

THE RADIO WAVE

"Keeping Radio People in Touch"

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THE RADIO WAVE

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is a far reaching e-book for radio beginners or people who want to make radio their career. All the information you'll discover here is "the basics" of radio. Stuff that applies anywhere in the world where professional commercial radio is established.

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G'Day

I love hearing from you, the readers, of this missive.

Any comments about the stories or anything to do with radio, and thoughts or suggestions. All welcome.

Just email me at ian@allaboutradio.net

Let's start with a great quote submitted by **Mary Payne** at www.radiolondon.co.uk Thanks Mary. Love it.

"The radio business is a cruel and shallow money trench, a long plastic hallway where thieves and pimps run free, and good men die like dogs.

There's also a negative side."

Hunter S. Thompson

Now let's see what the wild and whacky world of radio has thrown at us this past month.

Pirate radio returns to the sea

A new pirate radio station has commenced broadcasting from the North Sea, targeting a new generation of MP3 player listeners.

As a one-time "pirate" jock in the UK I find this story particularly interesting, being aware of the anarchic history of this fort.

The station, is transmitting non-stop pop music from the former British naval platform Sealand on the dial at 900AM and calling itself UK900. Sealand is a steel platform perched on two concrete towers located 11km off the coast of Harwich, eastern England.

It began life in 1941 as Roughs Tower during World War 2 and operated as an "off-shore" pirate in the 60's.

In January the file-sharing Swedish website The Pirate Bay was planning to buy the 550 square metre area, officially pronounced by its "owner" Roy Bates as an independent principality.

The radio signal coming from the Principality of Sealand is thought to be operating via a single computer with a large music database on 'shuffle' mode.

It is not known if The Pirate Bay managed to secure the micro-nation, but if it did, this could be the first steps to providing free music to Europe.

And because it is an independent land in international waters, it is not affected by UK broadcast laws.

No mention at this stage of what power the station is putting out.

Miss Scotland gets racist on radio

The reigning Miss Scotland has become added to the list of British politicians and celebrities to be recently accused of racism.

22-year-old Nicola McLean called a black Irish singer Samantha Mumba, a monkey on a live radio programme.

McLean later insisted she was not racist and apologised.

As you do.

Radio host poses as doctor

Marc Goulet, who hosts the "Doctor Goulet Show," on WSBR-AM and WWNN-AM in Boca Raton, Florida, was arrested and charged with treating patients in five Florida counties without a medical license.

It seems Goulet operated out of several unlicensed clinics and claimed to treat erectile dysfunction with testosterone injections and topical creams.

Flicked radio exec. sues Stevie Wonder

As co-owner of Los Angeles radio station KLJH-FM, Stevie Wonder has been named in a wrongful dismissal suit by a disgruntled former employee.

Reginald Thomas Jr. ,a former station sales manager, claimed he was fired after raising concerns about sexual harassment in the workplace and after he discovered some of his colleagues at the station were engaged in plugola.

This is an illegal practice much like payola. Instead of receiving gifts or cash from record companies in exchange for playing certain songs on the radio, advertisers provide perks in exchange for more on-air plugs.

Thomas alleges he was fired after telling General Manager Karen Slade, also named as a defendant, that one of KLJH's regular advertisers expressed concern that it had been the victim of a "shakedown."

The suit says Thomas also asked Slade about a mobile phone call made by Wonder to a female sales associate, wondering(!) whether the call constituted sexual harassment.

Thomas seeks unspecified damages and more than \$3.5 million in unpaid wages and benefits, including compensation he said he would have received if he hadn't been let go.

Meantime, Marty Singer, attorney for KJLH and Stevie Wonder, released the following statement:

"The lawsuit ...is completely unfounded. Unfortunately, following his termination for cause after working at KJLH for five months, Mr. Thomas came forward with these merit less claims. KJLH and all of the defendants named in the lawsuit expect to be fully vindicated in court when the

fictional claims made by Mr. Thomas are dismissed."

