

THE Magazine for Today's Radio Industry

# Now Radio

OCTOBER 20, 1987

ISSUE # 38



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THE LATEST RADIO JOB VACANCIES, LOOSE ENDS, NORMAN McLEOD ON PROCESSING, STEVI MERIKE DEPARTS TOP-RATED PM DRIVE AIRSHIFT, IBA WANT TO LAUNCH 13 NEW ILR STATIONS, THE BATTLE OF THE CHART SHOWS, SCOPE FOR NEWSRADIO IN LONDON, . . . ROSE'S RAMBLINGS AND ALL THE UP TO DATE NEWS!!

THE Magazine for  
Today's Radio Industry  
**Now Radio**

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# EDITORIAL COMMENT

ISSUE # 38

OCTOBER 20, 1987

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FRONT PAGE ILLUSTRATION: Left to Right:  
CHARLIE WOLF, RONAN O'RAHILLY, HOWARD G L  
ROSE and JOHNNIE WALKER.

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The IBA Governors have agreed that 13 new Independent Local Radio stations should be advertised by the Authority. The IBA wants to advertise the first contracts before the end of the year. The Authority wants a total of six contracts advertised by the end of next year.

Great!

But, what about plans for hundreds of new local radio services.

The Home Office gave its approval for the 13 new areas back in 1981...just six years ago!

If this is an example of the speed the IBA can work at...and the importance it puts to the development of a bigger, better radio industry...let's see somebody else responsible!

After all, how long would the IBA take to organise getting 300 new stations on the air??

HOWARD G L ROSE  
Editor.

## EARLY SWITCH-ON FOR NEW ILR TRANSMITTER

The IBA allowed OCEAN SOUND to open official transmissions from a new Winchester FM relay transmitter earlier than planned last Friday following the hurricane storms which swept over Southern and Eastern Britain.

## ORGANISATION PROTESTS TO IBA

The industrial pressure group AIMS OF INDUSTRY has registered its protest with the IBA after a series of commercials were banned from UK commercial radio.

## DESERT ISLAND DESERTED BY PARKY

MICHAEL PARKINSON is leaving RADIO 4's DESERT ISLAND DISCS after two years as presenter. He says he wants to get out of both radio and television and spend more time writing.

The 52-year-old broadcaster took over the programme following the death of its innovator, ROY PLONLEY. The programme was first transmitted in 1942.

PARKINSON will stay with the show until a replacement has been found. Amongst candidates are RICHARD BAKER, ROBERT ROBINSON, STEVE RACE and JOHNNY MORRIS.

## RELIGIOUS OP AIRS FROM IRELAND

GOOD NEWS RADIO has taken airtime on the AM, Shortwave and FM-Stereo transmission facilities of RADIO RAINBOW INTERNATIONAL in Co. Louth, Ireland.

The organisation is headed by broadcaster DAVID GRAHAM and programmes are broadcast through the leased facility each Sunday afternoon.

## NOW RADIO REPORTS

The latest publication from NOW RADIO COMMUNICATIONS, publishers of NOW RADIO MAGAZINE (this publication) are pleased to report overwhelming support for the new fortnightly newsletter, NOW RADIO REPORTS.

NOW RADIO REPORTS is published fortnightly in the week between this publication and provides an up-date on radio industry news and affairs, plus a more up-to-date job vacancy listing.

Produced in A4 format, NOW RADIO REPORTS costs £15 per year to existing subscribers of NOW RADIO MAGAZINE.

To subscribe - and keep fully informed every week - subscribers should send £15 plus name, address and subscriber reference number (first four numbers on address labels) to:

NOW RADIO REPORTS  
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FREEPOST  
KETTERING  
NORTHANTS  
NN16 0BR

Overseas subscribers should send £20 to NOW RADIO, PO BOX 45, KETTERING, NN16 0NW.

NOW RADIO REPORTS is available only to existing subscribers as a 'tag on' and 'supplement' to the Magazine, but a sample issue can be provided for £1.00p to the above address.

Further information may be obtained by phoning in office hours.

**IBA COULD HAVE  
FIRST NEW ILR  
CONTRACTS  
ADVERTISED BY END  
OF YEAR**

The INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING AUTHORITY has received approval from Authority Members to push ahead with plans to open a new batch of ILR stations around the country.

The IBA is now seeking a meeting with the HOME OFFICE to officially outline its plan.

The HOME OFFICE approved the 13 areas for ILR on the 14th July, 1981 but because the Government is to re-organise radio broadcasting structures, it is seen that the IBA needs to have discussions with the HOME OFFICE.

The 13 new stations will be:

AYLESBURY  
BORDERS (Hawick) with Berwick  
CAMBRIDGE & NEWMARKET  
DORCESTER/VEYMOUTH  
EASTBOURNE/HASTINGS  
HERTFORD & HARLOW  
MILTON KEYNES  
NORTH WEST WALES  
OXFORD/BANBURY  
REDRUTH/FALMOUTH/PENZANCE/TRURO  
STRANRAER/DUMFRIES/GALLOWAY  
YEOVIL/TAUNTON

WHITEHAVEN & WORKINGTON/CARLISLE  
The first contracts to be advertised, according to reliable sources, will be EASTBOURNE/HASTINGS and CAMBRIDGE/NEWMARKET.

The next would be OXFORD/BANBURY followed by YEOVIL/TAUNTON.

It is thought that the first advertisements for the new franchises will be placed in local newspapers before the end of the year.

NOW RADIO understands that

the IBA will be planning to advertise six of the new contracts in 1988.

It is expected that the new stations will be the first to operate on one waveband, FM. The end of broadcasting the same programmes from the same station on AM and FM was called for in many submissions to the HOME OFFICE in response to the Green Paper on the future of Radio.

The IBA claims that there will be no favoritism to be shown to existing ILR contractors with services either adjacent or distant from the new areas.

There have been fears amongst prospective applicants not already involved with ILR that the IBA may allow the new contracts to be 'tagged-on' to existing contractors service areas.

RADIO FORTH (Edinburgh) which now also owns RADIO TAY (Dundee) has been investigating applying for the BORDERS contract, and it is widely believed that CHILTERN, which runs stations in Luton/Bedford and Northampton is interested in Oxford/Banbury, Cambridge & Newmarket and Milton Keynes. HEReward RADIO, after giving up the Northampton contract to CHILTERN, decided to include Cambridge as a part of its service area. However, the area will be advertised by the IBA and open to all applicants. HEReward RADIO would, in the IBA's view, have to put forward the best application. "These people do not have Squatters Rights!" said a source.

## YORKSHIRE STATIONS REACH AGREEMENT

A massive 32% shareholding in PENNINE RADIO bought by RADIO AIRE (Leeds) when the RED ROSE owned station was attempting a takeover of the ailing Bradford station have now been officially registered and a provision that they should be sold on directly to the YORKSHIRE RADIO NETWORK has been met.

The YORKSHIRE RADIO NETWORK comprises RADIO HALLAM, PENNINE RADIO and VIKING RADIO. The group was formed to combat the attempted takeover by RADIO AIRE and also resulted in major blocks of airtime being shared between the stations as well as a major restructure of management and resources at the three stations.

The IBA stepped in and refused to give permission for the merger between RADIO AIRE and PENNINE. The attempted merger escalated to a move designed to pull not only PENNINE but also VIKING and HALLAM into the control of the RED ROSE RADIO operation - which also controls stations in Cardiff and Preston.

The YORKSHIRE RADIO NETWORK now holds 87.5% of 'A' (voting) and 90.4% on non-voting shares in the Bradford station.

RADIO AIRE had hoped to merge with PENNINE and form one station to serve the whole of West Yorkshire as WYBC - West Yorkshire Broadcasting Company - the operations officially registered name. The IBA had refused a station name

change to WYBC whilst it was just the Leeds' contractor, claiming it was misleading as PENNINE also served West Yorkshire.

Programmes and News operations of both stations would have been located at RADIO AIRE.

## RADIO CITY BOSS INCREASES AIRC RESPONSIBILITIES

In a partial reorganisation of the ILR contractors trade association AIRC, TERRY SMITH, managing director of Liverpool-based RADIO CITY has increased his responsibilities.

SMITH, who is Chairman of the AIRC Labour Relations Committee, has assumed responsibility for industrial relations. IAN NICHOLSON, who had been Industrial Relations Advisor, has now been made redundant.

A meeting of managing directors of ILR stations decided the post that NICHOLSON held was now unnecessary following the replacement of a national agreement with the jouno union, NUJ, with house agreements around the network of commercial stations.

## SHARING UNIT MOVES TO CUT COSTS

A move of the ILR Programme Sharing Unit from the AIRC to CAPITAL RADIO has been made.

It is designed to save further costs for the trade association.

## 20-20 NEWS FORMAT INTRO'S AT CHILTERN

The CHILTERN NETWORK of CHILTERN 96 (Luton/Bedford) and NORTHANTS 96 (Northampton) brought in 20-20 NEWSFLOW on October 15.

The 20-20 format was first used in UK commercial music radio at SWANSEA SOUND. At that time SWANSEA SOUND's Programme Controller was COLIN MASON, now Managing Director of CHILTERN. The Programme Controller of CHILTERN, PHIL FOTHERGILL, was a Producer/Presenter at SWANSEA under Mason.

