

"THE RADIO WAVE"
Keeping Radio People in Touch"

4th. December 2005 Issue #45
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THE RADIO WAVE

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P.S. You can also find all the back-issues of The Radio Wave
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NOTE TO HOTMAIL SUBSCRIBERS

Some of you are now receiving this newsletter with really
weird formatting. Sorry about that. I have no idea why this
is happening. If you have an alternate address for this
newsletter to be sent to please let me know.

A FLASHBACK

In September 2003 I ran the following story...

(Mark Fontes, 21, a listener to Tucson Top 40 station KRQQ, got
involved in their "Psycho Seat" competition. Contestants were
competing to be the station's silly stunt person on the morning
(breakfast) show with listeners voting for their favourite

prankster.

Mr. Fontes had already got himself noticed by bursting into a restaurant and singing "I Will Survive" to an audience of bemused diners.

Then he decided to go one better. President Bush was due to visit the local air force base and the intrepid Fontes promised he would get his prospective employers an interview.

So he conned a fighter pilot's uniform from a neighbour and actually got through security posing first as pilot then, when it looked like he was about to be sprung, as a journalist.

Anyway he was caught out when he was heard discussing getting Dubya on the phone with someone, possibly the radio station.

The story goes on and on including an alleged tape recording on which the station's morning host promises Fontes \$1,000 if he can bring the Pres. to the phone. The FBI got involved and now the would-be prankster is being investigated.

Meantime the station has distanced itself from the case saying it was just a listener performing a stunt off his own back.

Mark Fontes said: "I was led to believe that I was being backed by the radio station, and when push came to shove they threw me under the bus. I got used for their publicity is what I feel like.")

END OF FLASHBACK.

Now I've just received this email:

"My name is Mark Fontes and i am a 23 yr old struggling entertainer. you have the story of when i was set up to talk to pres.Bush and then through under the bus.

I have since suffered and recovered mostly from a brain injury due to a hate crime. Im still haunted by this presidential visit .Any Help i can recieve on proving my innocence or furthering my career will be graciously excepted"

please contact me at
GeminiQQ23@aol.com

This guy is in need of help! Here's the story...

<http://www.ucnwt.org/sermons/journeyTowardWholenessExploringOurDiversity.html>

I have emailed him but received no reply. Can't do anymore than that.

A QUOTE OF NOTE

"In the digital era, the future is one in which consumers watch or listen to what they want to watch, when they want, at any time they want, on any device. This is a generation that will not wait for content to be delivered to them at a prescribed time." -- Carly Fiorina, then Chairman and CEO of Hewlett-Packard on 19/4/04

That quote from Ms. Fiorina beautifully sums up what is now happening as rapid change continues in the marketplace.

INTERNET GETS A BOOST

Which leads neatly into a plug for our new on-line radio station "Boost Digital Radio" the world's first on-line content portal for independent music and film.

The plan is for Boost Digital Radio to give exposure only to independent, unsigned artists.

It's an interesting trend that currently more and more mainstream artists are going independent. For example we are currently featuring tracks from new albums by the Eurogliders and Sophie B. Hawkins.

So the search is now on worldwide for music content. We'll accept all genres of music. Unsigned bands and artists can get information from the website about how to submit their music for airplay.

To hear Boost Digital Radio go to www.boostdigital.com and click on the Boost Digital Radio button.

Check it out. I'd love to get your comments and thoughts.
ian@allaboutradio.net

And soon to come...Boost Kids Radio.

THIS FINE'S NO JOKE

The UK Media watchdog Ofcom have imposed their biggest fine ever on a radio broadcaster, hitting Key 103 FM in Manchester for £125,000 for comments made by a late-night presenter.

Last October, James Stannage joked about the death of the murdered British hostage Ken Bigley and made offensive remarks about Bigley's wife and the fact that she was from Thailand.

Ofcom said he also made highly abusive comments about Muslims and used a mock Asian accent.

Six listeners complained about his material on four late-night phone-in programmes, and Ofcom said the managing director for radio programming at Emap, which owns the station, conceded it was "about the worst thing" he had ever heard

on the radio after 30 years in the industry.

The station had been fined twice in the past for remarks made by Stannage that were considered offensive.

He no longer works there.

TURKEY GETS PRESENTER FIRED AND STATION FINED

Putting phone calls on the air without the other party's prior consent is strictly taboo, so KZMN in Montana, USA, has copped a \$4,000 fine from the FCC.

This was for a call between the station's Paul Gray and a listener, Lisa Simmer, that Gray put to air live and, later, on tape.

Simmer, through a co-worker, had called to complain about a turkey being dangled from a window at the station and Gray told her that the station was running a promotion called "Save the Turkey" to raise donations for a food bank and that she should quit complaining and listen to the station.

The station said Gray thought she had called in on the on-air donation line. Nevertheless, because he replayed the call later after he was apparently aware she did not call in to donate, the station fired Gray and adopted a written policy regarding the airing of calls.

The FCC has reduced the fine from \$6,000 due to the station's previous record of compliance.

EVERY JOCK'S NIGHTMARE

It's the sort of nightmare every radio presenter has...you're on air from a brand new studio, go into your first break, hit the CD play button and nothing happens. So you ad lib as you try two other CD players.

