

"THE RADIO WAVE"  
Keeping Radio People in Touch"

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Issue #41

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THE RADIO WAVE  
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G'DAY.  
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Welcome to issue 41 of the Radio Wave newsletter.

In the previous issue I asked for your thoughts on whether  
The Radio Wave should become a fortnightly publication or  
stay as is...monthly.

Thanks to all those who responded. The result? Basically there  
wasn't one because the voting was just about even for both  
sides. So I guess we keep it the way it is while I can keep  
this thing going.

Welcome to our new subscribers this month. Just to let you  
know what you've got here...The Radio Wave is aimed at 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.

If you'd like to contribute an article...you're welcome.

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

Please forward this to at least one other person who may be  
interested in subscribing to The Radio Wave so we can  
continue building our list.  
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IN THIS ISSUE

- We see what's in THE MAILBOX

- Death of Star Trek crew member who began in radio
- Station put off the air by magic?
- A listener really does win money
- Crim brags on radio then gets bagged
- Nepal radio defies the Government
- Radio host goes silly in bar
- New service tells you name of song on radio then downloads it
- Announcer makes up news stories
- One continuous reading of Harry Potter book live on air

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 WE HAVE MAIL  
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Last month I ran a letter from PETE BRANDTMAN about his correspondence with LES GARLAND, the radio personality who was the DJ's voice on Starship's song: "We Built This City."

DAVID ROGERSON comments on this...

From memory, Les was a very good programmer. I think he was at KFRC in San Francisco. You'll probably remember this was the home of Doctor Don Rose and some extraordinary talent. His programming work was exceptional and I think he's hiding a light under a bushel.

David Rogerson  
 Managing Director  
 Strategic Media Solutions  
 Sydney, Australia

COMMENT: Yes, I think you're right there David. I did a bit of research on him and it seems he's been a very successful PD, a recording industry executive and, among other interesting things, helped develop MTV.

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 Ian,  
 You may have already come across this one, but just in case?

<http://www.radioheritage.net>

Might have something for them myself ...?

Keep up the good work

Bob Price  
[bob@box701.com](mailto:bob@box701.com)

COMMENT: This is a fascinating website especially for those in the industry in countries around the Pacific Rim.

It's run by David Ricquish who is Chairman of the Radio Heritage Foundation and who started the project in 1999 with the website going live at Christmas last year. David has a background in New Zealand radio dating back to the 1970.'s.

If you're interested in radio history their newsletter is really worth subscribing to even if you don't live in the

area they cover.

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SCOTTY BEAMED UP ONE FINAL TIME  
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Everyone knew him as a chief engineer. Now Scotty is dead. Actor James Doohan has died as a result of pneumonia and Alzheimer's disease.

Doohan played Montgomery Scott on the TV series "Star Trek" and in subsequent motion pictures. He was 85.

What isn't well known is that he had his roots in radio.

The Canadian-born actor served in the Normandy invasion. After returning home to Canada, he performed a few scenes for the local radio station, and was awarded a two-year scholarship to the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York City.

In the ensuing eight years, he shuttled between New York and Canada where he worked on 4000 radio programs, 400 live and taped variety and dramatic television shows, several films and plays."

Eventually he made it to Hollywood and wider fame "Star Trek," on which he was cast in 1966.

TRIVIA: The line "Beam me up Scotty" was never used in Star Trek. Being the engineer, that was not Scotty's job. So there.

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A COLD RECEPTION FOR STATION GOING OFF AIR  
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A world famous mentalist, The Amazing Kreskin, who for over four decades has messed about with people's minds, caused radio WOR in New York to go off the air using his mental abilities.

Or so it seemed.

He was a guest on the Joey Reynolds Show and was attempting an experiment where he was going to make listeners feel like they were freezing cold, using the power of suggestion. After conditioning his subjects, he told them that they were all going to experience an arctic chill throughout their body.

After spelling his name twice and shouting, "chill out," instant pandemonium broke out in the control room of the radio station.

It turns out that for unknown reasons WOR Radio went off the air for at least 30 seconds, the first time in the station's history. Everyone at the station was asking if it was conceivable that The Amazing Kreskin shut down the network with his mental abilities?

Later an engineer said that was rubbish. In fact a board operator had accidentally hit a wrong button.

Bit of a co-incidence?

Anyway, after the station was back on air, hundreds of phone calls came in from listeners claiming that they experienced an almost paralysing chill throughout their bodies. Freaky.

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LISTENER ACTUALLY WINS BIG CASH PRIZE  
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Whadya know? After a number of recent incidents where radio stations have got themselves into trouble when presenters have misled listeners about "cash" prizes...here's one where real money was won by a listener to London's Magic 105.4.

