

"The Radio Wave"

Keeping Radio People in Touch"

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THE RADIO WAVE

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Radio Host Expresses Glee Over Death of Rival's Mother

A former alderman and controversial U.S. radio talk show host said he's happy the mother of his radio rival is dead.

Michael McGee Sr. made the comments during his radio show on Milwaukee WNOV-AM.

Charlie Sykes is a radio talk show host on WTMJ-AM. Sykes' mother, Katherine B. Sykes, died in a house fire Tuesday...

McGee and Sykes have been publicly battling for years, but even in the world of talk radio, some are saying the comments made are extreme.

Radio jock named Jock displays dirty jocks

Christian radio station Light FM in Melbourne, Australia, is utilising a new concept to bring listeners to its station by putting up two full size billboard advertisements featuring a pair of grubby underpants.

Trying to draw listeners to the radio station General Manager Phil Gray, said that it was the Drivetime announcer, Jock Leroy Brown who came up with the idea.

And that's his real name and no, he isn't big and bad. He came up with 'No Dirty Jocks' one day just mucking around with some of the other guys as they were just playing around with some crazy positioning statements.

He explains "That one told a little of what we stood for: essentially we are a good clean positive station trying to give people a glimpse of godly living and the living God - with 'No Dirty Jocks'".

"The one thing that a lot of people are saying is, 'What's the deal with your billboards?' I also think it's funny that at the same time an opposing radio station in **Melbourne** is running a Nude Day TV Campaign - two completely different ends of the scale."

"When People see "No Dirty Jocks" they are going to get curious and have a listen, only to find the our radio station has nothing to do with underpants but it's a station that is safe for the whole family."

Runaway hearse crashes radio station

A runaway hearse visited the building occupied by adult standards WBTG-AM and religion WBTG-FM in **Sheffield, Alabama**.

A hearse parked at a nearby church apparently jumped out of gear and rolled down the street and hillside, slamming into the wall behind the radio stations' production studio where the PD Sales Manager were producing a commercial.

Nobody was hurt in the crash, which knocked some concrete blocks into the building. The damage was repaired within two hours and the stations remained on the air. The hearse was damaged and a replacement had to be brought in for the funeral.

No word on whether the hearse was occupied at the time.

Hosts in the doghouse

The syndicated CBS Radio show "The Dog House with JV and Elvis" was cancelled and its two hosts sacked.

This followed an on-air phone call during which they made racial slurs against Asians.

Jeff Vandergrift and Dan Lay, made a prank call to a Chinese restaurant during which they ordered "slimp flied lice" and compared food items to certain parts of the body.

Interestingly the call was made the day after Don Imus made the remark about the Rutgers women's basketball team that resulted in his firing. The call was replayed on the air a week later.

Meantime other U.S. shock jocks don't seem to be too worried about the Imus sacking.

Recently on the "Opie & Anthony Show" on XM Satellite Radio, a homeless man said he'd like to have sex with Condoleezza Rice, Queen Elizabeth, and Laura Bush.

As a result of this the pair were suspended by XM for 30 days.

Listeners get more info from mobile phones - less from radio

Bridge Ratings' latest study of U.S. cell phone use finds that the cell phone is rapidly becoming more than just a person-to-person communication device. The study indicates that more radio listeners are getting information from their cell phones and less from their radios.

The study of 3506 persons ages 13+ was conducted between February 28th and April 30th.

Among the findings:

- * 70% of the US population now owns at least one cell phone

 - more than 210 million people

- * Text messaging still dominates as the preferred cell phone service followed by traffic reports and news/sports updates which has shown significant growth in the last 12 months.

- * While audio streaming through their cell phones is preferred by only 8% of the sample, 25% say they would really like to use their cell phones to time-shift on-demand radio content and 30% see listening to some form of radio content on their phones as a "service of interest."

At current expected growth rates, cell phone users will top 300 million by 2015.

XM London kills the radio star

Radio network Xfm London is to get rid of all DJs on its shows between the hours of 10am & 4pm.

The station will play songs suggested by listeners via text, phone and on the Xfm website, where users will be able to compile playlists, join debating forums and vote for their favourite songs.

The DJs Marsha and Graeme Smith will disappear between 10am and 4pm each weekday. Instead, listeners will choose the music through text message and votes on the XFM website. Messages left by listeners will punctuate the stream of music.

The innovation will be introduced this month in the network's London, Scotland and Manchester stations, which have a million listeners.

Nick Davidson, XFM's managing director, said: "Our listeners are used to being able to control what they watch or listen to. Allowing them to shape their own content seems the next logical step."

Specialist DJs will continue in the evening with audience research showing that many listeners appreciate the musical expertise of some hosts.

Bit over the top considering their target audience is 18 – 35. What will make them sound different from an iPod only one that's been programmed by strangers?

Mancow recommends responsible radio

Following the firing of U.S. shock jocks Imus, Elvis & JV and the Opie & Anthony suspension, now reformed shock jock Mancow (Erich Muller) is advocating that radio personalities

practice responsible radio.

To help presenters do this he has created Ten Commandments for Radio Personalities.