20-20 NEWSFLOW means that CHILTERN offers a main news bulletin at the top of the hour, with another break at 20-past and 20-to each hour, for news, sport, travel up-dates. The service runs 6am until 7pm on CHILTERN.

At SWANSEA SOUND the 20-20 format earned the station a larger audience than might have been expected to a general music-based station, with local's tuning in to hear their latest local news. The South West Wales station also used one of the bulletins to carry news headlines in Welsh.

Massive on-air promotion was given to the introduction of 20-20 NEWSFLOW, describing it as "a dynamic new information service designed so that listeners are never more than 20 minutes away from news, traffic or spots up-dates".

## NEW START FOR ANDERSON

After 11 years with the RADIO CAROLINE organisation, both as a broadcaster and behind the scenes organiser, TOM ANDERSON has finally made the move!

ANDERSON has joined the team in the South of France commercial station SUNSHINE RADIO for a spell as a

relief presenter.

He is also looking at other possible areas for the future of his career, including the possibility of working in ILR and the syndication of OVERDRIVE programming.

He was the main force behind the now long-abandoned evening rock service from CAROLINE.

He told NOW RADIO, "I always said that when I stopped enjoying something, I'd stop doing it..."

His departure from RADIO CAROLINE was most amicable, but he feels that it is now time to establish roots and look at further developments away from the often insecure world of offshore broadcasting.

*Should any Programme Controller feel he or she may be able to offer TOM ANDERSON a position, please contact HOWARD ROSE at the NOW RADIO MAGAZINE office on (0536) 514437 during office hours. It might also be worth mentioning that besides his professional presentation, TOM ANDERSON also carries with him a wealth of knowledge of the music and one of the biggest record collections we have seen!*

## US NETWORK TAKEOVER

The NBC Radio Network has been taken over by WESTWOOD ONE of California in a deal reported to be worth \$50,000,000.

NBC Radio has 3 networks. Their corporate identity will be retained as will links with NBC news and NBC TV, which were not a part of the deal.

It is the second biggest radio network in the world.

WESTWOOD already had taken over the MUTUAL RADIO network in a \$30,000,000 package.

MUTUAL is now turning in a profit. WESTWOOD ONE rep's BBC Radio in the United States.

## NEW WATCHDOG FOR VIOLENCE WILL REACH TO RADIO

The announcement on October 7, by Home Secretary, DOUGLAS HURD, of his intention to establish a new Broadcasting Standards Council concerned with complaints about violence and sex on television, will also extend to Radio programmes. It will also have authority to deal with cable and satellite broadcasts.

The new Council is intended to act as a focus for public concern about the portrayal of sex and violence. It will be able to publicise its findings on individual programmes and take up specific and general complaints with the broadcasters; it will also initiate studies and research on programme standards and their effect on society.

The HOME OFFICE says the constitutional and editorial independence of the broadcasting authorities will not be effected and the new Council will not take over the broadcasting authorities' existing responsibilities for enforcing broadcasting standards.

The new Council will be set up as soon as possible and will subsequently be given statutory backing. The existing BROADCASTING COMPLAINTS COMMISSION will continue to deal with complaints about unjust treatment and the invasion of privacy. The relationship between the new Council and the BROADCASTING COMPLAINTS

COMMISSION is now under discussion and will be determined in legislation at a later date. The BBC, IBA, and the CABLE AUTHORITY are being consulted about the Government's intentions.

## RADIO ONE EXPANDS PLAYLIST...ALBUM CUTS TO GET PRIME DAYTIME EXPOSURE

The new Head of Music at RADIO ONE, ROGER LEWIS, says his station is to give more exposure to album cuts during prime-time daytime programmes.

The station claims to be expanding its playlist to 40 titles (singles) on a main 'A' list, 20 on a 'B' list and an unknown quantity on a secret 'C' list. Record companies will only be allowed to know what's on the A and B lists.

## EDINBURGH & DUNDEE STATIONS LINK FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE

Britain's tenth ILR station to go on air (in 1975) RADIO FORTH has started broadcasting 24-hours-per-day all week long.

Until now the Edinburgh station had been broadcasting 21-hours on weekdays and around-the-clock at weekends only.

RADIO TAY in Dundee, now owned by FORTH, takes the extra hours of output which come from the Scottish capital studio centre.

RADIO FORTH transmits on 1458 kHz and 97.3 MHz FM. RADIO TAY is heard on 1161 kHz, 1584 kHz, 102.8 MHz and 96.4 MHz FM.

## ISRAEL TO GET LOCAL COMMERCIAL RADIO

Israel's new Communications Minister, GAD YA'ACOB, has announced that his department is currently planning a "revolution" in that country's broadcasting system. Amongst his plans will be at least 10 local and private commercial radio stations.

Until now the only commercials aired on Israeli radio have been on the state run pop music and light music/talk channels (Programme B and C) and the offshore station, VOICE OF PEACE.

The VOICE OF PEACE, established in 1973, is the only station at present to permit advertising on the Sabbath (Shabat).

It is thought that the VOICE OF PEACE will be making an application, not for the first time, to bring its entire operation ashore. It operates both AM and FM signals from the m.v. PEACE off the Tel-Aviv coast.

## TALMAGE WILL RUN WILTSHIRE STATION

As expected, TONY TALMAGE will be the Manager for the BBC's new local station in Wiltshire.

TALMAGE, who began his BBC career at RADIO BRIGHTON (now SUSSEX), has been Manager at RADIO GUERNSEY for the last couple of years.

The new BBC station will be identifying itself as BBC WILTSHIRE SOUND and begin broadcasting next year.

## NEWS???

LET NOW RADIO REPORT YOUR  
NEWS & DEVELOPMENTS.....

TELEPHONE (0536) 51 44 37

## BATTLE OF THE CHARTS COMMENCES

Following hot on the heels of RADIO ONE changing the system under which it compiles its Top-40 survey, using computer data on sales through until the close of trading on Saturday afternoon for a new chart run down on Sunday afternoon, both INDEPENDENT RADIO and RADIO LUXEMBOURG have announced major changes to their chart programmes.

The number of record stores on the panel for compiling the NETWORK CHART for ILR has been increased by 200 to 500 per week. Now RADIO LUXEMBOURG has announced that it is reviving what it describes as The Legendary TOP 20 chart.

PHIL WARD-LARGE, Head of Music for RADIO LUXEMBOURG, told NOW RADIO: "For some time now, we've operated a chart called NEXT WEEKS TOP40. It's been a Prediction chart, telling people what will be in demand next week, rather than what's been selling over the past seven days. Now we feel it's time for a more aggressive approach.

"Sales in just a handful of provincial record stores can influence the lower regions of the sales charts. Why should we bother to play these records - or the ones going down the chart either. Our listeners aren't interested in what people have been buying - they want to know what will be in demand next week.

"So, from October 26, we'll revert to just a Top 20 listing. We'll still be a Prediction Chart, though, and with the show on Monday's, we'll be the most up-to-date available. And to check we are right, people can tune into our competitors like RADIO 1 and ILR to hear them play the same records six days later."

The new NEXT WEEK'S TOP 20 (Monday 7pm - 9pm) will be presented by PETER ANTHONY who returns to the station after a successful stint last year.

## MOVIE LINK FOR METRO RADIO

ABC, The American Cinema Chain, opened up their latest UK cinema with a special radio broadcast.

The METROCENTRE 10 opened up with a one-off 'Drive-In Movie'. It was held in the METROCENTRE's massive car park, and the film was shown on a giant screen with sound provided through both a PA system and being broadcast on 1575 kHz AM. The medium wave transmission was licenced through the HOME OFFICE's Special Event Radio experiment.

Prior to the event one of METRO RADIO's presenters introduced a special two-hour show on the special event channel.

The METROCENTRE is Europe's largest out of town retail complex. It includes purpose built retail units for the likes of HOUSE OF FRASER and MARKS & SPENCER plus hundreds of other units. It has restaurants, an indoor amusement park and the new 10 screen cinema. It is located right next door to METRO RADIO's studios.

## NEW YORK PIRATE REPORT

AL WIENER of RADIO NEWYORK INTERNATIONAL has told NOW RADIO that the offshore station will not be back on the air from International Waters off the US East coast for a while yet.

"It could be late winter, but more than likely the spring before we are back on the air...but we will be back, have no doubts about that!" he told us.

The RADIO NEWYORK INTERNATIONAL ship, SARAH, is currently in port at Boston, Mass undergoing repairs and upgrading of equipment, including generators.

Legal action against the ship, which was arrested on the high seas, was later dropped by the FCC, whose jurisdiction outside the US was in doubt.

## NORTH SEA RADIO SHIPS RIDE OUT WORST STORMS FOR 300 YEARS

The two North Sea radio ships, ROSS REVENGE and COMMUNICATOR sailed through the violent hurricane weather conditions last week with no reports of injuries.

However, RADIO CAROLINE was forced to close down at 3pm on Friday afternoon as the 558 kHz transmitter was continually 'tripping' and there was risk of the transmitter blowing up.

CAROLINE, and associate station, MONIQUE, were both on the start of regular programmes on the Friday morning, though there was a short break for around an hour at 7.30am. Aboard the former LASER vessel, COMMUNICATOR, things were chaotic but fairly controlled. A Coastguard source reported to NOW RADIO that the ship had drifted about 20-miles from its new Sunk anchorage off the Suffolk coast and in international waters.

