

"THE RADIO WAVE"

Keeping Radio People in Touch"

2ND.July 2006

Issue #50

Ian MacRae, Editor, radiowave@allaboutradio.net

By subscription only! Welcome to the fiftieth issue of

THE RADIO WAVE

You are receiving this because you requested a subscription.

Unsubscribe instructions are at the end of this newsletter.

ONLINE RADIO STATION IS KIDDING

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

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 "totally for kids" kids channel: BoostDigital Kids.

The channel now boasts over 14 hours of continuous fun and
music for little kids with even more new content being
continually added.

The music is presented by "Dee dee", BoostDigital Kids Jockette.

She plays all their favourites including The Wiggles, Hi Five, Bob the Builder, the Muppets and Bananas in Pyjamas.

Apart from the specially chosen music, other content includes fabulous fairy tales, jokes emailed by kids, amazing facts (so kids can impress their friends!) and the Boost robot, Boosta.

Sadly. at this stage Boosta is only a head and lacks a body. So there's a competition to "Design a Body for Boosta."

Other features on the site include a collection of Classic Kids' Cartoons, online games in the Games Alley and a new Kids Directory.

To launch the Kids Directory, for the month of July, Boost Digital Kids is giving away a FR*E listing in the guide for anybody involved in any category that is aimed at 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!

<http://www.boostdigital.com/kids.php4>

IN THIS ISSUE

- G'DAY
- RADIO REPORTER MADE REDUNDANT AFTER FIVE DAYS
- INDIA JOKE STILL GIVING RADIO PRESENTERS CURRY
- BBC DEFENDS DJ'S GAY REFERENCE
- WIN A CAR BUT FIRST TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES
- KILL THE COMEDIAN SUGGESTION GETS RADIO TRIO FIRED
- DJ OUTSMASHED AT TABLE TENNIS - BY 95 YEAR OLD
- THE \$18,000 QUESTION
- ONE SECOND ADS...BLINK AND THEY'VE GONE
- US RADIO INDECENCY FINES BUMPED UP TENFOLD
- BBC APOLOGISES FOR MURDERER SPOOF
- OUT OF CONTROL RADIO STATION COPS RECORD FINE
- LOS ANGELES STATION GIVES AWAY 24th CAR THIS YEAR
- DID POLITICIAN GET OFF ON MARGARET THATCHER IN STOCKINGS
- DOWNLOAD MUSIC AS YOU LISTEN TO THE RADIO
- RADIO HOST TRIES TO KNOCK UP KIDMAN

G'DAY

Wow!

Fifty issues of The Radio Wave.

Issue one was sent out of the 7th. April 2002.

Originally it was aimed solely at radio beginners but gradually changed its content to appeal to everyone who is involved in radio or associated industries.

If you'd like to check back on any of the past newsletters you'll find them archived at www.allaboutradio.net . Click on RADIOWAVE ARCHIVES.

Meantime...the usual plea to help expand our subscriber base.

I'd really appreciate you passing this newsletter on to anyone you think would appreciate it and suggest they join up.

Now the news....

RADIO REPORTER MADE REDUNDANT AFTER FIVE DAYS

Nine jobs have been axed at Sydney talk station 2UE. Sadly these also included a young reporter who began work there five days earlier having been recruited from another Sydney station.

Southern Cross Broadcasting's 2UE station manager Ian Sheppard said nine jobs, including two from the newsroom, were made redundant.

He confirmed a female reporter - aged in her early 20s and recruited from rival 2SM - had been made redundant just five days after starting her new job.

He said: "It's a very unfortunate situation and we've gone out of our way to reimburse her over and above what she is owed. Everything is being done to help her find other work."

Any comments? ian@allaboutradio.net

INDIA JOKE STILL GIVING RADIO PRESENTERS CURRY

And still with Sydney radio...

The person who started the infamous "India" practical joke on Sydney's 2SM (where people called evening host Graeme Gilbert and said "India" as the answer to all quiz questions, as reported in last month's Radio Wave) turned up on 2DayFM breakfast explaining how he started off with a simple gag that quickly spread way beyond what he hoped to do.

He spoke through a voice decoder today to hide his identity, but the decoder worked so well it was hard to understand him at all.

Hosts Kyle and Jackie O wondered if Gilbert himself might be behind the gag to boost his audience, but as 2SM don't take part in the ratings surveys, no one would know if his

ratings went up. 2Day FM said Gilbert declined to appear on the show.

