

"THE RADIO WAVE"

Keeping Radio People in Touch"

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Issue #49

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By subscription only! Welcome to the forty-ninth issue of

THE RADIO WAVE

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Unsubscribe instructions are at the end of this newsletter.

AN ONLINE BOOST

First up a reminder about our internet entertainment portal
site...Boost Digital.com

The online radio station Boost Digital Radio is streaming 24/7
with great independent music and for 2 to 5 year olds there's
the kids channel BoostDigital Kids.

Forget you're a "grown-up". If you're feeling a bit down,
tired or depressed, have a listen. It'll really pick you up!

Love those Muppets!

Also on the site are short films, music videos, online games

and digital photography. And soon to come...MP3 music downloads.

While you're there check out the Student On-Line Digital Arts Festival...looking for new creative talent in schools and colleges around the world.

www.boostdigital.com

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G'DAY

If you were one of those who thought their issue of the Radio Wave may have been sp*m filtered last month...no. There was no issue because I was at NAB2006 in Las Vegas and I was too busy walking the seemingly endless Expo halls or attending various sessions.

After that it was my daughter's wedding in London which went

without a hitch. Even the rain held off until the outdoor photographs were taken!

Looking back on NAB I was fascinated by some of the latest broadcasting technologies on display but, based on the small amount of radio I got to hear in the US and UK, there was nothing new or innovative in any of the program content actually being broadcast. Just the same old same old.

What was that about content being king?

A reminder...any comments you have about anything in this issue or radio in general, you can reach me at ian@allaboutradio.net

WE HAVE MAIL

Just a note to say congratulations on your daughter's wedding. I look forward to your e-mail every month. I am out of the biz now after 23 years, but still follow it closely. Take care.

Darren MacDonald
Ex-CFAN am/fm
Miramichi NB

Canada

COMMENT: Thanks Darren. Appreciate your thoughts.

And from Andy Maher...

In your recent Allaboutradio raves, David Hague and Brian Newington both brought up a point about "phone quality" voiceovers I'd like to respond.

It's just another of many tricks a radio production engineer has in his or her bag. Same as reverbs, delays, flangers, the lot. Moving between clean voice to phone quality, or chorus, or whatever within an ad or promo is nothing new, and I don't think a bad thing at all.

Look at a print ad - is all the text the same size, colour, typeface? How about a magazine cover? Now think back to radio, how many bland 30 or 60 second "bed and read" ads do you hear every day? Are they any better?

As for saying there's nothing new in the imagination of producers, there are a finite number of effects that will work in a radio ad/promo. EQs, delays, flangers, choruses, pitch shifters, filters, even reverbs (used sparingly please!) make things stand out a little.

I rarely touch things like distortion or phasing, bearing in mind the words have to be audible. When it comes to playing with EQ, phone quality is highly audible. Between 1kHz and 5kHz is the human ear's optimum frequency response - for the newbies, that's pretty much phone quality.

I'd imagine that's why many people use it. Of course a good producer will mix it up or combine it with other effects... but enough about me :-P

Another point worth mentioning with 'uncreative' ads is (why hasn't anyone mentioned this?) that you can write or produce the best, killer, smack-em-between-the-eyes spot, only to have the client knock it back in favour of something they've written. Happens all the time, to the best people.

Phone quality is just a recent addition to the swag of effects a producer can work with. It isn't in order to cover up a sub-standard script (well maybe for some people) but it makes stuff stick out. It may not be to everyone's taste, but making people notice stuff is our business!

There you go Macca, feel free to chuck that in the next rave.

If you want to qualify me, say I've worked for Austereo,

ARN, DMG, 2UE, Macquarie Radio, ABC, SBS and Foxtel. Oh, and
Radio 2 (- :

All the best (back from the UK yet? Hope the wedding went well)

andy@andymaher.com

COMMENT: Thanks Andy for a different point of view.

By the way the Radio Two he refers to is, or was, a Sydney based
network that has gone into administration. In other words...bust!
But that's another story....

RADIO PRESENTER GOOSED BY GHANDI

Night-time presenter Graeme Gilbert on Sydney's 2SM was
"ambushed" by listeners a few nights ago.

It started with the first listener responding to Gilbert's
evening quiz with an odd answer.

Graeme Gilbert (GG): Lois - good evening.

Lois: Hi Grae - how are you?

GG: Not too bad. Yourself?

Lois: Good.

GG: Question 1. Good luck. Who is the Premier of Tasmania?

Lois: India!

GG: Oh Lois, I thought you'd grown out of that. Thanks darling.

But Gilbert's problems just kept coming.

George: Hello. How are you?

GG: Not too bad mate. The Premier of Tasmania?

George: India.

GG: No. You need an education don't you. 13 12 69. Harry is it?