The previous week the COMMUNICATOR lost one of its anchors during a gale and was inside the new 12-mile United Kingdom territorial waters limit for a period before sailing to the new anchorage.

Another report said that studio equipment had been strewn around below decks - but nobody was harmed.

The COMMUNICATOR is under brand-new ownership and planning to commence broadcasting two stations as soon as work on a new antenna system has been completed.

One service will be hot hits STAR FORCE 576 and the other Easy Listening HARMONY 981.

The recent bad weather has delayed the erection of a new antenna system aboard the ship. However management have not yet announced an official start date for the new services, though 'before Christmas' is one logical aim for them.

**"THE FACT THAT  
THE FUTURE OF  
RADIO IS UNDER  
REVIEW SHOULD  
NOT, IN THE  
GOVERNMENT'S  
VIEW, BE AN  
EXCUSE FOR DOING  
NOTHING IN THE  
MEANTIME"**

Those words were used by the HOME OFFICE Minister with special responsibility for broadcasting, TIMOTHY RENTON when addressing the Congress of the ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT RADIO CONTRACTORS in June.

The IBA is hoping that those words will result in the HOME OFFICE giving the go-ahead to them to advertise 13 new ILR contracts (see full story Page 4 of this issue of NOW RADIO Magazine).

In planning the new contracts the IBA has also sought to make it clear that the new stations would broadcast only on FM - thus coming into line with the thinking at the HOME OFFICE, and amongst so many prospective community and commercial local broadcasters, that 'simulcasting' should be ended. It is a waste of frequency spectrum.

The IBA has also warned contractors such as CHILTERN RADIO that they do not have "Squatters Rights" to the new areas - even if their signals swamp them.

But, the words of TIMOTHY RENTON could also be used by other groups who want to get their stations on the air - commercial and community - neighbourhood and community of interest - as an indication that they should not necessarily be expected to have to wait for the new legislation before they approach the HOME OFFICE for permission to operate their

services.

As reported a while back in NOW RADIO, even the VOICE OF THE LISTENER believes that the Government should 'immediately offer a large number (far beyond the 21 experimental licences planned in the aborted community radio fiasco a couple of years back) to those able to get to the air. Vol said it would also reduce the number of illegal pirates on the air.

Vol made the valid point that these licences could be made to run for an experiment which would last until legislation had past through Parliament. As a Bill will not be before the House until next Autumn, at the earliest, and it would take many months - if not several years - to bring its plans into action - licences could last three or four years. The stations coming on the air would also provide valuable experience for the future.

So, if there is no excuse for doing nothing, can we expect to hear favourable responses from the HOME OFFICE to applications from groups, organisations and companies wishing to establish local radio services in this interim period before the new Broadcasting Bill becomes law?

If the IBA is to be allowed to put another bunch of stations on the air - its way - then others with equally as much right to broadcast - should start making their voices felt at THE HOME OFFICE.

NOW RADIO suggests that prospective broadcast stations should start by communicating with us to arrange a policy where all kinds of applicant group can make themselves and their needs felt in the right places - for action to result.

Let's hear from you if you are interested....

HGLR

## O P E N I N G S

The main listing appears on inside back page of this issue.

STAN HOROBIN, boss of 2CR (Bournemouth) is hunting for experienced PRESENTERS. You must be capable of producing and presenting magazine-format programmes and self-motivated. Creative Communicators should mail applications with an aircheck cassette and CV to Stan at 2CR (Two Counties Radio, PO Box 828, Bournemouth, BH1 3LP.....

GWR is the commercial radio station offering a service to Swindon, Bristol, Bath and Plymouth. As they expand there comes a need for new staff and a current vacancy is for an experienced SALES PERSON to join their team based in Swindon. They're offering a first class package of salary, station car and bonus scheme. If you are well-educated and have a successful sales record, send your CV pronto to: PAUL ANGUS, Sales Director, GWR, PO Box 2000, Watershead, Canons Road, Bristol, BS99 7SN.....

The BEC is looking for PRODUCERS to work on its prime News and Current affairs programmes such as TODAY, THE WORLD AT ONE, PM, NEWBEAT and THE WORLD TONIGHT. Reference 4508. Call BBC APPOINTMENTS on (01) 927 5799 for an application form. Or write BBC APPOINTMENTS, London, W1A 1AA and quote the reference number.....

LBC RADIO seeks a top-flight JOURNALIST to work mainly on its UPDATE programme. UPDATE, presented by RICHARD DALLYN is a round-up of the day's news and combines analysis of world events and hard-hitting interviews with the people behind the headlines. The job means reacting quickly to breaking stories in the capital and reporting for both LBC and IRN bulletins and in greater depth for the programme. There is also a chance to research and prepare background features on major stories and issues. Some bulletin scriptwriting will also be involved. Extensive radio experience and a good microphone voice are essential. Applications, enclosing c.v. and aircheck cassette of recent work should be sent to JOHN PERKINS, LBC/IRN, Communications House, Gough Square, London, EC4 4LP by Friday October 30th, 1987.....

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MORE

L O O S E

E N D S

If CAROLINE don't go for 981 kHz for their MONIQUE/VIEWPOINT channel, others are possible. They include 954 kHz - however that's the same channel as RADIO TRENT (Derby)- whoops! Well, you have a go at locating a clear channel on AM for a national service! For Local Radio - no problem, however!

## OFFSHORE BROADCASTING

### COMMENT

Is Offshore Radio nearly all hot air? Can Radio Caroline really be the only operation to find a method of actually putting a signal out and providing what has become a most reliable service? Is the world of Offshore Radio just some kind of pipedream for Anoraks?

Radio Caroline saw the arrival of the m.v. Communicator off the UK coast a few years ago as a real and potentially devastating competitor. Brand new transmitters and a bundle of hype made just about everybody connected with Radio Caroline fear that Laser Radio would wipe Caroline off the face of the earth.

So, the moment the station began to experience technical trouble, then a series of financial disasters and a resultant towing into port, there were those who sighed with relief. The threat didn't really come. True, Laser Radio did attract a massive audience and got just about everyone talking about pirate radio for the first time since the mid-sixties. It also managed to get the DTI more than annoyed and saw the introduction of Euroseige.

When Laser Hot Hits came to the air last December it again showed that Offshore Radio was a precarious business. The aerial came crashing down, the advertising failed to come in as promised and the station was off the air in financial deep water by Easter this year. A sane, normal, clean-living person would have pulled out at that point, offered the ship for sale for scrap and arranged for the sale of the transmitters and studio equipment. But not these people. Their solution was a journey or ten to the United

States of America, scores of meetings and the aim of securing a deal which would see new life from the Communicator.

If nothing else, changing the name of the new station, from Laser to Star Force (you'll get used to it if it does actually get on the air) was a good move. Laser, though having ridden through a highly successful period, lost a lot of credibility and is now a dated station in the minds of today's youth and potential listenership.

Perhaps, amongst all the dealing for money and backers who come up with the goodies, and staff who can be trusted, the new station will also be more carefully researched in programming areas. More thought must be given to the actual sound and presentation - and to the publicity and promotions that will be needed to get the station into the news.

Perhaps, too, thought and attention will be given to reliability. It is no use having the Best Station in the World on Monday and a generator blowing up on Tuesday. Indeed, if the generators can't be reliable enough to provide all the power needed, and Harmony 981 is going to be the breadwinner, would it not be an idea to get that service off and running, bringing in the cash, before setting off another pop channel which perhaps won't earn as much. And, is it really important to play with FM transmissions - which could result in the Dutch, Belgians and French (in addition to the British) getting upset by interference, when a strong, reliable and listenable AM signal is of the highest priority?

And, what about the forces of law and order? Bet your bottom dollar they'll be after Star Force the moment it does get on the air!

## RADIO 3 WORLD PREMIER FOR PLAY

The first performance of a play, **THE GOLDEN YEARS**, written by **ARTHUR MILLER** when he was still a young man, will be broadcast by **RADIO 3** on Friday, November 6th at 7.50pm.

This early work by the United States' foremost living playwright, which he describes as a New World tragedy, has lain neglected and forgotten at the University of Austen in Texas for over 40 years. The play, in a historical setting, traces the relationship between the Aztec king Montezuma and the Spanish conquistador Cortez.

The **RADIO 3** transmission co-incides with publication of Miller's autobiography. The cast of the BBC production includes **HOWARD PICKUP** (Montezuma), **HANNAH GORDON** (Marina), and **JOHN SHRAPNEL** (Cortez).

## NORTH-EAST ROUND-UP

*P I CHAMPION  
For NOW RADIO*

### METRO

Former **RADIO LUXEMBOURG** deejay **TIM SMITH** has been heard on Newcastle's **METRO RADIO** since the middle of September. He is doing relief shifts on weekday afternoons/evenings and at weekends. Also new to **METRO** is **STEVE RANDALL** who has been heard on early airshifts at weekends.

**RUSS WILLIAMS** joined **METRO** from **SOUTHERN SOUND** (Brighton) and after filling-in for other jocks has now settled down with his own weekday 1.15pm - 4pm airshift.