The "India" gag is now getting out of control as it spreads to other stations.

Sydney 2UE nighttime host Stan Zemanek finished up fielding calls on his first night back after sick leave from people who couldn't wait to tell him the mystery singer he was asking about was called "India".

BBC DEFENDS DJ's GAY REFERENCE

The BBC's Board of Governors has ruled that the word "gay" now means "lame" or "rubbish" among young people and may be used in a pejorative sense without insulting homosexuals.

They said this is widespread current usage of the word among young people.

Based on this the Board rejected a complaint against Radio One presenter Chris Moyles after he dismissed a ring tone by saying "I don't want that one, it's gay".

In broadcasting on Radio One's Breakfast Show, the committee

said, the presenter would have been using expressions or words which the listeners used themselves.

"The committee acknowledged that this use of the word 'gay' could cause offence to some listeners," it said.

"However, the committee believed that Chris Moyles, when using the word, had meant no offence to gay people.

"He was not being homophobic in his use of the word."

But the committee added that it would be "advisable" to think more carefully about using the word "gay" in its derogatory sense in the future, given the multiple meanings of the word in modern usage and the potential to cause "unintended offence".

Wasn't that long ago the word "gay" meant happy.

WIN A CAR BUT FIRST TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES

The Indiana Court of Appeals threw out half the convictions against a man who pretended to be a radio staff member to get people to remove their clothes.

The court overturned Richard Brown's convictions on three

counts of criminal confinement, saying the state's criminal confinement law is unconstitutionally vague as it applies to Brown's case. The court upheld convictions on three counts of identity deception.

Brown will be re-sentenced because of the ruling.

He was 40 when he was arrested in connection with the scam in July 2004, was sentenced last year to four years in prison.

It seems that Brown, pretending to be a staff member of Indianapolis WNOU, 93.1 FM (Radio Now), called males and told them to come to his home for a chance to win a new car or \$50,000.

Once they got to the home, Brown told them to remove their clothing and do various other things (?).

Brown was on home detention at the time for a criminal confinement conviction. He was arrested after people called the radio station to complain.

The Court of Appeals said the wording of Indiana law doesn't make it clear that Brown's behavior constitutes criminal confinement since no force was used. The judge wrote that the vagueness of the language conceivably could make it a

crime to trick someone into going to a surprise birthday party.

KILL THE COMEDIAN SUGGESTION GETS RADIO TRIO FIRED

Three San Francisco radio personalities are suing the station

that fired them because they encouraged listeners to kill the comedian Penn Jillette.

John London, Dennis Cruz and Chris Townsend are suing KIFR-FM for wrongful termination, breach of contract and interference with a business contract.

The lawsuit names CBS Radio, Jillette and KIFR as defendants.

It alleges that Jillette urged CBS Radio executives to fire London, Cruz and Townsend after they went on the air with a response to a bit that Jillette did about Mother Teresa on his syndicated CBS radio show, which KIFR carries in San Francisco.

The suit alleges that Jillette compared the Nobel Peace Prize winner to Charles Manson, and that he said she "got her kicks watching people suffer and die."

London told listeners: "Penn Jillette has said on a number

of occasions that words do not hurt people. We should be able to say whatever we want, in the open marketplace of ideas."

"So here's a little string of sentences for ya: How about if I give somebody \$5,000 to kill ya? I'll add \$2,000 to that if there's some suffering attached to it."

DJ OUTSMASHED AT TABLE TENNIS - BY 95 YEAR OLD

Sydney DJ jockey Merrick Watts was trounced by a 95-year-old grandmother who he'd challenged to a game of table tennis.

In what was billed as the ultimate ping pong showdown, world veteran champion Dorothy De Low thrashed the Nova DJ in straight games.

Fans crowded inside Sydney club Kogarah RSL to watch the smug Merrick cop a hiding at the hands of Dot, winner of three senior

world titles and the oldest competitor to play the World veteran Table tennis Championships.

After the game, Dot said: "I didn't have much trouble with him, he's not that good...he thinks he's better than he is."

You go Gran!

THE \$18,000 QUESTION

A Hong Kong radio station was fined \$HK140,000 (US\$18,000) for running an internet poll asking listeners to choose which actress they would most like to sexually assault.

