul Judd, who held up the city's motorists from his van, was listening to 3AW callers demanding a quick, violent end to Tuesday night's 11-hour standoff on the West Gate Freeway.

He did not give himself up until 1am yesterday.

Although 3AW last night defended its right to allow listeners to air their grievances, police said the calls may have inflamed Mr Judd and hindered the negotiator.

"He had a . . . high-powered weapon, he was listening to talkback radio and was accused of being a madman," Acting Supt Brett Guerin said.

"If a police officer is endeavouring to talk someone down from a building ledge and there are passing pedestrians exhorting him to jump off, it's going to make the police job

just that little bit harder to convince him that he shouldn't."

The drama began when Mr Judd's van was pulled over by police at a Shell service station on the West Gate Freeway in Port Melbourne.

Sources said the Mont Albert man had a shotgun in the back of his van when police saw stolen number plates on his van.

It is believed Mr Judd had put the plates on his van because he could not afford registration.

The Herald Sun has learned he walked to the rear of his vehicle and grabbed his gun after telling an officer he was looking for his licence.

The police were forced to retreat when he threatened to shoot himself.

3AW program director Clark Forbes said it stood by its decision not to censor calls, despite receiving a police request to act responsibly.

"I made a decision . . . that we had possibly a third of Melburnians affected in some way," Forbes said. "Are we going to say to our audience that they could not say a word about it?"

"In my opinion there was nothing going to air that would have harmed the situation."

Supt Guerin said action was appropriate, despite motorists' opinions.

"I'd ask them this question: if it were their son or daughter in the same situation, how would you like the police to respond?" he said.

"I'd rather be here answering criticisms of angry motorists now than answering the questions of the coroner 18 months down the track as to why we didn't take extra time to convince this guy."

Police called Mr Judd's elderly parents to the scene to help negotiators.

He gave up, was taken to St Vincent's Hospital for psychiatric assessment and was last night charged with conduct endangering life, conduct endangering persons and public nuisance.

Sources say Mr Judd, a former security guard and courier,

suffers from depression and, it is believed, a serious illness.

He has no criminal convictions.

End

Tough call isn't it? If you were the PD what would you have done?

Personally I would have been inclined to keep the inflammatory calls off the air until it was all over and simply reported the incident from all possible angles...police, traffic control, reporters at the scene etc.

Any thoughts? [ian@allaboutradio.net](mailto:ian@allaboutradio.net)

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#### AFFORDABLE DIGITAL RECEIVERS?

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Digital radio is on test in many countries around the world with mixed results. One of the biggest problems, like any new technology, is the high cost of worth-while receivers.

Now Sonarics Labs has unveiled a high-performance design at the Consumer Electronics show in Berlin. This is being seen as an important step towards more affordable digital radio receivers.

Ben Gagin, Sonarics' President and CEO said:

"We are excited to be part of the digital radio revolution by enabling the transition from early-adopter market to mass-market. The current version of CSM1 is already raising a huge interest among the manufacturers of digital radios."

Sonarics' products are aimed at the manufacturers of the next generation of low-cost, high-performance portable radios, car radios, hi-fi systems and alarm radios. More information can be found at [www.sonarics.com](http://www.sonarics.com)

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#### WHAT IS DECODE?

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A resident of Massachusetts has been thrown in the slammer for two years followed by three years of supervised release and a US\$5,000 fine for selling a device to decode satellite TV signals.

James V. Goggin, 35 pleaded guilty to operating a business that sold electronic devices for the unauthorized decryption of satellite TV services.

Had the case proceeded to trial, evidence would have shown

that, along with installing and servicing satellite TV receivers, Goggin assisted customers to illegally obtain DirecTV's services without paying fees.

Goggin sold DirecTV access cards programmed to allow customers to unscramble satellite TV signals, and provided customers with programming updates and with "bootloaders" and other hardware designed to defeat signal scrambling programs.

Why do I report this in a radio publication?

Well, could the same thing happen with someone stealing satellite radio. Be afraid Sirius and XM. Very afraid!

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APPLE SUES APPLE  
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The Beatles are suing Apple computers in connection with its new iTunes business over the use of Apple Records name and logo.

Lawyers for the surviving band members, (on last count there were two), and heirs say a settlement in 1991 of a previous trademark dispute prevents Apple computers from using the Apple name and logo for music-related businesses.

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INTERACTIVE RADIO DRAMA - YOU PAY, WE ACT  
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There are at least two generations who've never known the satisfaction of enjoying good radio drama. TV put paid to that.

Attempts have been made to revive it by squeezing it into short capsules for people with short attention spans which is just about everybody these days.

The ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) runs a full length play in stereo at weekends on their Classical Music FM channel but, as you'd expect, to a niche audience.

Now BBC Radio Four have come up with a new "interactive" radio mystery called "The Dark House". It involves three characters trapped in an apartment overnight.

Listeners will determine which character should speak next by voting with mobile (cell) phone or text messages. The votes will be counted every three minutes with calls costing 10p and texting at 12p minimum each.

Someone's making some money out of this.

If any of our UK subscribers hear it please let us know what you thought.