One of the **Mighty METRO** veterans **STEVE KING** has moved from the airshift now under **RUSS WILLIAMS** to a new show featuring light rock. The shift runs Monday through

Thursday, 6.20pm - 8pm. The time zone used to carry pop.

**METRO's** Senior Presenter **GILES SQUIRE** presented the **EUROPARADE** live from Frankfurt, West Germany, on Wednesday 30th September between 4pm - 6pm. Usually he presents it each Thursday from 4pm for an hour. For the last 11 years **TROS RADIO** in Hilversum, Holland have compiled this Top-40 of Western Europe and a number of countries use it plus the special **EUROPARADE** jingles and promos. However, **METRO** is the only station in the United Kingdom to use it and has done so for the last 1½ years.

The **EUROPARADE** programme, from studios of **ARD**, was jointly presented by **GILES SQUIRE** and German presenter **WILFRED ECHEL**. The latter did links in German, plus a few in English. Giles was still able to do North-East Traffic reports!! In the past Giles has hosted the programme from Amsterdam, Holland.

### METRO & TEES

As well as the **NETWORK CHART**, **METRO & TEES** now carry the **NORTH EAST TOP 20** compiled by **NRIB**. The programme, which started out in July as a **METRO**-only offering, is now broadcast by both stations at 9 - 11am Saturdays. **RADIO TEES** have their own presenter run the show from Stockton.

### HOURS

A slight increase in hours took place in August when **TEES** closedown local operations (and relayed **METRO**-based programming) at 8pm Monday to Thursday and 6.45pm on Fridays. New Presenter **SIMON PARK** airs the new 6 - 8pm shift at **RADIO TEES**.

Another new arrival is the afternoon presenter at **TEES** (on-air 1.10pm - 4pm) and known as **JAMES STANNAGE**.

## GOOD EVANS!

PAUL RUSLING  
For NOW RADIO

One of radio's best known and most loved characters has been forcibly retired from radio by the archaic BBC regulations.

"The system is totally wrong" to let KEN EVANS ESCAPE us also easily, and so the radio industry mafia organised a surprise to see Ken off.

Expecting a quiet dinner with a few friends, Ken was steered into a hotel ballroom where he was greeted and feted by 200 of his former radio colleagues and friends.

Ken came over from his native Australia in 1965, and joined RADIO CAROLINE as Record Librarian, where he became known for his expert formatting of programmes by music and artiste type. He went on to RADIO LUXEMBOURG becoming Programme Controller for many years and was one of the main forces behind turning the station around from a series of record company strip shows into a properly formatted station with an overall sound that really gelled.

After LUXEMBOURG, Ken joined the BBC and has recently been a Producer for the DAVID JACOBS programme. "How can they retire someone who is so unique, so valuable and still has so much to offer?" commented DAVID.

Ken was presented with a return ticket to Australia and tickets for next years Test Match by those present and the lunch. All the old 208 gang were there, along with DUNCAN JOHNSON, TONY BLACKBURN, KEITH SKUES and MARK WESLEY who joined the Head of RADIO ONE, JOHNNY BEERLING in giving Ken a standing ovation.

No-one deserved one more; A true professional and one of the nicest people in the business. We'll all miss you, Ken...and especially your influence.

## BOSS RADIO WILL AIM FOR MANCHESTER AUDIENCE

NOW RADIO has been informed that plans are well advanced for a new high-energy hot hits formatted unlicensed station for Greater Manchester which says it wants to

"Bring back life and excitement into radio broadcast programming in that city."

The station, which will ID itself as SWINGING RADIO ENGLAND is planning to start broadcasting in Manchester on AM either by, or just after Christmas.

A spokesman said initially SWINGING RADIO ENGLAND (they've got a set of PAMS jingles, folks!) wants to broadcast 12-hours-per-day and up to 24-hours at weekends, with an extension to hours as soon as possible.

## DUTCH BOOSTED

The Dutch pop channel, RADIO 3, from Hilversum, has started using a new high power AM transmitter on 675 kHz.

The power is 120 kW. Recently the station has been using a low-powered, 20kW transmitter.

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# TO PROCESS OR NOT TO PROCESS: THAT IS THE QUESTION

FEATURE BY NORMAN McLEOD

As ever responsive to reader's letters and suggestions (which is more than you can say about some mags I can think of), NOW RADIO is pleased to offer the following article for Mr. Rob Ashard of Dartford. A very big "Hi There!" to you, Rob, and everyone out there in downtown Dartford...

Mr. Ashard expressed a wish in NR36 to see an article on FM compression. This is a BIG subject, about which I could write a book, and one day just might. But let's start by getting down to basics and defining exactly what we are talking about.

## AUDIO PROCESSING

"Compression" is one part of the whole subject of transmission *Audio Processing*. A processor is a box which is connected between the studio and the transmitter to soup up the audio in some way. Everything the station broadcasts goes through it on its way to the listener, for better or worse as the case may be.

One very vital difference between this sort of processing and, say, Dolby noise reduction, is that the processed signal is not intended to be de-processed or decoded at the other end. Whatever it may do to the signal, it is intended to improve the apparent reproduction quality on ordinary sets, nice and nasty.

Absolutely the very least you can have in circuit between the studio and transmitter is a LIMITER. The purpose of a limiter is to do ABSOLUTELY NOTHING 99% of the time.

## HEADBANGING

At this point, some smartarse will probably point out that the limiters in the Optimod spend night and day riding the gain furiously, never having an idle moment. But I am not talking about the Optimod (yet). What we're discussing is the MINIMUM equipment necessary to make sure your transmission doesn't exceed spec.

If your operators are cool and level-headed, the limiter will only operate now and then when a fast peak shoots by, or for a short period if the meter is allowed to slip past six before correction.

One complication with limiting FM arises from the transmitter pre-emphasis (i.e. treble boost) necessary for correct reception. If you apply the lift AFTER the limiter, you run the risk of overdeviating on high-frequency energy. If you apply it BEFORE, there is a danger that the HF energy will pull the rest of the audio down with it when it hits the limiter, creating a very unnatural-sounding effect. And the high frequencies are more likely to operate the limiter because of the treble boost.

One gets used to limiters shoving the level about in time to the bass, but when they start to do it on the treble as well they can sound really disgusting!

Neither method - before or after - is wholly satisfactory, and so professional broadcasters usually use some form of VARIABLE pre-emphasis circuit built around the limiter. This rolls off the treble boost if the HF energy is excessive after being raised, in a manner not unlike the well-known 'de-esser' circuits. You cannot hear any strange effects when it operates.

## GETTING FANCY

So much for the basic limiter. It is intended merely as a safety net against accidental over-deviation, and in the normal run of events will have absolutely no effect on the sound of the signal at all.

At this point we come to the 64,000 dollar question. (Actually, the market for FM processors is considerably larger than that, but it'll do.) Should we do something to FM radio to alter the sound before broadcasting it, and, if so, what?

The answer to the first question is YES much more often than it used to be. ILR stations used to have to swear blind to the IBA that nothing was in circuit even if it patently was, but these days are past, and the range of the peaks on ILR stations nowadays varies less than the weather on the moon.

However, we have also the staidier types on Radios 3 and 4, who have so far resisted the invasion of the Stuff Delicacy Feel The Volume sound that is so popular with the commercial chappies. Indeed it is quite possible that if you set the car radio for normal listening on ILR, you can switch to the above BBC networks and wonder whether they are still on the air at all, so quiet does it all become!

Broadly speaking, the arguments for and against processing FM are these. The arguments against are based quite simply on the fact that it is AUDIBLE - it must be, otherwise there would be no point in doing it.

Processor manufacturers will tell you that you are not aware of their processor working - until you bypass it, of course! The fact remains that what you are broadcasting is no longer what actually was on the disc or in front of the microphone.

## PURITY AND VIRTUE

It can be argued that with classical music or drama the action of automatic processing - certainly of the sort in vogue elsewhere - would be unwelcome.

This point of view was put clearly by H Burrell Hadden in his book "High Quality Sound Production and Reproduction", published in 1962. "It is possible to introduce compression automatically," he said, "but results are usually disappointing from the artistic point of view. The musical expression, or light and shade, is a function of the fluctuations in programme volume, and in particular of the sharp contrasts in volume.

*"These tends to be flattened out in automatic compression."*

Indeed they do. In thrusting competitive environments, "fluctuations" in programme volume are more likely to signify a fault in the equipment than be part of "musical expression." The concept of 'Contrast' has been consigned to the dustbin of history, and replaced instead by other notions inspired by the knobs on an old telly, such as 'Brightness' and 'Fine-Tuning'.

The small but influential band of listeners who still revel attentively in silence to the full majesty of FM reproduction are not keen on having their delicate sensibilities racked by attempts to be the loudest station in town. The prospect of a Pan-Galactic Decibel Blaster being fitted to the Radio 3 FM network is about as attractive to the hi-fi nuts as an evening out with the Beastie Boys!

However, very few people listen to FM on powerful and exacting home stereo systems. This is the basis of the arguments FOR processing.

## THE CASE FOR PROCESSING

Most people listen to the radio, not in soundproofed rooms set aside solely for the purpose, but while working or driving or doing something else. This means that the sound from the radio has to compete with the sound of the environment where it is playing. Often this is far from quiet.

