

THE RADIO WAVE

"Keeping Radio People in Touch"

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THE RADIO WAVE

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IN THIS ISSUE

- G'day
 - Boost Digital gets a make-over
 - Radio hoaxer skates on thin ice
 - Death warrant signed for analogue radios
 - Time to smell the radio
 - Love songs format banned in Somalia
 - All-women radio talk network launches
 - You can stick the Beatles
 - Rupert Everett gets lewd on BBC2
 - The Loreena Bobbit solution
 - Another dick story - quick dick
 - DAB and all that jazz
 - Big radio star gets suspended
 - Have we got a jihad for YOU!
-

G'day

Here we go with another round-up of recent stories from the wacky world of radio.

Firstly thanks to everyone who helped swell our subscription base by sending copies of last month's issue to others who may be interested in subscribing to The Radio Wave.

In fact, many were and I'd like to welcome those newcomers to our ranks. Be aware that you're welcome to submit any thoughts, questions or even articles and stories for publication. The more interactive this newsletter is the more I like it. And so do our readers.

Meantime if you can think of someone who would be interested in receiving this monthly rave I urge you to forward it to them. To subscribe all they have to do is send a blank e-mail with the word "subscribe" in the Subject line to:

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Just a reminder, if you're about to change your email address for some reason don't forget to advise me or we could loose

you forever. ian@allaboutradio.net

Boost Digital gets a make-over

Check out our newly designed website www.boostdigital.com

Have a listen to great new independent music as you read

The Radio Wave. www.boostdigitalradio.com

Or, if you need a bit of a pick-up or maybe you're feeling

a bit childish www.boostdigitalkids.com

Radio hoaxer skates on thin ice

University student Lizzie Denis claimed she had learned that her ice skating teacher of 11 years, Cotrina Stasi, was actually her real mother.

But after Miss Stasi completely denied the allegation saying:

"This is a pack of lies and she has never even been adopted.

She has been a friend of mine but she has her own biological parents - and I am not one of them", Miss Dennis realised

she had been rumbled and emailed the shows presenter to

confess all.

Richard Bacon commented: "The level of detail in her story was impressive. The creativity was matched by her acting, no one listening at the time questioned the validity of her story. I should feel annoyed but there's a bigger part of me that takes my hat off to her. Lizzie has apologised for her actions and for letting it get so out of hand."

The Xfm spokeswoman added: "Her phone has been switched off since she emailed in."

Death warrant signed for analogue radios

UK electrical retail chain Dixons has decided to give analogue

radios the flick - a fate already suffered by VCRs, CRT TVs and analogue film cameras - and will stop selling the radios in its shops, in favour of DAB.

The chain says DAB radios outsell analogue by a massive 30 to one. With the market flooded by MP3 players and iPod compatible hi-fis, old analogue equipment has been trampled into the ground by eager digital buyers.

The high street store has also issued a hit list of products to be snuffed out in the not too distant future, which includes the trusty old personal CD player and portable stereo system.

Time to smell the radio

How would you like to be hit by different smells as you listen to the radio?

This is the idea out of Japan with a product to be launched this month.

It goes by the weird name of the 'Aroma Geur'. The device is in the shape of a USB connected sphere which is capable of generating different pongs depending on what content is playing on the radio (perhaps the smell of dirty leather for Motorhead, and Guinness for the Pogues?).

Soon to be introduced by NTT Communications - the corporate business arm of Tokyo-based Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp and Tokyo FM Broadcasting - the Aroma Geur comes loaded with six oil-based perfume compounds, which can be instructed to mix up the right whiff on demand.

The gadget connects to your desktop via USB, with the PC downloading the aroma instructions from the radio station via the Internet, with odorous wafts synchronised to match whatever song is currently being played.

Lurking inside the gadget is a set of solenoid valves which open and close magnetically to ensure that just the right amount of perfume fills the air.

To further enhance the 'experience', the whiffo-sphere (as we like to call it) accompanies blasts of perfume with a show of random, shifting coloured lights, apparently to help you have a "more soothing experience."

As some wag commented: "I can't wait to get a whiff of some Bob Marley tunes on the thing."

Love songs format banned in Somalia

Islamic militants in southern Somalia shut down a radio station for broadcasting "music and love songs," in a latest example of the region's new fundamentalist rule.

Islamic official Sheik Mohamed Mohamoud Abdirahman said the group closed Radio Jowhar because the programs were un-Islamic. It was the only radio station in Jowhar, some 90 kilometers (55 miles) from the capital, Mogadishu.

Showing his obvious knowledge of radio programming Abdirahman said: "It is useless to air music and love songs for the people."

The station has since returned to the airwaves after pledging to stop broadcasting music.

Haga Afrah, director of Radio Jowhar said: "We are powerless so we have to heed their call to stop playing music on air," adding that the station would have to adjust its programs to fill the time.

Meantime Islamists in the capital have banned movie viewing, publicly lashed drug users and broke up a wedding celebration because a band was playing and women and men were socializing together.

All-women radio talk network launches

Greenstone Media, a radio company whose founders include social activist Gloria Steinem and actress Jane Fonda, has launched an all-women, all-talk network across the United States.

The network, which is run by women, aims to provide an alternative to current radio talk, which Gloria Steinem describes as "very argumentative, quite hostile, and very much male-dominated."