Radio newscaster kidnapped in western **Baghdad**

Gunmen abducted a radio newscaster and his driver in a predominantly Sunni neighborhood in western **Baghdad**.

Karim Manhal, a newscaster with Radio Dijla, and his driver were seized by four masked gunmen in the Jami'a neighborhood near the station's headquarters. A female staffer who was with them in the car was released.

Radio Dijla, named after the Arabic name for the **Tigris** River, was created in 2004 as **Iraq's first independent** talk radio station.

German radio strong despite podcasting challenge

According to the current analysis of "MA 2007 Radio 1" in Germany (whatever that is), the use of radio is high and stable.

The report says: "While iPod and Podcasting is trendy and hip the radio is simply more accessible to people. You turn on the radio and get music and information immediately. That is what people want. Forget downloading and technical blah blah."

According to the analysis, four out of five Germans aged 14 and older still hear three hours radio a day. The rapid technical developments in communication have not shown any real impact on the radio market, this despite the wide-spread view that digitisation, mobility, interactivity, Podcasting and video will cannibalize radio usage.

Does this mean podcasting should be ignored? At their peril.

We have a winner...well actually 100 winners!

Brisbane, Australia station B105 has claimed a radio first

with 100 listeners winning a trip to **Japan**.

The station's new breakfast show was promising a \$100,000 prize would go off in a program that was broadcast live in an **OB with 100 listeners**.

New breakfast announcer Labrat then surprised his **audience** during the program when he announced all of them would be traveling to **Japan**.

The event was a joint promotion organised by the B105 promotions team and JetStar who are now flying to **Japan** as part of a code share arrangement with Japan Airlines.

CD sales decline continues

The way consumers buy music is continuing its shift.

The Wall Street Journal reports a dramatic acceleration of a seven-year sales decline that has caused compact-disc sales for the first three months of this year to plunge 20% from a year earlier.

The sharp slide in sales of CDs, which still account for more than 85% of music sold, has far eclipsed the growth in sales of digital downloads, which were supposed to have been the industry's salvation.

There are a number of factors contributing to the slide such as the closing in the **U.S.** of about 800 music stores including the longtime music **mecca Tower Records** eighty-nine locations in 2006.

Stern words on Christian station

A number of radio stations in **Southwestern Florida**, including a Christian radio station, have inadvertently broadcast the Howard Stern Show from Sirius Satellite Radio.

For 20 years, 88.7 has broadcast Christian music in southwest Florida. But lately when you tune in, you could hear the voice of Howard Stern.

Jeff Taylor, general manager, said: "This is not the K-Rock Howard Stern. This is not the Howard Stern people might have heard when watching the E! channel years ago. This is the unbridled, unrestricted Howard Stern, and I was really shocked by what I heard."

The problem is all to do with the device that sends a signal from your satellite receiver or iPods through the air to your car's antenna. You can choose to tune it in on one of four FM stations including 88.7.

The FM transmitter was initially designed to be fairly weak so that it wouldn't go very far. In a lot of the newer units, it's been boosted up so that you get a clearer signal.

So people's cars are acting as FM transmitters with the signal being picked up by other cars which explains why Stern is overpowering Christian radio.

Digital use widening in Europe

The field of digital and interactive content, such as on-line radio, digital music, digital video, on-line and mobile games will reach 8.3 billion euros in 2010, according to a report ordered by the European Commission.

The report says in that year, 2.4% of the European population (11 million people) will listen or watch at least one podcast a week.

The number of broadband users will double in the next three years and the number of people listening to digital radio will reach a penetration of 7%.

BBC radio on your phone

The BBC is to trial the broadcasting of up to eight of its

national radio stations via 3G mobile phones. Radio 1, 1Xtra, Radio 2, Radio 3, Radio 4, 6 Music, BBC7 and the Asian Network will be available within a month to Vodafone, Orange and 3 customers who subscribe to their network's TV service.

Customers of 3 can access the channels free for a month after which the network charges £5 a month.

We need more subscribers to this list!

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