In order to be heard above car engines, shop activity, traffic noise or whatever else may be setting the background level of sound, the volume from the radio must always exceed the level of the background.

The radio itself is only capable of a limited acoustic output, with its small speaker and battery power. So the output cannot go very high at the best of times.

The need to avoid excessive highs and lows in level points clearly towards the use of automatic compression.

Radio 4 plays are much easier to listen to on AM than FM, on my car system at least. The Optimod fitted to the long wave transmitter lets me hear every word that is spoken without being deafened by the loud action or having to endure FM's spits and fizzes after turning up the volume to follow the quiet bits.

The pro-processing lobby would argue that the change in FM listening habits away from fixed to portable and car receivers means that appropriate technology is called for. No-one in their right mind (except the French) would put in an appearance on medium wave without at least a 12dB compressor. So why not process FM as well, and get the benefit of extra loudness and better apparent signal-to-noise ratio?

Well, it depends....

## GOING ALL THE WAY

There is more, much more to FM Audio Processing than just compression, but that'll have to wait for the book. But our coverage of the subject would not be complete without a nod in the direction of the full processing often used today.

*"The Optimod's designers have determined that 10dB of compression is optimum for FM broadcast, as any further squashing produces very little increase in average level."*

So now you know. Thus spake *Broadcast Engineering* in 1977, when testing it. Things are a little more complex than this quote might suggest. In the current Optimod-FM, the signal has to pass through an input conditioning filter, dual-band AGC, a low-pass filter, pre-emphasis, a high-frequency limiter, a Hilbert-Transform clipper and an FCS overshoot compensator.

Don't ask me what the last two mean - I only quote the blurb. *"The output of the Hilbert-Transform clipper contains overshoots due to the addition of the distortion-cancelling signal and overshoots in its integral 15kHz low-pass filter. These overshoots are eliminated in the FCS Overshoot Corrector without adding out-of-band frequency components - the circuit acts essentially as a band-limited safety clipper."*

If your head doesn't go round and round reading this sort of stuff Urban's technical explanations will no doubt delight you further.

I fear, however, a risk of appealing only to a minority audience should we go in any deeper, so let's leave the subject of FM processing for now.

--- © N McLeod 1987 ---

L O O S E

E N D S

One of the most amusing and entertaining calls ever was placed through onto the answering machine the other evening! SIMON BARRATT and DAVE WINDSOR decided it would be fun to present a duet to inform us, to inform you, that their station, RADIO WYVERN, can now claim to be unique in the following respect..it is the only UK radio station (they claim...) where three air personalities speak Dutch!!! Namechecks for the cloggy-gobs, SIMON BARRATT, DAVE WINDSOR and ALAN CLARK....can we now hear from the only UK station where air personalities share something else as unique???!!!!.....

When you read NOW RADIO these days you are in good company! Our readership now extends to Our Prime Minister, Home Secretary, Broadcasting Minister and even RODNEY COLLINS in the Communications department at RADIO LUXEMBOURG!.....

DAVE RICHARDS, he of CAROLINE fame, has just returned to these shores after a good hard-working stint in Holland where he's been presenting programmes for syndication by RON WEST's (ex-MONIQUE) production company. Quite a healthy market has existed in Holland but recent PTT action against a couple of the bigger unlicensed stations has brought about a decline in revenue and now RON WEST is looking at buying a radio licence in Belgium so that the whole operation is on a one hundred percent legal footing.....

Sorry, RADIO ONE! You haven't got a scoop on being the first in the world to run jingles on Compact Disc! One example is the CENTURY 21 company (agents over here PAMS)

on (01) 304 8088....RADIO ONE were claiming that they were the first radio station in the world to have idents on CD.....

TONY BLACKBURN has described DAVE CASH as the *WALTER MITTY* of Radio!!.....

ROGER 'TWIGGY' DAY has claimed on-air at INVICTA RADIO that if TONY BLACKBURN carries on like he is about sex and bonking on his BBC RADIO LONDON programme he'll end up in a dirty old raincoat!!!!.....

WNBC has received so much acclaim for running a solid gold format at the weekend between midnight and 6am, it has now extended running oldies every night of the week!!!!...

WMEY, that giant of the Boston airwaves, has also moved into top gear with an oldies format....

And check out oldies on KRTH, too. The identification has been brought back to life with music of the past and a bank balance of the future....

So, when you tune in to a station and hear 30-seconds (or more) dead air, it must be one involved in split-transmission operations! Quite a few reports (and groans) in saying that dead-air is common these days on the Shropshire op from BEACON RADIO. They're not the only one's...try CHILTERN or the VIKING/HALLAM/PENNINE night time service and you'll hear much the same. Answer? Forget this nonsense of splitting and run separate stations that really get to grips with the locality rather than things which become monster regional stations of pop and prattle where weather knicked from British Telecom is the only information content apart from waffle about the latest single from such and such a band and who's on next.....

MORE

L O O S E

E N D S

Well, fancy that! Whether you're in ILR or BBC Radio, you may be highly surprised to discover that a wife of a ..... station planning to come on line right across Europe next year, has negotiated a deal with copyright holders for unlimited needletime for only 5% of income...yes, unlimited needletime...and the whole of Europe!!!

So, TONY BLACKBURN (going for the most name-checks in this issue?) says he doesn't have to take all the flack from the British gutter-press and could quit BBC RADIO LONDON and go and live in Spain "like a King"...not so fast, Tony! How about putting that dream of your own station into action first? That would show certain people what you are about, wouldn't it???.....

Co-founder of London rock station RFX, CLAIRE MANSFIELD, has joined RAIDERS FM (97.8 FM) where she has a regular rock slot.....

MIKE DARBY, Programme Director at THE VOICE OF PEACE in Israel put in a call to NOW RADIO on Friday morning and reported that the current strike in Israel state radio and television was truly benefiting the offshore station. Advertisers are flocking to the commercial station which uses its profits to back worthwhile non-political/non-religious charitable and other worthwhile projects in the middle east and elsewhere.....

Power failures, BT Land Line failures and trouble at transmitter sites were just a few of the results of last Thursday night/Friday mornings severe gales

in the South and East of the country. However, it would appear, most stations pulled through and showed how radio can really play its part in such an emergency. One annoying thing: it really did upset some people to find when they tuned to their local BBC station that music (non music at that!!!) had to be used between every report on the situation. True, not every station..but enough. One can just imagine the more mature listener tuning in to find out about the weather, road blockages and travel news, only to be forced to suffer four minutes of pop and prattle beforehand...or longer...why do BBC Local Radio stations feel obliged to duplicate (minus commercials) what the ILR stations are doing? Perhaps we can organise a Granny Revolt and get the BBC to remove the turntables from Local Radio - unless it is more appropriate music...and then only when there is not an emergency in force.....

EAST NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY RADIO group have been busy, again! They've produced a nice glossy leaflet explaining about Community Radio (CRA-style) and copies can be obtained by writing to MARK JONES, St Anthony of Padua C. A., Welbeck Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 3BT. The leaflet is called "Let's Hear It!" It gives advice on starting local campaigns and is being distributed throughout Newcastle and is available to other groups and individuals in the North East.....

Congratulations must go to INVICTA RADIO (Kent IR) and its staff who did a remarkable job getting information across following last week's storms. Station was really showing what radio can do in such a situation. Yes, we can hear it loud and clear here in Kettering on 603kHz (which is supposed to be just 100 Watts!!!).....

MORE

L O O S E

E N D S

How about this???!!! RADIO TEES is to change its name and under-go a major relaunch in January?? New jingles are being made at the moment. Remember, you read it first in NOW RADIO!!!

The Shropshire unlicensed community station, SUNSHINE RADIO, was not on the air Sunday. Not a result of a DTI 'raid' but the operator decided to give-it-a-rest after six weeks successful and raid-free weekends.....

Staying with SUNSHINE, it would appear that the DTI have been paying visits to Advertisers warning them they could be prosecuted if they continue to advertise on the station. One wonders exactly what law would be used for any proposed prosecution? One thing is sure - SUNSHINE have not taken any advertising away from ILR and their rates are so low that businesses that until now have not been able to afford radio advertising have been able to get on the air via SUNSHINE.....

That much talked-about frequency change which will move RADIO MONIQUE/VIEWPOINT could happen any night now. Engineers have been asked to make the move as soon as the new crystal has arrived on the radio ship.....

Many of London's unlicensed stations were troubled by last week's gales. Masts came tumbling down at a number of stations....

Watch out for the special FREE supplement/magazine in next

Tuesday's NOW RADIO REPORTS.....

MARCONI have been warned not to supply the proposed broadcasting facilities from SEALAND/ a.k.a. ROUGHS TOWER off Harwich. So there's another Export Order lost by Great Britain!!!!.....

A message for the ILR Managing Director who described NOW RADIO as "Subversive!" - keep your hand's off Oxford and go and play with your BUDDY HOLLY 78's!!!!.....

We are planning our special Christmas/New Year 'Fun' pages at the moment - so we would welcome reader's suggestions for our PREVIEW OF 1988....the more outrageous the better! Call 'em in or write.....we also always welcome your own articles on almost anything to do with radio....how about a few 'Letter's to Santa' or even (dare I say it?!) more serious features?.....