Commercial Radio Hong Kong was also ordered to run a prime-time apology for the poll, which sparked a furor earlier last month, with teachers, politicians and ordinary citizens slamming the station for advocating violence against women and for corrupting youth.

The Broadcasting Authority, which issued the penalty, said it had received 189 complaints.

The radio station earlier apologised for the poll, "Which female artiste would you most like to sexually assault?" on its website.

The Broadcasting Authority statement said: "The light-hearted manner in which the hosts dealt with the subject gave listeners the wrong impression that the act of indecent assault was trivial and could be made fun of."

Rita Chan, Commercial Radio's general manager, said the

station accepted the decision.

ONE SECOND ADS...BLINK AND THEY'VE GONE

In the US, Clear Channel have introduced the concept of "one second commercials as a way of offering "new uses of radio for advertisers."

Everything old is new again. I remember them being used way back and called "time check sponsorships."

Clear Channel's Creative Services Group was formed a couple of years ago to come up with new concepts in quality advertising. This would appear to be the result. They're being touted as "touch points that are new and surprising".

New name - old concept.

US RADIO INDECENCY FINES BUMPED UP TENFOLD

U.S. President George W. Bush has signed into law legislation that raises fines tenfold for radio and television broadcasters who violate US decency standards by airing extensive profanity or sexual content.

While the President said that parents are the first line of defense for monitoring what their children listen to and watch, he added that broadcasters have a responsibility as well.

Bush said at a signing ceremony with lawmakers who sponsored the bill and the five FCC commissioners: "This law will ensure that broadcasters take seriously their duty to keep the public airwaves free of obscene, profane and indecent material."

He said the old maximum fine was a problem because "for some broadcasters, this amount is meaningless."

Previously the fine was set at US\$32,550. The new law boosts fines to as much as \$325,000 per violation

The drive for higher fines came when pop singer Justin Timberlake ripped off part of Janet Jackson's costume and briefly exposed a rather ordinary boob during the 2004 Super Bowl football halftime entertainment show, which aired on the CBS television network, although what that has to do with radio nobody knows.

BBC APOLOGISES FOR MURDERER SPOOF

A BBC radio presenter apologised after running a spoof news

item on his show saying child killer Ian Huntley had been murdered in his prison cell.

The spoof was read out on Radio Two's Jeremy Vine Show as part of a discussion on what would happen if the country were run by tabloid news editors.

As part of the debate, a newsreader read out mock stories the show's producers thought tabloids would be happy to see.

The opening item said Huntley had been murdered in his cell and that his killer would be rewarded with an honour by the Queen.

Huntley is the low-life who murdered 10-year-olds Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells in Soham, Cambridgeshire, in August 2002. He was convicted of murdering the girls in December 2003 and jailed for 40 years.

Journalists made calls to the Home Office and the police after rumours spread that Huntley had died.

Vine told listeners the BBC was sorry if it had misled them.

Vine said on the BBC Web site: "We ran, labelled completely clearly, a bulletin of spoof news items which might happen if the country were to be run by tabloid news editors."

Other mock news items on the lunchtime show included one saying that prisoners with life sentences would never be released and another saying health and safety laws would be scrapped.

OUT OF CONTROL RADIO STATION COPS RECORD FINE

London's Kiss FM breakfast show has been given the largest fine to be imposed on a British radio station for serious breaches of broadcasting rules.

Emap Radio, the owner, was ordered to pay £175,000 for a hoax interview and failing to protect children from foul and sexually explicit language during the show, presented by the DJ Bam Bam. It has terminated his £1.2 million contract.

Bam Bam, whose real name is Peter Poulton, is a Sony Award-winning DJ whose show had 800,000 listeners. He was the London station's star DJ for seven years but Ofcom, the independent regulator, found his show guilty of eight broadcasting code breaches in six months.

One of his offences was appearing to condone group and under-age sex when children were listening.

The most serious breach was when Bam Bam's assistant, Streetboy, posed as a human resources officer and made a hoax call to a man to discuss his redundancy options.

The man became increasingly desperate as he was told that he was fit only for "flipping burgers". When the item ended, the presenters were heard laughing and acknowledging that Streetboy had been "dealing with this guy's whole future and career".

Ofcom said that the "degrading" sequence was "the most serious case of unwarranted infringement of privacy" that it had dealt with. There was no public interest justification and the victim had suffered deep distress.