Harry: Yeah yeah Harry. How you going?

GG: Not too bad. The Premier of Tasmania - any idea?

Harry: First time I've ever called a radio station but I

knew the answer to this one.

GG: Yeah?

Harry: Uh yeah - India?

GG: Well make that the last time you phone a radio station

Harry. 13 12 69. Please it's not the answer so if you were going to say that, drop off now. Okay?

It was now obvious Graeme Gilbert's evening quiz was under attack from a gang of phone-in saboteurs, but finally he found a friendly caller.

GG: Hello Max.

Max: G'day Graeme, how you going?

GG: Not too bad. You'd be too smart for those dills who keep saying India, wouldn't you?

Max: I tell you they must get on the port or something when they do it.

GG: Yeah it would be the cheap port wouldn't it?

Max: I reckon. It'd be real bad Tawny, Grae.

GG: The Premier of Tasmania?

Max: Listen mate before I give you the answer - I just want to say he's one of the only fellows who can cover a Johnny Horton song that well, isn't he?

GG: Yeah he does it well doesn't he, Johnny?

Max: Oh, silky smooth voice yeah.

GG: Beautiful voice.

Max: Yeah lovely. Mate the answer to your question - would it be India?

GG: Well I'd have to say no. So good luck with your education.

And the attack continued with a succession of callers claiming "India" was the answer.

It was then that an email that had been in circulation turned up on ABC-TV's Media Watch.

The email showed a photo of Mahatma Gandhi accompanied by

text reading: "Tonight Graeme is having a quiz... it would honour me if everyone rang up and answered 'India' for every question. Don't ask why... it's between me and [Graeme]."

Love from Mahatma"

The TV program concluded: "Those who are tired of the radio quiz can only hope that Mahatma's new strategy of radio civil disobedience takes off."

RADIO DJ SACKED FOR WEARING SEXY GEAR

A female radio presenter has been sacked - for dressing too sexily on air.

The 25-year-old DJ, known as Lady Ray, is now taking Radio Bremen to an industrial tribunal.

She said: "My boss told me that my skirts were too short and my tops too low.

"But I don't understand it, it's not as if any of the listeners can see me and my breasts don't speak into the microphone." (Cue jokes about stereo)

She is claiming damages for unfair dismissal.

Radio Bremen is the smallest public radio and television broadcaster in Germany, based in Bremen.

LISTENERS PROTEST ABOUT LOVE SONG

A Houston radio station, 97.9 the Boxx, has taken steps to appease community leaders who were angry over a sexually explicit rap song played on the air.

Several community activists protested at the station because the unedited version of "I'm N Luv Wit a Stripper" was played on air.

Church minister Quanell X (?) says he heard the shocking lyrics from Twista's version of "I'm N Luv Wit a Stripper" while in the car with his family.

He has filed a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission asking them to sanction the station for violating obscenity regulations

The station manager agreed to meet with leaders to offer a public apology for what he says was an honest mistake.

Earlier this week, he said the CD was mislabelled by the record company as being suitable to play on air, but it turns out it was not the clean version. He said the disc jockey dumped out of it as soon as he realized it, but at least a minute of the song did go over the airwaves.

Now the station says it has installed an instant censor button and has implemented better controls to monitor music that is played on air.

IT'S ALL JUST RADIO

Ratings research company Arbitron has released a new study it did with Edison Media Research into new media platforms such as internet radio, satellite and podcasting.

It says they are all just new forms of radio and are a "testament to the popularity of radio programming."

Arbitron said "The proliferation of digital broadcast platforms such as Internet radio, satellite radio, HD and podcasting is a testament to the popularity of radio programming."

Edison Media's Larry Rosin said, "Our research shows that

regardless of the platform consumers see all these options as merely being new forms of 'radio.'

The phone survey involved approximately 1,900 people.

CALIFORNIA DREAMING

A bloke in Banning, California, was willing to go to great heights to impress his girlfriend - 163 feet to be exact.

The police arrested Dean Daigle, 47, after he climbed down from the top of a radio tower where he'd been perched.

According to the report officers arrived at a Banning-area AM radio tower around 10:20 p.m. on Saturday.

There they found Daigle yelling from the top of the tower.

Officers reported trying to coax Daigle down from the tower but he threatened to jump if anyone climbed up after him.

The report stated Daigle then broke the aircraft warning lights on top of the tower before climbing down on his own more than an hour later.

When asked why he climbed the tower Daigle said he wanted to, "impress his girlfriend," according to the police report.

Hell, what woman wouldn't be impressed by that?

IS IT A PLANE?...NO, IT'S A KITTY-CAT

Still in California...

Listeners tuning in to the breakfast show on alternative radio station X103.9-FM, Santa Cruz, heard a horrific story of fun gone wrong.