Still nothing. So you try to play music or in fact anything from the computer playout system. Nothing. The equipment and the board are completely dead. The only thing that works is your microphone.

What can you do? Only one thing...ad lib.

And that's what Tom Cunningham did during his all-Bruce Springsteen show on WCHR-107 The Hawk in New Jersey. In fact he had to ad lib for 35 minutes before help arrived. Turned out the new studio needed a reboot to get back to normal which is not easy to do while you're live with an open mic.

The station reports that listeners were enthralled by Tom's extensive Springsteen knowledge and story-telling ability as he shared info regarding upcoming Bruce events and one of his favorite Bruce stories.

The Bruce Bunch can be heard, going a lot more smoothly, online at www.1057thehawkfm.com . The show airs Sunday morning from 9-11 U.S. Eastern.

"RACIST" RADIO GOES TO BLACK

The official radio station of South Africa's last all-white enclave has been taken off the air by the radio watchdog ICASA for broadcasting without a license.

Radio Club 100 broadcast exclusively for the private white hamlet of Orania on the edge of the arid Karoo region.

The regulator said the decision to confiscate the station's equipment and press legal action had nothing to do with its content but that Radio Club 100 had been broadcasting racist and right-wing views that could be offensive.

The place has an interesting history. In the early 1990's a group of white descendents of Dutch and French settlers bought an entire town with the dream of building a whites-only Afrikaner homeland. But the government has refused to grant it the autonomy it wants.

Orania's management said the station had repeatedly applied for a license and was merely holding tests, not officially broadcasting.

It denied charges of racism on the airwaves and said the station broadcast harmless news about birthdays and social events, not hard-nosed political commentary.

RAPPER COINS NAUGHTY WORDS

The bad boy rapper 50 cent is in trouble with the British radio industry watchdog Ofcom.

This follows a profanity filled rant during a mid-morning interview on BBC Radio 1 which caused many listeners to complain and demand an apology from the host Jo Whiley.

The rapper repeatedly used the "F" word and numerous slang terms for urine to show his anger at the audience at the Reading Rock Festival where he had been pelted with bottles filled with urine and sent off stage after a very short set to the chants of "50 Cent is a wanker!"

Of course, 50 Cent is known for his tough guy image and involvement in numerous shootings and run-ins with the law. He is also possibly a wanker.

ROBBER BRAGS AND IS BAGGED

An Illinois, USA, radio listener has been sentenced to 40 months in prison for his role in a bank robbery. This follows

the man giving details of the hold-up of a South Chicago Heights bank on a radio call-in show.

Randy Washington of Dolton, Ill. was tracked by FBI agents who traced his call to a talk radio show in September 2004.

Police said the crime would probably have gone unsolved if Washington hadn't bragged about it on air.

Two other co-defendants, 26-year-old Tequilla Bardney of Chicago and 20-year-old Keith Jones of Chicago Heights' were also given 40-month sentences.

The three were ordered to pay \$81,000 combined damages.

PHONE SCAMMER SENTENCED

A South Philadelphia man caught out hijacking calls to WIOQ (Q102) and indecently assaulting a teenage listener has copped three to six years in prison.

William Passarella Jr. who was convicted in June, must also serve a subsequent seven years of probation.

His victim testified that she was trying to call Q102 but apparently reached Passarella because he had hijacked the station's request lines, diverting request calls to his home.

He told her she had won a pair of front-row Britney Spears concert tickets and \$1,000. He said someone from the station would come to get her so she could claim the prize.

She said Passarella arrived in a silver car with large Q102 signs on both sides of the vehicle and in the rear windows but, instead of going to the station, he drove her to his home and locked her inside with him while he took dozens of calls from listeners and indecently touched her leg.

The victim also claimed that he offered a friend of hers \$100 for sex. He also pleaded guilty to using a stolen credit-card number to rent limousines and harassing and stalking other women.

Apart from which he was probably a nice guy.

RADIO STATION BUYS PUB

A radio station on Australia's Gold Coast, a favourite tourist destination, has done something quite admirable. It's bought a pub.

Hans Torv, 102.9 HotTomato Executive Director, along with his wife Kaia, are buying the historic Court House Hotel in Southport.

The pub was previously known as the Queens Hotel and was

first opened in 1905. It was refurbished in 1999 at a cost of au\$2million.

Hans told me: "Having recently completed the RMLV (responsible management of licensed venues) course, I am indebted to my mate, GM of Hot Tomato, Graham Miles, for pointing out that I had just paid for a 2 day lesson on how to throw myself out of my own pub."

The hotel already has strong links to Hot Tomato. In August 2003 it was used as the venue to launch the station when the outdoor bar was renamed The Tomato Bar for the occasion. In fact the Hot Tomato program and production team already call it Studio 3.

The Licensee of the pub will be Mrs. Torv which makes one of Hans Torv's dreams come true...being married to a publican.

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Forward this newsletter to your three favourite radio colleagues and suggest they subscribe.

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All they have to do is send a blank email to:
radiowave@allaboutradio.net

Thank you.

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