Ofcom received complaints from parents over Bam Bam's sexually explicit discussions. It ruled that a discussion about teenagers engaging in group sex demonstrated an "admiration for under-age sex".

Emap argued that an 8.30am discussion about a woman refusing to take "£50 extra for anal" was an "effective moral debate" about a "woman's motivation for moving into porn".

Ofcom was angered that foul language was broadcast despite being pre-recorded. Kiss FM was out of control, with management

unable or unwilling to monitor its output.

The regulator accused Emap of "totally inexcusable broadcasts, which showed an almost wilful disregard by the licensee for not only Ofcom's codes but also the station's audience".

Emap admitted that its procedures were not "up to spec".

It had "terminated" the breakfast show, sacked the producer and replaced its programme director. Emap appealed against a fine, arguing that it had suffered losses in advertising revenue by cancelling the show.

Of course Bam Bam, who is 36, is likely to return, although apparently he has turned down an offer to join Capital FM. Thousands of fans download his podcasts.

LOS ANGELES STATION GIVES AWAY 24th CAR THIS YEAR

KBIG 104.3 Los Angeles' "Free Car Friday" is now in its 24th week as the station prepares to give away their 24th car in 2006!

By the end of the year the Hot AC formatted station will have given away 52 brand-new cars and trucks to winners breaking the current record held by KHJ/Los Angeles in 1968.

Last Friday, (30/6), one very lucky KBIG listener not only

found themselves in a brand-new car, but becoming a part of radio history as well.

DID POLITICIAN GET OFF ON MARGARET THATCHER IN STOCKINGS

The BBC got 221 complaints about 'Friday Night with Jonathan Ross', which featured the MP and Conservative party leader David Cameron being quizzed by the host about having sexual fantasies about former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Jonathon asked the Tory leader if he had ever fantasised about Lady Thatcher "in stockings".

Cameron, clearly embarrassed, tried to laugh it off and steer the conversation into safer territory, praising Thatcher's achievements, but, being a pro, Ross pushed the issue.

He asked the leader: "Did you or did you not have a wank thinking about Margaret Thatcher?"

The one-time Tory minister Lord Norman Tebbit has scolded Cameron for taking part, calling the interview "obscene" and saying Cameron made an awful mistake by appearing on the programme.

Tebbit said: "He should never have been there."

The Mail on Sunday newspaper, with the support of Tebbit and other senior Tories, demanded Ross be fired. The chat show host has a £18m contract with the BBC. The huge contract was recently signed with the BBC taking criticism for spending so much licence payer's money on one star.

The BBC says it stands by the programme because the interview was shown after the 9pm watershed and refused to censor it for the repeat shown at 1am on Sunday morning.

DOWNLOAD MUSIC AS YOU LISTEN TO THE RADIO

Technology has been unveiled in the UK that could allow listeners to buy any song playing on any station at the touch of a button.

UBC Media Group, the company that developed the technology, says a trial would begin next month in the Birmingham area, with a full consumer launch expected within 12 months.

The proposed service uses the same technology employed to deliver digital radio to 3m sets in the UK, with mobile phones containing the necessary chips expected to be on the market soon.

UBC's interactive division has teamed up with the main record labels, the Chrysalis radio group that runs stations such as Heart and Galaxy, and technology firms to launch the new business. It expects it to be worth £93m within six years.

While tuning in to digital radio stations through headphones, listeners will be able to click a "buy" button on their phone and have the track downloaded to their phone. Each track will cost around £1.25, with one copy being transferred to the phone and a second copy made available for download to a computer or iPod-type device.

So...you hear a song, you like it, you buy it. You get it on your device and also get a copy sent to you at home. Neat.

RADIO HOST TRIES TO KNOCK UP KIDMAN

Last Monday, naturally, a high-profile topic on Sydney radio was the Nicolle Kidman/Keith Urban wedding, but it was 2DayFM which probably had the most fun with the newlyweds.

A former assistant on the Kyle and Jackie O breakfast show, Gemma, now works for Kidman, and the radio hosts called their former colleague. When Gemma answered the phone and realised who it was she quickly hung up. As you would.

Later on in the show they had 2Day drive host Lab Rat walking the corridors of the Intercontinental Hotel knocking on doors, before he was evicted by security.

Lab Rat had to sneak into the hotel because he is banned after a previous run-in which involved him visiting Britney Spears' room.

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.

Copyright 2006 Ian MacRae