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THE GREAT GREGG WHITESIDE MYSTERY  
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Last issue I reported the sudden dismissal of WQXR (96.3) chief announcer/morning host Gregg Whiteside. The 25-year veteran of the New York Times' classical station was suddenly off the air telling the papers that he was fired for a remark he'd made to a co-worker in a station hallway.

The Post reported: "They've destroyed an innocent man," an emotional Whiteside told The Post. "I gave my life to that place. This wasn't a job for me - it was a way of life."

Whiteside says the trouble started two weeks ago when he made an off-the-air remark to 'QXR colleague Sam Hall that was overheard by someone who passed by the studio. The station is located in the Times building on West 43rd Street - near the paper's newsroom.

"I believed I was having a private and confidential conversation with Sam Hall, who's even more like my brother than my own brother ... and that conversation might have leaked out into the newsroom," Whiteside says.

"I was speaking privately to a dear friend and it was not something that was on the air," he says, adding that he wasn't given the chance to apologize and told to leave Tuesday. "I am in a state of utter depression and I'm devastated by this," he says. "To be fired with no severance? Are you kidding me?"

What did he say? Neither Whiteside nor the Times are telling.

Since that time I've been almost inundated with e-mails asking me for more information. Like...what DID he say?

This was a bit strange in itself because many of the enquiries were coming from people who aren't on my subscription list. Then I discovered people were finding this newsletter in search engines like Google after they'd entered Gregg's name and were taken to the archived Radio Waves at [www.allaboutradio.net](http://www.allaboutradio.net)

Obviously this guy was very popular and you'd think the station would have released some sort of statement that answers people's question. But no. I've emailed them myself explaining about this newsletter and they haven't even had the courtesy to reply.

A statement by a fan group says "We have started a petition

for Mr. Whiteside, whom we feel has been treated unjustly and unfairly.

This man has been a jewel to QXR for twenty five years. He has done his job with mastery, grace and charm. It has been a joy to listen to him. I cannot imagine anything that a man of his background and culture could have said to warrant such actions. This is unpardonable."

There have been some interesting tongue-in-cheek suggestions posted on news groups as to what was said. Such as...

"Get a load of the bassoons on the new intern!"

"Dontcha just loooooove that Justin Timberlake?"

"Hey, baby - I've got a real whiteside for you right here."

"Ya know the difference between a violin player and a viola player? No? Want I should show you back at my place?"

"Well, frankly I think the Dixie Chicks were wrong to attack our beloved President."

And... "That pathetic geek is destroying his families paper."

I think I'll leave it at that.

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WE HAVE MAIL  
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Thanks to Derek May for this response to my comment about the revival of Radio Caroline, the one-time off-shore radio "pirate", which can now be heard on the net and from a satellite feed.

Ian,

I noted from your magazine on your web site that you do not understand why there is a need for Caroline, given all the Radio in UK.

I can assure you that UK radio is junk, if you are a serious music fan.

Radios Three and Classic fm cater for classical music, but otherwise the am and fm dials are a desert.

Capital Radio and Heart in London play safe music with personality presenters with sugar dripping from their mouths.

Virgin has personality presenters for the 'youth', with little regard for serious Rock music, other than standard 'play list'

stuff, Oasis et al.

BBC Radio 1 is incomprehensible, but then I am getting old!!

BBC Radio 2 is by far the most popular, but focuses again on presenters rather than music. There is one slot a day at 9.00am when they play a 'long track' - wow, an LP track on the BBC!!!

For contemporary pop, there are about 20 odd video stations on Sky satellite, which play constant pop, that is quite good for the youngsters -my kids of 9 and 10 watch/listen - they can switch out any banal djs...

Dutch radio is streets better than UK radio. Many of the 70s/80s Dutch pirate guys now run music stations in Netherlands.

Radio 192 is a Veronica copy on cable/web, Arrow classic rock is an excellent continuous music rock station. Radio 538 is very good pop music, Radio Veronica is very good 80s/90s.

You can listen to most of the UK and Netherlands outputs via the web. if you have the time, you will soon see how dire UK radio really is.....

Just as in the mid 80s, the time was right for Laser 558, so now the time is right for Caroline, and more satellite music stations to come to the fore, and with WorldSpace technology they can be received all over the planet....

All the very best,

Derek May - Caroline and good music radio fanatic.....

COMMENT: I'd be very interested to get YOUR thoughts on Derek's thoughts. Especially if you're in the UK.

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TOP RADIO PREP SITES  
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[www.payphone-project.com](http://www.payphone-project.com)

It's always fun to call a payphone live to air and see who answers.

Well here's the ultimate pay phone contact list. You can call pay phones around the world including one at the Vatican, the Antarctic, the Empire State building and the Eiffel Tower!

Plus there's all the latest pay-phone news!

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A FINAL NOTE FROM THE EDITOR.

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The plan is to grow the list of people taking this e-letter, and encourage interactivity from our readers.

To do this I need your help.

If there is anyone you know either in or outside the radio industry who would like to receive THE RADIO WAVE please simply ask to be subscribed by sending a blank e-mail to:

[radiowave@allaboutradio.net](mailto:radiowave@allaboutradio.net)

As you know it's free and you can unsubscribe at any time.

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