A reminder that the NOW RADIO NEWSLINE is operational on our office telephone line (0536) 51 44 37 between 5pm and 9am daily and all over the weekend. You can call and listen to our summary anytime (outside office hours) and even leave your comments, suggestions (and we've had a few!) and news at the end of the news following the tone.....

Don't forget the night of a hundred deejays at Le PALAIS, Hammersmith on the 27th..more details from TONY PRINCE or by calling our office in normal hours...we'll be there, hopefully!.....They'll want a fiver donation to charity - which is not bad to say the least! Check out the last issue of this mag for other details.....

# NOW THE WEST IS ONE

Target the growing affluence of the West and Wales quickly and efficiently!

The Old West is changing rapidly. New technology is bringing more jobs and increasing affluence throughout the West and Wales region.

And what better way to reach this important market than through their own local radio stations? Particularly now all six stations covering the area are grouped together in the West and Wales Radio Marketing Network.

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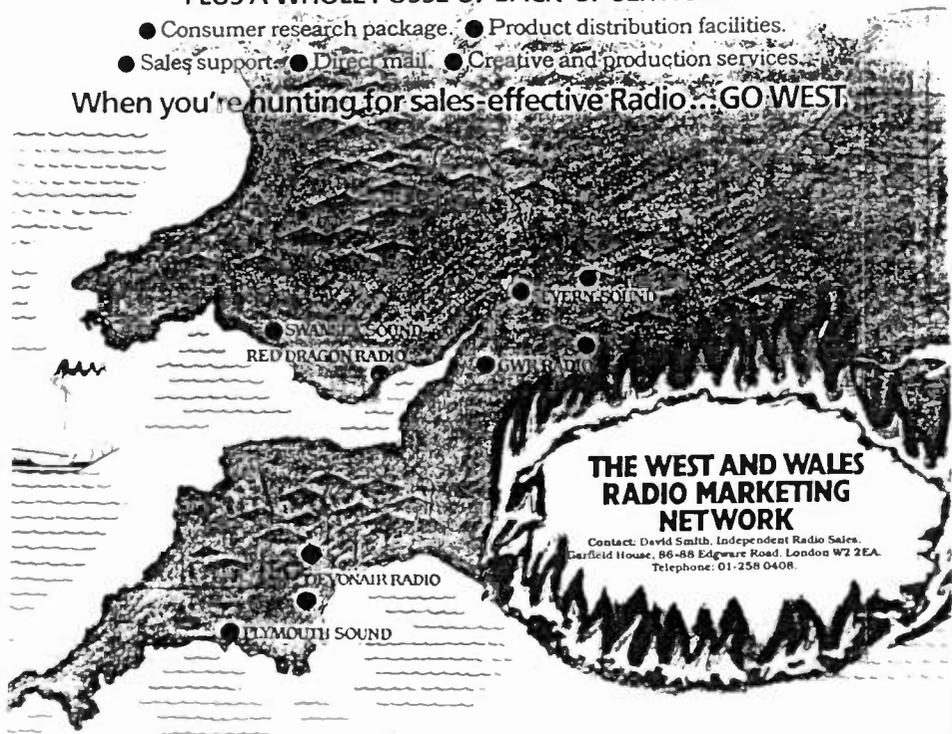
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Telephone: 01-258 0408.

## CASH WITHDRAWN FROM BLUE DANUBE RADIO

The Austrian Foreign Ministry has notified ORF that it will not be providing finances for the English and French language station, BLUE DANUBE RADIO, in the coming year. The future of the station could now be in the balance, though sources have suggested that ORF may find the required operational costs from savings in other departments. BLUE DANUBE RADIO broadcasts on 102.2 FM in Vienna for five and a half hours per day in English and French. It also relays programming from Austrian radio's external services for a further one and a half hours daily.

## BEACON TO EXPAND SHROPSHIRE OUTPUT

BEACON RADIO is expanding the hours of special broadcasting for Shropshire on its new relay for that county.

It is to offer localised output between 6am and midday and from 3pm until 5.45pm

## SEALAND TV

KEN HAWLON, Managing Director of SEALAND TV, has claimed the station will be on the air by Christmas on Channel 28 UHF.

A massive 55,000 tonnes former Oil Rig Platform, TRANS OCEAN 1, will house the television transmitter and 800-foot tall antenna tower.

The platform, which will be sunk near to SEALAND's tower, is 68 m long and 42 m wide. It has sleeping quarters for 65 people, showers, a cinema and eating and living quarters.

Project cost? A mere £4,700,000 - so far....!

## RADIO VETERAN QUITS

STEVI MERIKE has quit RADIO TRENT where he was afternoon drive air personality and joined a Nottingham car firm.

MERIKE began his radio career with RADIO SCOTLAND in 1967, moving to join RADIO CAROLINE (SOUTH) following introduction of the Marine (etc) Broadcasting Offences Act. There he hosted the afternoon drive shift, too. He was also relief dj for the ROGER DAY breakfast show when Roger was on shoreleave.

After CAROLINE Stevi was given a break with BBC RADIO ONE on a series called WIRELESS WORKSHOP, and in 1970 sat in on the flagship programme, the BREAKFAST SHOW.

The following year, 1971, he was hired by RADIO NORWICH INTERNATIONAL as Programme Director and presenter of that offshore station's 10-12pm airshift.

STEVI MERIKE then returned to the BBC and RADIO BRIGHTON where he presented yet another afternoon programme until management decided on cutbacks and withdrew the show from its schedules. A large public protest outside RADIO BRIGHTON was held on the afternoon of his last programme.

Moving on STEVI MERIKE also worked for PICCADILLY RADIO (afternoon airshift) and he was also the first Programme Controller of Bradford's PENNINE RADIO.

He moved into journalism with a short-lived industry publication, NEEDLETIME in London and was also active in a desire to enter Parliament.

## SALES OFFERS

The following items are available through NOW RADIO NEWSLETTER to subscribers at special prices.

To order, send your name, address, items required by title, and payment to NOW RADIO, FREEPOST, KETTERING, NORTHANTS, NN16 0BR. Orders from outside the United Kingdom should be addressed to NOW RADIO, PO BOX 45, KETTERING, NORTHANTS, ENGLAND, NN16 0NV. Prices include postage and packing.

**NR001. RADIO CAROLINE.** This 90-minute aircheck cassette recording features highlights from the JAY JACKSON and SIMON BARRATT segments of the stations 21st birthday celebrations. You'll also hear JOHNNY LEWIS. The DJs are playing through the DJ's All Time Top 200 tracks. Also included several competitions, JAY JACKSON's Coffee Break and memories of the station back in the sixties, including jingles, commercials and plenty of former CAROLINE DJs.

PRICE £3.99p

**NR002. LASER.** On this aircheck cassette recording you'll hear about an hour of LASER test transmissions (729kHz) with BLAKE WILLIAMS, JOHNNY LEWIS, etc. You'll also hear early LASER 558 output with names like DAVE LEE STONE, JESSIE BRANDON, RICK HARRIS, STEVE MASTERS, etc. This is great radio at its greatest!

PRICE £3.50p

**NR003. KFRC-SAN FRANCISCO.** In February 1986 KFRC celebrated 20 years as the market leader and the legend of California hit radio broadcasting by counting down the all-time 610 songs of the past couple of decades. (610 is the station's dial location...610kHz). Back come names of the past, live in the studio and on the phone.

Hear some of the greatest radio production ever, and some of the most exciting radio ever. This aircheck tape set features the name DJs, jingles, commercials and the highlights of an entire weekend of quality broadcasting. This is a two cassette set, 2 x 90 minute cassettes.

PRICE £6.99

**NR004. THE PIRATES WHO VAIVE THE RULES** by JAY JACKSON. Ever wondered how you could go about setting up an offshore radio station? This book by JAY JACKSON details how to go about it - and reflects on the operations of CAROLINE, MONIQUE, LASER, etc. It also covers the popular landbased stations of 83/4. More than 80-pages, including illustrations.

PRICE £3.99p

**NR005. RADIO JACKIE LP.** Why pay £8? Why pay £7? Just send £5 and we will supply this splendid album featuring airchecks, studio recordings, jingles, PSAs, commercials and dramatic highlights of South West London's very own RADIO JACKIE. Includes closedown broadcasts. Illustrated sleeve.

PRICE £5.00p

**NR006. THE GREAT BRITISH PIRATE ERA.** A double cassette feature from RBL lasting 2½-hours and featuring the period 1964 to 1968. Programme airchecks, top quality narration and interviews with ROBBIE DALE, TONY PRINCE, DON ALLEN, ROGER DAY, CARL CONWAY, DAVE CASH, MARTIN KAYNE. Most highly recommended. A collectors item in times to come.

PRICE £6.50p

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## COMMUNICATIONS

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\*\*\*\*

ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT RADIO  
CONTRACTORS  
REGINA HOUSE  
LONDON  
NW1 5RA

Dear Howard,

Thanks for sending the copy of issue No. 002 of NOW RADIO REPORTS. It's a lot easier to read than its "parent"!

The final para of the item about the Independent Radio Programme Sharing Unit is incorrect: Yes, CAPITAL have said they will continue the PSU for at least a year, but what happens after that is entirely CAPITAL's decision and not consequent on anything AIRC does. There is no "agreement" between CAPITAL and AIRC; AIRC members decided to discontinue the programming function here - NIGEL WALMSLEY then said he would take it on, rather than see it disappear.