A 4-month-old kitten, which happened to be in the studio at the wrong time, apparently was placed in a basket and lifted 300 feet in the air by attached helium balloons.

The basket, the disc jockeys said, was last seen flying somewhere over a nearby suburb.

The announcement spurred hundreds of phone calls to the station from dismayed listeners - some of whom jumped in their vehicles and took off in search of the basket - and just as many phone calls to animal control agencies around the county.

Turns out it was all a big hoax. The kitten in the basket was a plush toy and by 10.30 a.m., the basket, which was briefly about 300 feet up in the air, was back in the station office, sans cat, said morning show co-host Jen Carr.

She said, in an obvious attempt to spin her way out of it: "We were trying to find a way to show the bad things that could happen (with animals) if you're careless. It got out of hand obviously." she said. "It was meant to be a joke; it was never meant to be something taken so seriously."

But Sue Hoak, San Bernardino Animal Control operations manager, wasn't laughing. The agency's emergency hot line was tied up for hours with calls from listeners and from other animal control agencies wondering how the situation was being handled.

An agency staffer called the radio station and was assured the cat really was in a basket floating somewhere high above the greater San Bernardino area.

It wasn't until a San Bernardino police officer and an animal control officer showed up at the station that the joke was revealed.

The idea for the prank began with a real kitten, Mr. Tinkles, belonging to station engineer Fred Fullmer. The DJs are

sucking on helium balloons and talking in squeaky voices.

They start attaching balloons to a basket to see how many are needed to float a rubber chicken. Enter the cat.

They go outside to see how much helium it would take to get the kitten airborne. And then the basket, with the newest addition to Fullmer's household, floats off out of reach.

Jen said: "We absolutely did not expect the outpouring of anger and total chaos that ensued with people being really irate about it. I don't believe we'll be doing this again."

The cat, so to speak, is out of the basket.

CANADIAN RADIO WANTS TO PLAY LESS LOCAL MUSIC

Canadian commercial radio has asked the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission to relax Canadian-content rules while they adjust to digital technology.

The Canadian Association of Broadcasters says the industry has been impacted by Internet streaming, satellite radio, iPods, and other technology and that the CRTC should change the CanCon system from a pure percentage quota to an incentive plan that would give bonus credit for playing new Canadian

artists.

This is in spite of recently released figures showing Canadian commercial radio revenues increasing and listenership holding steady.

Predictably the Canadian Independent Record Production Association has called for a move in the other direction, asking for an increase in CanCon requirements to 45% as well as a \$15 million contribution by broadcasters to talent development organizations.

Well, they would wouldn't they?

HELLO SAILOR

A couple of BBC Radio 1 DJs were enlisted to let a listener off Jersey know they were blocking emergency harbour air waves.

Colin Murray and Edith Bowman made an appeal for sailors to check they were not tuned to their show with their emergency channel still open.

The appeal ended five and a half hours of radio interference.

Edith Bowman told listeners: "It's dangerous - if anyone is in trouble and needs to get hold of emergency services you're preventing them."

Colin Murray added: "You are causing maritime chaos. So boat people of the world, stop it."

"We're a good show, but people don't need to die."

Jersey Coastguard had contacted BBC Radio Jersey to ask for their help to lodge an appeal on air.

A spokesman for the coastguard said the appeal worked and the channel was clear shortly afterwards.

An "embarrassed" boat owner in a boat yard had left the emergency channel on by mistake, the spokesman said.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

There were red faces and a formal apology on Sydney Nova 96.9 when a prostitute rang in during a discussion on sex-workers and named one of her clients, a well known local politician.

The defamatory call was cut off quickly, but not before the person's whole name went to air. The talkback segment was

not in delay.(Whattttt????)

Discussing the possibility of prostitutes being sued for defamation by clients, she said: "As I'm anonymous, I can say I've seen [politician's name]."

While the prostitute could indeed get away without being sued, because no one knew who she was, the publishing organisation was a radio station, which of course is not immune from being sued under defamation laws.

Presenters Merrick and Rosso, who are not usually lost for words, responded with: "Oh, hang on. Whoa, whoa. Um..." and later read a formal apology saying:

"Just before the 8.30 news we spoke to a sex worker who made reference to [politician]. We wish to advise that this reference was made without any foundation and is not in anyway condoned or supported by this radio station. We wish to apologise for any hurt suffered as a result of this unfounded allegation."

Radio Wave readers who know New South Wales politics and who would like to know what name was mentioned...email me.

ian@allaboutradio.net

We need more subscribers to this list!

Can't be more direct than that...

Would you help me to double the subscriber number by next month?

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

Well, it IS free! And they can unsubscribe at any time.

All they have to do is send a blank email to:

radiowave@allaboutradio.net

Thank you.

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