

THE RADIO WAVE
"Keeping Radio People in Touch"

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Issue #55

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THE RADIO WAVE
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G'day

This is the final issue of The Radio Wave for 2006.

As usual there'll be no newsletter in January 2007 so, if all goes to plan, the next issue will be the first Sunday of February.

I'm seriously thinking of ceasing publication in its present form as an email newsletter and moving over to a blog format instead.

Main reason being those a***hole spammers who have turned something fantastic and useful, namely email, into a nightmare. I'm getting swamped by more and more spam and they're even worming into the Mailman program I use to send this newsletter and receive messages from subscribers.

See? I'm even forced to use asterisks in place of real letters in some words so this is not caught up in people's spam filters.

I also wonder how many subscribers just don't receive the newsletter at all because of those filters.

I'd really appreciate your thoughts on the blog thing.
Email me at ian@allaboutradio.net.

I would also appreciate you're help in increasing our subscriber base. Please forward this issue to anyone you know that may appreciate the bounteous free content YOU get

every month in The Radio Wave newsletter.

To subscribe all they have to do is send a blank e-mail with the word "Subscribe" in the Subject line to: radiowave@allaboutradio.net

Meantime may I wish you and yours all the best for the Christmas season and a top New Year. And especially our thoughts go to those radio industry people who have to work over this period. Well...someone's gotta do it...

And now...here is the news....

BBC gets record hits with its online radio

BBC online radio scored record listener numbers registering 12.5m for the month of September alone with more than half-a-million for long-running soap 'The Archers'.

BBC Radio has received a record amount of hits from listeners using its BBC Radio Player service

"The Archers" came top with Chris Moyles claiming second place for his Radio 1 morning show.

In terms of individual programmes, BBC Radio 4's "From our Own Correspondent" produced the biggest percentage increase in downloads at 75%, which equates to more than 1m requests for the programme.

Radio 1's 'Best of Moyles' topped the table of weekly podcasts with 574,067 monthly downloads, with fellow shock jock Russell Brand registering 140,440 individual listeners for the month of September.

The Archers still on target

Talking of The Archers, the radio soapie celebrated its 15,000th edition early November, with a knife-edge plot gripping longtime listeners as ever.

The show, first broadcast in 1950, tells the everyday tale of rural life in the fictional village of Ambridge, where typical activities include cowshed births, post-office chats and broken tractor dramas.

The evening program's jaunty theme tune is a maypole dance called Barwick Green, highly evocative of eternal village life in the quiet countryside where Ambridge is set.

But in recent years the show has shocked some by coming up to date, with homosexuality, extra-marital affairs, racist attacks and illegitimate children all adding to the traditional mix.

Interesting backroom secrets include the fact that the Archers' sound effects man squelches his hand in a pot of yoghurt and then throws a wet tea towel onto some straw, to make the

sound of a lamb being born.

And now, The Archers, is to feature the first "gay wedding".

The civil partnership between Adam Macy and Ian Craig, played by Andrew Wincott and Stephen Kennedy, will take place in the episode broadcast on December 14 on BBC Radio 4.

A nip in the air

BBC Radio 1 DJ Edith Bowman asked listeners to write in to her afternoon show with examples of slang and catchphrases.

One email suggested using the phrase Pearl Harbor to refer to cold weather, and used the word "nip" - a derogatory term for Japanese people.

Radio 1 said Bowman had "read this particular term out in error" and that "no offence was intended".

Bowman made an on-air apology half an hour later saying: "Sometimes people say things that might be a derogatory term, but if you're not aware of it you don't know. Apologies if there's been anything that's offended anyone this afternoon."

A spokeswoman added that the station had received no complaints about the incident.

No callers who sound old allowed on air

The BBC has been accused of ageism after Mia Costello, managing editor of BBC Radio Solent, said in a leaked memo to her broadcasters: "I don't want to hear really elderly voices."

She told presenters to appeal to an imaginary couple she called "Dave and Sue", who would typically be aged between 45 and 64. She instructed: "Only do caller round-ups about people in this age range," she said, pointing out listeners were deserting Radio Solent for "more upbeat sounding stations".

The memo leak came after she axed several of her older broadcasters, including the BBC's disability affairs correspondent Peter White, who had a Saturday breakfast show on the station until last week.

Mr White, who is blind, has presented In Touch, the Radio 4 programme for the visually impaired, since 1974. He was given one week's notice that his Radio Solent programme was being scrapped. Other presenters to go include a jazz show host, Chris Walker, and a veteran sailing correspondent, Dennis Skillicorn.

Industry figures show that Solent has lost a quarter of its audience share in the last year.

Asked to comment a BBC spokesman spun: "We do value our older listeners and it doesn't matter if you're 45 or 105."

A killer promo

Oslo radio station P3 is using the voice of a convicted murderer for an ad campaign that warns if people do not listen, "I'll kill you."