Steinem reckons the network "has a different spirit. It has more community. It's more about information, about humor, about respect for different points of view and not constant arguing."

But, chief executive officer of Greenstone, Susan Ness, hopes the company will attract male listeners, saying "We do have male voices on the network. It's much better to have a mixture of voices."

Seems the idea of an all-women network stemmed from a company survey showing an 18 percent decrease in female listeners over the past seven years.

You can stick the Beatles

Britain's Royal Mail will be saluting the Beatles in January by releasing six commemorative stamps illustrated with memorable album covers.

The set includes an image of "With the Beatles," released in 1963, which was the group's second album. In the United States, it was the first Beatles album to be released and was titled "Meet the Beatles."

Others in the series include "Help!" (1965), "Revolver" (1966), "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" (1967), "Abbey Road" (1969) and "Let It Be" (1970).

Rupert Everett gets lewd on BBC2

A series of lewd remarks shocked listeners when they tuned into a radio interview with actor Rupert Everett on BBC Radio 2.

He was appearing on Jonathan Ross's Saturday show to plug his new book "Red Carpets and Other Banana Skins."

But Ross was forced to reprimand his guest when Everett began to talk about "fucking", and making reference to "velvet muffs" and getting into actresses' knickers, during the first few minutes of the interview.

After the news break, Everett returned and referred to fame as a "mind make-love" before going on to talk about masturbating as a Catholic.

The homosexual actor, who starred in My Best Friend's Wedding and Shakespeare in Love has had relationships with famous women including Susan Sarandon and the late Paula Yates. He put

his heterosexual affairs down to "adventurousness".

"I was basically adventurous, I think I wanted to try everything," he said.

After the show, a BBC spokeswoman said they had only received four complaints about the radio programme.

Radio and television presenter Jonathon Ross is himself no stranger to controversy, with both he and guests previously in trouble for swearing.

The Loreena Bobbit solution

Talk station 2UE, Sydney has been running a serious ad aimed at men suffering from prostate problems. The ad mentions "secret visits to the men's room" because one symptom of prostate problems is frequent urination.

After the ad assured listeners that "surgery is non-invasive," breakfast presenter Mike Carlton, was heard to suggest, "Why don't you just cut your dick off?"

Officially, the station said it was unsure whether Carlton meant his crack to be heard or not. However, a 2UE employee

was not so sure that Carlton had forgotten to switch off
the mike.

I suppose it was basically editorial comment.

Another dick story - quick dick

Brisbane Australia Nova's Ashley Bradnam challenged rival
4BC's breakfast co-host Peter Dick to find out who could
change the wheel on a car the quickest.

The venue was outside Suncorp Stadium, the judge was a
football legend Wally Lewis and money was raised for the
late crocodile hunter Steve Irwin's Wildlife Warriors.

The winner - Peter Dick...or the "geriatric dick" as the
Nova team refer to him.

DAB and all that jazz

A new jazz station, playing a mixture of bebop, swing, cool
jazz, traditional, blues, soul jazz, modern jazz and
smooth/fusion is to launch nationally in the UK as a sister
station to Classic FM.

The new station will work closely with Classic FM and benefit from cross promotion.

The jazz station will be heard on the national commercial DAB digital multiplex in England, Scotland and Wales and will launch at the end of 2006, as a replacement service for PrimeTime radio, which closed earlier this year.

It's not yet known if the station will broadcast in stereo, due to bandwidth restrictions.

Big radio star gets suspended

After a full-on teaser campaign in which promos told listeners "A Big Star is on the way", causing all sorts of speculation as to who was about to join the station, London's Virgin Radio has revealed that the big star is in fact a mystery sum of cash suspended in a star.

It goes to whoever manages to guess the exact amount on air.

The fake cash is packed into a 20ft perspex model of the station's red star logo hanging above Regent Street.

Virgin is hoping to increase its reach across the UK with

the promotion with TV, internet video and outdoor ads starring
its breakfast DJ Christian O'Connell

The first guess of £15,562.17 was made by Sharon from Cardiff.
The station will give listeners further opportunities every
hour for the next week. If the prize has not been won by the
end of the week DJs will start to give clues.

Have we got a jihad for YOU!

A Columbus, Ohio car dealership's tongue-in-cheek radio
advertisement declaring "a jihad on the automotive market,"
will not be aired, according to a press release.

Several stations rejected the spot from Dennis Mitsubishi,
which boasts that sales representatives wearing "burqas" -
head-to-toe traditional dress for Islamic women -- will sell
vehicles that can "comfortably seat 12 jihadists in the back."

An official with Dennis Mitsubishi said the dealership has
issued an apology for any misunderstanding caused by "an
attempt at humor that fell short."

In the ad, Dennis talks about "launching a jihad on the
automotive market" and giving away toy swords to children.

"Our prices are lower than the evildoers' every day. Just ask the pope!" the ad says. "Friday is fatwa Friday, with free rubber swords for the kiddies."

The dealership general manager Aaron Masterson said radio executives who heard the ad thought it was funny and aggressive.

Masterson said "This is one where we feel we're taking a bull's-eye on terrorists. After all the nonsense that the terrorists put the public through, they're fair game."

Fair enough.

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 with the word Subscribe in the subject line to:

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