They are:

1. Thou shalt never endanger listeners.
2. Racism is always a dumb idea.
3. Complacency on the inside loses listeners from the outside. Work at your art.
4. Contests must always be straight forward. (Being too cute with contests can be costly.)
5. Advertisers pay you. They are your friends.
6. Have a delay button (preferably 20 seconds or more) and when in doubt use it.
7. Don't dis someone's religion.
8. Don't let anyone curse in your studio ever. Get them out of that habit. If they are comfortable with cursing, it can someday accidentally get on the radio.
9. Instruct guests on your radio standards so they don't get you in trouble.
10. Do good. (We're not on earth to mark time. We're here to make a difference).

As a matter of interest, Mancow describes himself as a "conservative, Bible-thumping radical who curses".

Producers' novel sends up radio

A Chicago radio producer, Rick Kaempfer, cashing in on his

experience in the industry, has written a satirical novel about the radio business.

"\$EVERANCE" is the saga of a morning man whose station owner wants him to quit so they won't have to pay severance and his resistance to the company's increasing attempts to make him too miserable to continue.

Kaempfer is also the co-writer of "The Radio Producer's Handbook."

Book available here...

<http://www.enpress.com/SEV.html>

Audio Pioneer Sennheiser Celebrates 95th Birthday

Anyone who works in radio is aware of the name Sennheiser. Well, Prof. Dr. Fritz Sennheiser, a pioneer in the field of electroacoustics, celebrated his 95th birthday on May 9th.

Sennheiser has had a decisive influence on the development of sound transmission technology with his company Sennheiser Electronic GmbH & Co.

In June 1945 Sennheiser and a small staff founded "Laboratorium Wennebostel" in an abandoned laboratory. Today, more than 1,650 people work for Sennheiser throughout the world, and the company now has production sites in **Germany, Ireland and the US.**

Sennheiser says that his interest in all things technical started early. He adds, "I built my own radio receiver in 1924 from a slide coil and a crystal."

As his company and career progressed, Sennheiser recalls, "We were always dissatisfied with the 'state-of-the-art' and always wanted to create something new, something better."

"Our main priority was to have fun in developing something. And we certainly had a lot of fun when we discovered something

really new. We had so many ideas. While others were busy copying our products, we already had our next inventions up our sleeve."

He adds that his motto in business has been "allowing our developers to give free rein to their creative ideas, no matter how crazy they might seem."

Radio station silenced by fly invasion

Staff at a small southern Swedish rock music station discovered too late that a swarm of flies had laid eggs inside the equipment stored in a separate shed beside the studio.

The station in Ystad was forced off the air for three hours after thousands of freshly hatched insects caused Radio Active's broadcasting equipment to malfunction.

When station manager **Andreas Narsell** opened the door he found the shed full of flies, both living and dead.

He said: "Thousands, maybe even tens of thousands of black flies came flying out. The whole thing felt like a Hitchcock film."

The station had to remain off the air for three hours while new equipment was installed.

"We have a new slogan now: '50,000 flies can't be wrong - choose Radio Active'," said Narsell.

Death sentence for radio reporter's murderer

The California Supreme Court has upheld the death sentence for a man convicted of killing a **Los Angeles** radio reporter.

Andrew Lancaster was convicted in 1998 of first-degree murder and kidnapping, and was sentenced to death in connection with the killing of KPFK personality Michael Taylor. The

court unanimously upheld Lancaster's sentence last week.

Taylor was found shot to death in April 1996 in South Los Angeles. Two accomplices also convicted in the killing testified against Lancaster and received lesser sentences.

Prosecutors say the three kidnapped Taylor, who was 45 when he was killed.

They say Lancaster tied him up and shot him in the head in an extortion attempt over radio equipment.

Prize withdrawn by radio station

London commercial radio station Magic FM withdrew a £168,600 prize after doubts emerged over the winner.

The money was won at the end of March when a caller correctly identified three mystery celebrity voices.

But a spokesman for the station said subsequent identity and voice checks meant the result was cancelled.

The money will rollover to a new competition in the autumn and the interest accumulated will be donated to Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Hmmm...is there something we're not being told here?

Digital radio and FM on your iPod

A unique plug-in to allow users to listen to DAB and FM radio via their iPod has just been announced in the UK.

Roberts Radio and Frontier Silicon are working together to bring the first ever DAB/FM plug-in radio for iPods to the market. The device will be available before Christmas.

In DAB mode, a small screen on the device displays the

name of the radio station.

The plug-in is expected to boost radio listening in this move welcomed by both the BBC and commercial radio.

Listener saves host's life

The WOHS - Shelby, North Carolina - "Swap Shop" host Tim Biggerstaff was desperately in need of help from his listeners when he fell ill on the air.

His health problems over the years have been well-known to the audience (he had had pancreas and kidney replacement surgery, including receiving a kidney donated by a listener), told listeners he was feeling a seizure coming on, then passed out, leaving dead air.

A listener who rushed to the station and found the door locked called 911, which drew emergency help and saved Biggerstaff's life.

He said the last thing he remembered was saying, "Hey guys, I'm sick. I need a little help over here."

He spent a day in the hospital but has since returned to air.

A FINAL NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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