The spot features notorious convict Veronica Orderud promoting Mina Hadjian's show.

Orderud was one of four people convicted in the 1999 slayings of her husband's parents and sister. The ad was recorded while she was on prison leave.

In it she says "Hi, this is Veronica Orderud and I listen to Mina every day. And if you don't, I'll kill you."

Orderud told the newspaper VG the radio spot was simply "gallows humor." But, the newspaper reported, prosecutor Jørn Maurud said he failed to find any humor in the "offensive and disturbing" ad campaign.

Radio stations up for the count

How many radio stations are there in the U.S.?

The FCC has just done an update.

As of Sept. 30 there were 4,751 AMs, 6,252 commercial FMs and 2,790 educational FMs for a total of 13,793 radio stations. That compares to June 30 totals of 4,744 AMs, 6,238 commercial FMs and 2,760 educational FMs for a total of 13,742 stations.

There are 746 LPFMs; there were 721 at last count.

The FCC also says there are 4,087 FM translators and boosters. That compares to 4,026 as of June 30.

Radio contest...swap your kid for a PS3?

Would listeners trade a baby for a new Sony PlayStation 3?

It was done as a stunt by KDWB, Minneapolis but they quickly discovered the answer is "yes."

Apparently more than a dozen people called to offer up their kids for 24 hours and only a few of them realized it was all a gag.

One caller named Katie was willing to give up her one-month-old for three whole days - and then would sell the PS3 on eBay for holiday cash.

Morning host Dave Ryan says the response proves one thing... they've built up lots of listener trust in 13 years on the air but they're flabbergasted that some parents would take the offer for real.

Newspaper group moving into radio

The UK's Telegraph Group is apparently looking to move into national radio.

The newspaper group is to launch Telegraph Talk and Telegraph

TV in the New Year, and will offer a 24-hour radio service which it hopes to extend across mobile and the internet.

Insiders say the company wants to pair up with Channel 4, already linked with Emap and UTV, to create a national service.

Telegraph TV would act as an umbrella brand for video content. Just recently the newspaper group completed a deal with news service ITN On for online video content.

Student radio station sold for \$1

The University of the Canterbury Students' Association in New Zealand sold its radio station RDU for \$1, without consulting its student body.

The Association president Warren Po said the radio station's office and equipment were also sold to the company RDU 98.5 FM Ltd for \$1 and the frequency will be sub-licensed.

He says he's annoyed (and po-faced) that the closed-door decision - which will take effect in February - has been publicly leaked, and plans to conduct a "witchhunt" to find out who is responsible.

So where's Springsteen's "Santa Claus is Coming to Town?"

Quite a few AC stations in the U.S. have now switched to their usual all-Christmas Music format and, as usual the same tired songs popped up.

Here are the 19 Christmas "classics" that made their debut on the top 100 national radio airplay chart this week, in order of their position on the chart:

37. Bobby Helms/Jingle Bell Rock
38. Brenda Lee/Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree
39. Burl Ives/A Holly Jolly Christmas
40. Jose Feliciano/Feliz Navidad
41. Nat King Cole/The Christmas Song
47. Bing Crosby/White Christmas
52. Eagles/Please Come Home for Christmas
53. Mariah Carey/All I Want for Christmas Is You
55. Johnny Mathis/It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas
58. John Lennon/Happy Xmas
61. Carpenters/Merry Christmas, Darling
63. Andy Williams/It's the Most Wonderful Time of Year
67. Gene Autry/Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

- 68. Wham!/Last Christmas
- 74. Daryl Hall & John Oates/Jingle Bell Rock
- 83. Band Aid/Do They Know It's Christmas
- 95. Eurythmics/Winter Wonderland
- 96. Andy Williams/Happy Holidays--The Holiday Season
- 99. Whitney Houston/Do You Hear What I Hear

Interestingly Adult Contemporary stations that go all Christmas in the U.S. on average get 10 percent greater share in the ratings so it will no doubt continue annually.

Jock cuts it close

Remember the young 90's pop phenomenon Hanson?

There are obviously still a lot of Hanson fans in their home town of Tulsa U.S.A. who were thrown into a tizz while listening to night jock Dylan on Top 40 KHTT.

Sounding concerned AT 6.10pm he said he had received an e-mail, and asked his audience to "keep the Hanson family in your thoughts and prayers," which resulted in jammed station phone lines.

Then, around 6:30pm, saying he couldn't read the entire email without first getting an official OK from the family, he told listeners that the story involved a razor and one of the band members.

By 6:50pm, with listeners frantic to learn what was going on, he came on reading the "official statement".

"This afternoon around 4p, ZACK HANSON reached puberty and cut his chin during his first attempt to shave" (rimshot).

Great way to extend those Time Spent Listening figures.

Also great way to finish up getting lynched.

How about forwarding 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, with the word subscribe in the subject line, to:
radiowave@allaboutradio.net

Please send comments, stories, suggestions to
ian@allaboutradio.net

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