There is no question of "allowing AIRC enough time to sketch out its future role and duty"; this has already been decided by the members at the General Meeting to which your second AIRC item refers. The merged AIRC and RMB will concentrate efforts in two main areas: public affairs (AIRC) and promotion of radio to advertisers (RMB), in both of which they have had considerable success, as witness AIRC's impact on Government radio policy and RMB's contribution to the current surge in Independent Radio revenue. Companies are now

successfully doing their own thing in both labour relations and programming matters and the members decided, after much deliberation, that the industry body (AIRC with its marketing arm, RMB) should concentrate on the areas I have indicated. RMB will, of course, continue to manage JICRAR on behalf of the industry, a very important responsibility.

AIRC will still have committees covering all areas of activity - Labour Relations (as you indicated), Programming, Finance, Copyright, Technical and Marketing (replacing the RMB Board) - but staff here will concentrate their efforts on the areas I have indicated.

So, you see, this AIRC/RMB has got its future role and duty, as you put it, all mapped out.

Yours sincerely,

BRIAN WEST  
Director

PENHILL RD  
MATSON  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Dear Howard,

How often do we hear radio presenters use instrumental records as backing tracks for their ramblings, and wish they would belt-up and play these instrumentals in full? A majority of records played on the radio are vocals. We hear a lot of talk about what kind of specialist stations we can expect to hear when we achieve de-regulation, but no doubt there will be more of the same...top 40 radio, with a lot of boring deejays. We may have some others...News, Country, Rock, etc, but will there be an all-instrumental music station? No; I am sure, is the answer.

I have spoken to a number of people about this idea. Some work in radio, some do not. It is a format I am sure which would be very popular

with listeners from 6 to 96. RADIO HALLAM did a very popular daily instrumentals show a few years ago. An all-instrumental station need not be dull and a 'Music while you work' style. Instrumentals encompass all musical spheres. Indeed a station like this could play DEBUSSY's GOLLIVOG CAKEWALK alongside JAN HAMMER's CROCKETTS THEME, or LOVE SCULPTURE's SABRE DANCE or even DAVE BRUBBECK's TAKE FIVE. A lot of today's chart hits have an instrumental version on the B-side. These could be played as well. A station with this format could be lively, imaginative and creative, giving lots of new musicians a chance to put their music on the air.

I would be interested to hear the views of your readers on this idea. After all, surely the medium can be used in a better way than the present bland ILR policy of GREATEST MEMORIES...LATEST HITS... Keep up the work, Superb publication.

STUART RUSSELL

EDMONTON  
N LONDON

Dear Editor

I read with great interest NORMAN McLEOD's features on both the subject of frequency planning and levels in recent issues of NOW RADIO MAGAZINE.

They have now been given to our engineering staff to ensure that our station operates to the correct professional standards required in this industry.

We hope for a licence as soon as they are available; in the meantime, we must broadcast and pretend in all respects that we are legal, decent and honest!

Your publication is always eagerly awaited and provides a valuable source of news and information in every issue.

STATION MANAGER

GREAT WEST ROAD  
TWICKENHAM  
MIDDLESEX

Dear Sirs,

Some time ago you published NOW RADIO COMMUNICATIONS responses to the Government's Green Paper on the future of radio.

Could you tell me if copies are still available, and if so, how much?

PAUL SMITHERS

EDITOR: Yes, we reproduced the contents of our own response in NOW RADIO MAGAZINE and also produced a large format (A3) document. We would be happy to supply this to anyone requesting it. Please send two 18p stamps, if possible, towards the cost of postage.

SPRING BANK  
HULL  
NORTH HUMBERSIDE

Dear Editor,

In an attempt to get an answer to a question relating to the ILR service (VIKING RADIO) in this city, I telephoned VIKING RADIO. They told me to try PENNINE RADIO. There they claimed I would be better trying VIKING RADIO again. I did. They, this time, thought somebody at RADIO HALLAM could best assist me. I called RADIO HALLAM. They suggested I called VIKING RADIO.

I then thought that a call to the IBA would help sort out the mess.

"VIKING RADIO...what is that?" asked the person at the other end!

And to think these people are responsible for something called Communicating!!!!

Thank-you for all the work you and your staff put into NOW RADIO...at least I get a straight answer from you folk!

JAYNE PERKINS

## MANCHESTER PROD FIRM SET UP EURO SHOW FOR LONDON INDIE

Manchester production unit, PICCADILLY PRODUCTIONS (a wing of PICCADILLY RADIO) is responsible for a new sponsored programme being broadcast by LBC RADIO in London. The show is sponsored by BRYMON, an airline operating out of the newly opened LONDON CITY AIRPORT. It is a current affairs programme targeted at business commuters. Each programme, lasting seven-minutes and presented by ED BOYLE, is aired during the HENRY KELLY WEEKEND AM show on Saturday mornings. The first 10 weeks of the programme will cost around £15,000 which will include top and tail announcements and through-the-week promo spots.

## CAROLINE TO START NEW SERVICE

Management of RADIO CAROLINE have approved plans to carry a new Country Music service during free-time on the transmitter used in daytime hours to carry RADIO MONIQUE programmes, and religious programming in the evening hours. No start-date has yet been decided for the new after-midnight service. Earlier this year the organisation dropped rock programming, OVERDRIVE 963 and expanded the number of hours sold to United States religious organisations.

## MONTE SWITCHES ON

TRANS WORLD RADIO / RADIO MONTE CARLO officially switched on their new 1,000 kW AM transmitter in the South of France on Wednesday October 7th. The station can now beam programmes in five directions using a brand new antenna system.

TVR has also expanded its hours of broadcasting by five and a half hours per day. It is now on air, on 1476 kHz non-stop between 5am and midnight London time.

## HOME SECRETARY TO SPEAK ON FUTURE OF RADIO

DOUGLAS HURD, The Home Secretary, is amongst speakers due to appear at a conference on the future of broadcasting on November 5. The one-day seminar will be at the Hilton Hotel, London and will be looking at the implications of Satellite Broadcasting and the plans the government has for the future of radio.

## INDIE RADIO MEN MOVE

Former RADIO BROADLAND sports editor, KEVIN PIPER has joined ANGLIA TV to work on the regional news magazine, ANGLIA REPORTS. Also moving out of the same commercial radio station is DAVID JENNINGS. He is now a Production Journalist at ANGLIA TV.

## LOCAL RADIO WOMAN MOVES

EVE TURNER is the new assistant editor of BBC East Midlands' news service. 32-year-old TURNER began her broadcasting career at BBC RADIO LEEDS in 1980 as a station assistant, moving on to BBC RADIO CAMBRIDGE the following year as a journalist.

## BLOOPERS FOR CHRISTMAS

RADIO NETHERLANDS will be broadcasting its own and other radio stations 'bloopers' in a special edition of MEDIA NETWORK on Thursday December 31st.

## MERSEY PIRATES JAM GAS BOARD TRANSMISSIONS

Authorities on Merseyside have sprung into action after transmissions on 105.9 MHz by MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO jammed BRITISH GAS emergency frequencies.

Gas engineers had to use public telephones to keep in touch with control as the pirates jammed the emergency network.

Police were alerted by BRITISH GAS and an attempt to trace the signal, believed to originate in the Leasdowne area in Wirral began.

A BRITISH GAS spokesman told NOV RADIO: "It meant we were unable to communicate with our engineers out on the road. The result of this kind of thing could be most serious."

He continued to say: "This is the first time we have had problems of this kind."

## RADIO SALES HOUSE BATTLE

The Kent-based Commercial station INVICTA RADIO has switched national sales from BROADCAST MARKETING SERVICES to rival operation INDEPENDENT RADIO SALES.

The move is officially from the start of December.

INDEPENDENT RADIO SALES is now planning establishing its own radio sales region, based somewhat on that of TVS television. It will include INVICTA (covering almost all the county of Kent, SOUTHERN SOUND with coverage of much of Sussex and Bournemouth independent radio station 2CR.

Two months ago 2CR attempted to leave IRS to join BROADCAST MARKETING SALES but was forced to keep to its contract.

The departure from BMS of INVICTA leaves a substantial gap in BMS's London Orbital Radio sales and marketing package.

## RIFT MEANS PARK EXITS

STAN PARK has quit his position as Sales Controller at BMS and joined the rival IRS outfit.

Sources have suggested that there were policy disagreements with the head of BMS.

## CAPITAL RETHINKS CASH POTENTIAL FROM NEWSLINK SPOTS

CAPITAL RADIO looks likely to change its mind about joining NEWSLINK the primetime commercial spot package to be offered nationally on most ILR stations.

CAPITAL had been the only station to reject the proposal, but its Sales Director PHILIP PINNEGAR is now reported as saying his station has been convinced that the package would attract new advertising income to the network and will join NEWSLINK.

## ACCESS COULD BE FIRST CLIENT FOR NEWSLINK SPOT

INDEPENDENT RADIO SALES is close to concluding a deal whereby ACCESS would be the first major client to use NEWSLINK.

It would be the first venture into UK commercial radio by ACCESS.