A lady from Orpington correctly identified the Magic Mystery Voice quiz which has been baffling listeners for 108 days. She correctly identified that the three Magic Mystery Voices were Lisa Tarbuck, Mariah Carey and John Travolta - immediately winning herself a massive £81,200.

Hey, that's nearly US\$150,000!

Well, there goes the staff Christmas party!

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ROBBER BRAGGED- THEN BAGGED  
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Probably a good way of getting away with a crime is...don't announce it in the media!

It's a lesson Randy Washington no doubt wishes he'd been taught a while ago. He has been found guilty and sentenced to four years for the robbery of a Chicago bank in April 2004.

Washington and his mates made off with about US\$81 thousand which they split. The police had no leads.

Shortly after that, Randy's big mouth landed him in trouble: he called in to brag about the crime on Chicago's WKSC-FM's confessional show.

Wasn't long before he was singing to prosecutors who are also fans of the broadcast.

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NEPAL RADIO STATION DEFIES GOVERNMENT  
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Press freedoms have been curtailed since the king took complete control of Nepal saying the step was necessary to quell a communist insurgency. Yeah right. By co-incidence criticism of the monarch, the government and security forces has also been banned.

Meantime the government says it's moving to shut down a private radio station that defied a ban on broadcasting news.

Nepal FM joined other private radio stations in broadcasting reports several times over the past month, despite a ban imposed by King Gyanendra after he seized absolute power on

Feb. 1.

The Ministry of Information and Communication has given Nepal FM a week to appeal the shutdown.

The station was defiant.

Bishnuhari Dhakal, managing director of the station, said:  
"We aired news yesterday and we will air news today and tomorrow. We will take to the streets and seek legal options to challenge the government action."

Go for it Bish!

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LISTENER OVEREXPOSED  
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A now "former" on-air personality at WZBH-FM 'The Rock Station', in Georgetown, Delaware, ERIC "COWBOY" LITTLETON, was accused of indecent exposure, second-degree assault and fourth-degree sexual assault for allegedly promising a pair of ZZ TOP tickets to a listener at a bar if the listener would expose himself to a woman while Littleton engaged her in conversation.

Now both men have been charged and Cowboy was fired by the station after the incident.

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DOWNLOADING FOR THE RADIO LISTENER  
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You hear a song on the radio that you really like and you wouldn't mind buying the record but you're not too sure what the song is. What to do?

Just speed-dial a toll-free number on your mobile phone and you'll get the information sent about the song. Then, when you turn on your computer, you'll find an email telling you how to buy and download that song.

This is a new service, launched initially in the U.S., called Music on Command.

L7 INC CONCEPT SDN, a Malaysian-based technology development company and their newly-acquired subsidiary BAXTER TECHNOLOGY in Palm Springs, USA have developed new software to capture songs over the radio waves, compress them through the Nielsen monitoring system and deliver the song to the listener at the time it's playing on the radio.

The concept is... when you hear it and you like it and want it, you can download it whether it be music, talk shows or newscasts.

There are other similar services but not offering "over the phone song recognition". Also, in this case, the radio station doesn't receive any revenue from the transaction. YAHOO, MSN and BUY.COM are handling the music delivery.

Bit unfair!

Weblink: <http://www.musiconcommand.com>

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IF THERE'S NO NEWS MAKE SOME UP  
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The Jakarta news station, Elshinta, received a call reporting that a car bomb had exploded outside a disco in western Java, killing two people and damaging several cars.

They obviously didn't check the lead because the story, picked up by foreign news agencies, proved to be a hoax.

Turns out DEDI HARTONO, apparently a former radio announcer, made up the story 'because there was no earth shaking news'! For his trouble he was later arrested.

Hartono says he had previously called Elshinta to report a typhoon and a landslide.

Obviously a man with a lot of time on his hands. Pity his creativity is being wasted.

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POTTER PATTTER  
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In what would be seen by some radio stations as a ratings suicide move, in Australia, Brisbane's FM97.3 suspended all normal programming at the time of the official launch of the latest Harry Potter book and crossed to a local bookshop for one continuous reading of 'Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince'

Various celebrities and Brisbane personalities sat in the "Harry Potter Chair" and read sections of the book every ten minutes until it was finished.

J K Rowlings, who is well known for protecting her rights to the delivery of the Potter series in the media, set down various conditions on the book reading.

The broadcast had to be a continuous reading of the entire book with no breaks. The event also had to be completely uncommercial, not for profit, not sponsored or tied to any third party, and no one was to be paid to take part in the reading.

The station wasn't even allowed to record the broadcast for future replay.

And, by heck, it turned out to be a big book!

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

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