## ILR AWARDS

The INDEPENDENT RADIO ADVERTISING AWARDS 1987 will be made at a dinner to be held at THE GROSVENOR HOUSE HOTEL (in the Great Room) on Monday 7th December.

Tickets cost £65 each (plus VAT) or £828 (inc VAT) for a table for twelve.

To obtain tickets or get further information from MAURIE MAILLY on (01) 859 4151.

## SCOPE FOR NEWSRADIO IN LONDON

Whilst the recently introduced programming changes on LBC will probably attract a larger audience, it remains a fact that the contract which LBC has with the IBA is for a service of 'news and information'.

LBC may argue that they continue to provide 'news and information', but the fact is the original architect of ILR when a Government Minister, CHRISTOPHER CHATAWAY, and those who supported his beliefs, envisaged a station much on the lines of Newsradio in the USA; providing a continuous reporting of world, national and citywide news and information.

LBC does not provide this kind of service, and has even dropped trying to describe itself as Newsradio on the air.

So, with many others, I believe the time is ripe for the introduction of a proper Newsradio station for the people of London and the South-East. I wouldn't go as far as some in suggesting that the IBA should revoke the LBC contract - but they should, at least, re-describe it to suit the current offerings.

LBC is now not only transmitting the NETWORK CHART, but a new MIKE ASPEL show and even has MIKE ALLEN, fresh from CAPITAL, doing a Soul music show on a Sunday. The age-old MORNING MUSIC tapes still get aired in careful rotation in the early hours of the morning (when one imagines the cleaner running around the studio with her aged vacuum cleaner and duster), and there is the specialist music block in the evening.

Do not accuse me of being more unfair to LBC than other stations. LBC, with its contract for a 'news and information' service, has always laid itself open to fire, from the early days when we realised that it was to be far from the Newsradio

operation we dreamed of back in the late sixties and first couple of years in the seventies.

With a major reshuffle of Radio now on the books, and legislation hoped for in the autumn of next year, now would be the ideal time for prospective operators of a London-wide Newsradio to start putting their ideas on paper and throwing them around prospective management and staff. Backers, too.

The format would be simple. The cost would be high. The Prestige would be potentially fantastic. The risk would be enough to bring on ulcers!

I'd like to feel that what ever groups may be established to provide all-news radio, they agree from the very start that whatever happens they must carry on with the all-news format and not ever be tempted to introduce extra elements in an attempt to win bigger audience figures or advertising income. Even if such a station only won a small overall share of the audience, it could be sold. It's the same with any other medium which depends upon advertising; newspapers and magazines are a couple of examples. And, who is to say that such a station need fund itself from advertising anyway? How about an overall sponsor for the whole service - and dare I suggest a newspaper or magazine publishing house?

To be able to switch on the radio, and hear the latest news, from around the world, and have it packaged in nice slick 20-minute sweeps would be ideal for many people. Especially those who were expecting that from LBC!

What about IRN? Well, I'd suggest moving the IRN operation away from LBC completely and running it as a wholly independent news operation with no commitment to any one individual station.

HOWARD G L ROSE

TOO OLD TO  
ROCK 'N' ROLL,  
TOO YOUNG FOR  
JIMMY YOUNG?

COMMENT BY NORMAN McLEOD

Radio Caroline has got so boring lately that we have given up listening to it in the Workshop, and search instead for inspiration from Radio 4, or Radio 3, or the French continuous music service FIP.

FIP can be heard during daylight hours near the south coast of England on 585 kHz medium wave. It's not very strong, being only a 10kW transmitter in Paris, and it has no processing to speak of, so the modulation level often falls very low, particularly when they're playing Compact Discs.

But the most distinguishing feature about FIP is that the music is chosen from a very wide range of styles. You can hear everything from Pink Floyd to Mozart in the course of an hour, with jazz, blues, folk, rock, pop and a varying amount of awful French records to boot.

Most radio stations go to some trouble to define and then narrow the range of music played by means of playlists. This is usually dressed up as "fine-tuning the station's identity profile", or some other codswallop, but it means simply that most radio stations couldn't care less about listeners' awareness of various forms of musical expression.

Commercial stations in particular want to maintain a consistent 'product', which rules out anything which doesn't fit the standard mould. I remember listening on Radio City in Liverpool to an interview with the actor David Easter, who played Pat Hancock in *Brookside*, the only soap worth staying in for.

He was asked to name some of his favourite records, and he was brave enough to choose a Pat Metheny track which is jazzy, sophisticated and well over seven minutes long. Needless to say, it wasn't played: yet another brainless and forgettable three-minute wonder took to the air instead.

The fact that you never hear Pat Metheny on mainstream radio, no matter how skillfully he may try to play, while a recording of Madonna breaking wind would be plugged to death for weeks on end, illustrates one of the problems we are having selecting a radio station to listen to. We could just give up on the wireless altogether and confine ourselves to commercial recordings on tape or disc like so many others do in the car or at home.

I wonder if anyone has done any research into what percentage of time people who listen to music use the radio, and what percentage play their own tapes or discs instead? I wouldn't mind betting that the tape and disc fans are much more numerous here than in most other countries. The choice is so LIMITED.

When I was in Paris recently, I could pick up fifty-two strong transmissions on the FM band. Admittedly the majority seemed to be routine pop outlets but even so there was a couple of dozen besides. Here in Brighton, I get just two FM and two of these are often the same. Not long after midnight, it's Radio 2 or ILR night muzak until next morning. In France - and not just Paris - the band is alive all night long!

In the meantime, would anyone like to start a station for us 30-45 year olds, too old for Radio 1 and not yet senile enough for Radio 2?

--- e N McLeod 1987 ---

## Now Radio

## Openings

RADIO TRENT is looking for a SENIOR JOURNALIST to work and be based in its Nottingham newsroom. A good microphone voice and a proven track record are essential. Applications to CHRIS HUGHES, Programme Controller, RADIO TRENT, 29-31 Castle Gate, Nottingham, NG1 7AP.....

DEVON AIR RADIO is looking for a SENIOR JOURNALIST. A minimum of three years radio experience is needed for this particular post. Applications with CV to; JIM GIBBONS, News Editor, DEVON AIR RADIO, 35-37 St David's Hill, Exeter, Devon, EX4 4DA.....

BBC ESSEX has an opening for a PROGRAMME ASSISTANT to be based at Chelmsford. A good educational standard should be backed by a good microphone voice, broad knowledge of popular music, a current driving licence, a knowledge of the county of Essex and experience in presenting local radio sequence programmes are required. Salary £8,228 - £11,610 plus annual allowance £624. Contact BBC APPOINTMENTS on (01) 927 5799 and quote ref 4437.....

SOUTHERN SOUND is looking for an airtime SALES EXECUTIVE, aged 23-35 and with a proven track record in selling. They're after a self-starter and offer a salary of over £18,000 plus bonus schemes. The lucky candidate will be responsible for business booked by local and national advertising agencies. You'll also need to come up with attractive marketing ideas for clients. An on-going training programme will be provided. Car provided. Send c.v. to BOB HOAD, Sales Manager, SOUTHERN SOUND RADIO, PO Box 1323, Portslade, Brighton, East Sussex, BN4 2SS.....

MARCHER SOUND, the Wrexham based ILR service, has a vacancy for a SALES MANAGER who is experienced in marketing and airtime sales management. A competitive package is offered by the company. Applications are invited and will be treated in the strictest confidence. Write with CV to The Managing Director, MARCHER SOUND, Mold Road, Wrexham.....

a TRANSMITTER ENGINEER is required to join a mid-east (trouble-free zone!) radio station. Previous experience with AM and FM transmitters and antenna systems required. Please write (enclose daytime 'phone number) to NOW RADIO, BOX 45, KETTERING, or telephone (0536) 514437 during normal weekday office hours for further information.....

**A selection of current radio vacancies around the country (and beyond!). Entries in this section are free of charge to subscribing stations. Details should be sent in writing or by telex.**

**OPENINGS, NOW RADIO NEWSLETTER,  
PO BOX 45, KETTERING,  
NORTHANTS, NN16 ONW  
Telex: 8951182 GECOMS G  
(NOW RADIO)**

# Services Guide

# Now Radio

## EQUIPMENT

**WIRELESS WORKSHOP.** 25 Ditchling Rise, Brighton, BN1 4QL. Telephone (0273) 671928. Special Event, Community, Campus Radio Specialists. Transmitters, Processing equipment. Sales, Installation and hire facilities.

**PHEONIX COMMUNICATIONS.** Transmitters, Studio Equipment, Links. Tel (01) 800 0890 for full details. Export Specialists.

**SOUND BROADCASTING SERVICES.** 42, Grenville Road, London, N19 4EN. Qualified and Expert Service. Please write for brochure.

## JINGLES

**PAMS.** Whatever your format, PAMS make your station stand out from the rest! Call now for the facts! Phone: (01) 304 8088.

## NEW ENTRANTS

**ASSOCIATION FOR BROADCASTING DEVELOPMENT.** Representing the interests of prospective radio broadcast operations. Free Details of membership. ABD, 79, Caling Croft, New Ash Green, Dartford, Kent, DA3 8PY

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In the weeks in between publication of this main magazine we have available a new title, NOV RADIO REPORTS, designed to keep subscribers fully up-to-date with news, developments and the latest job vacancies.

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