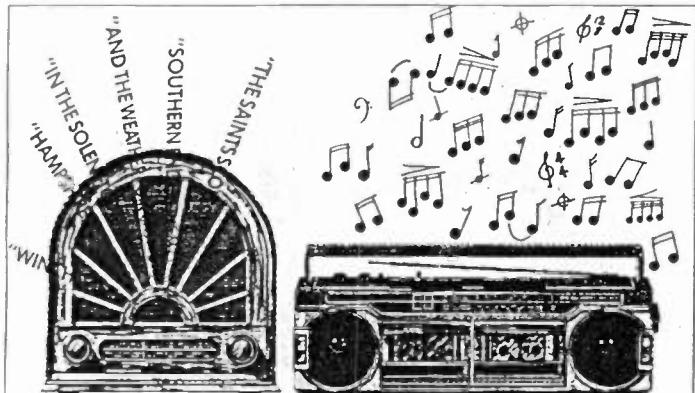


Now Radio

THE Magazine for
Today's Radio
Industry

December 15, 1987



OCEAN SOUND The first local radio station to please all of the people, all of the time.

Ocean Sound may not be the biggest independent radio station in the country, but it's certainly the most innovative.

Aware that not all local radio listeners want an unrelenting diet of the Top Twenty, Ocean Sound has introduced a new choice of listening on a new transmitter - 'The Light FM' on 96.7.

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(01) 258 0408 for more information.

THE Magazine for
Today's Radio Industry

Now Radio

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ISSN 0951-7901

Telephone: (0536) 51 44 37 (24 hours)

PO Box 45, Kettering, Northants, NN16 0NW

UK Orders:

Now Radio, FREEPOST, Kettering, NN16 0NW

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Personal Subscription
26 Issues (12 months) £24.00

Personal Subscription:
13 Issues (6 months) £12.00

Business Subscription:
26 Issues (12 months) £48.00

Overseas Subscription:
26 Issues (12 months) £48.00

Published by:
Now Radio Communications
PO Box 45, Kettering, Northants, NN16 0NW
Telephone (0536) 51 44 37 (24 hours)
All contents © Now Radio Communications 1987

EDITORIAL COMMENT

December 15, 1987

ISSUE # 47

Due to technical problems with the printing press we are unable to mail "FRESH AIR" with this issue of NOW RADIO MAGAZINE. We apologise for this delay, but hope to send you your free copy of FRESH AIR with NOW RADIO MAGAZINE ISSUE 43 ON JANUARY 5th.

Welcome to another issue of NOW RADIO Magazine! What a whopper it is, too!

We hope that you'll find this issue both informative and entertaining - especially Norman McLeod's farewell comments to 1987!

It's been a great year for NOW RADIO. We've moved in to our own office in central Kettering, bought our own printing system, expanded to a weekly service with NOW RADIO REPORTS, opened the NOW RADIO NEWSLINE and increased our editorial team to comprise a most impressive cross-section of broadcasting writers.

Our readership has increased each and every week, and despite the constant delays from Whitehall, we can remain firm in our belief that we have established ourselves truly as a major industry publication.

Thank-you for your support. Keep it up in 1988! HAPPY CHRISTMAS from all the team!!

HGLR

GOVERNMENT
GIVES GO-AHEAD
TO SPLIT-
FREQUENCY
RADIO OP'S

EXCLUSIVE

The Government is to make a move that is likely to outrage prospective new entrants by allowing existing ILR and BBC Local Radio stations to provide Split-frequency transmission operations on a wider scale and with fewer restrictions than have until now been imposed.

The announcement by the HOME OFFICE might be expected before Christmas. Existing stations operating split-frequency services, such as CAPITAL RADIO's Sunday-only C-FM, will be able to extend the service to as many hours or days per week as the station wants. CAPITAL has already indicated it wants to run CFM seven days per week.

RED ROSE

As reported in NOW RADIO (issue # 41) RED ROSE RADIO is planning a round-the-clock service on its FM transmitter called ROCK-FM.

ROCK-FM will broadcast contemporary rock music and a separately produced news service to 'fit' with that format from studios in Blackpool.

RED ROSE RADIO's AM channel will continue to carry its regular service - again 24 hours - including a late-night call-in show taken from RADIO AIRE featuring

JAMES WHALE.

The RED ROSE Group are also planning, with the REALLY USEFUL Group and the Australian-owned CHALFORD COMMUNICATIONS, to make a bid for one of the proposed national commercial radio channels, for a new Classical Music Service.

REACTION

The reaction from prospective New Entrant groups, hoping to obtain licences for community, neighbourhood and local commercial radio as proposed by last February's Green Paper (RADIO; CHOICES & OPPORTUNITIES) will not be reacting too favourably to the news about split-frequency broadcasting expansion.

Many will see it as giving each existing IR contractor licences to run as many different services as they have transmitters. A station such as CHILTHEW already has six transmitters - and runs three separate area services, albeit on a limited scale, but now could develop this into 3 different formats - or as many as six. Three on AM and a further 3 on FM.

Many will see this move as being unfair to those who have to continue to wait for the passing of legislation to allow de-regulation, whilst permitting present commercial operators to push ahead with the opening of new services without much regulation whatever.

MANX RADIO MAY BROADCAST ON LONG WAVE

EXCLUSIVE

The Isle of Man commercial radio station MANX RADIO may broadcast on Long Wave to the whole of Britain and the Irish Republic.

The Isle of Man Government has made the proposal in its submission to Whitehall in response to the Green Paper; RADIO: CHOICES & OPPORTUNITIES.

The station, the first on-shore commercial station in Britain which began broadcasting in 1964, would use the 227kHz channel which is allocated to the United Kingdom by the INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION.

MANX RADIO would hope that they will be allowed to transmit with 200kW output and provide a signal which could be heard throughout Britain and Ireland.

Such a station would put MANX RADIO in direct competition with RADIO TARA, the joint RADIO LUXEMBOURG / RTE station which launches next autumn.

However, according to STUART WATERDOW, General Manager of MANX RADIO, which is owned by the Isle of Man Government, the proposal is just that and it will have to wait for the outcome of the White Paper on the future of UK Radio in general.

PROFIT BOOST FOR BRMB RADIO

Birmingham commercial station BRMB has filed accounts to September 30, 1987 which show that profits have risen by a massive 177% on the previous year. Pre-tax profit stands at £440,801. Last year pre-tax profits were £159,290.

SIGNAL DEFECTS FROM BMS

SIGNAL RADIO, the ILR contractor based in Stoke-on-Trent, has dropped its contract with national advertising representatives BROADCAST MARKETING SERVICES.

SIGNAL will now join SOUND ADVERTISING SERVICES which already sells airtime for PICCADILLY RADIO in Manchester.

A new joint rate card will be produced to sell SIGNAL and PICCADILLY together.

AIRC DETAIL 1988 TEAM

The ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT RADIO CONTRACTORS (AIRC) members have completed their elections for Committee Chairmanships for 1988.

The new Board shows 3 changes from its present composition. Responsibilities are shown in brackets.

BILL McDOWALD of YORKSHIRE RADIO NETWORK (Chairman)...RALPH BERNARD (Labour Relations)...DON COLES (RADIO TRENT/LEICESTER SOUND) (Finance)...RICHARD FINDLAY of RADIO FORTH (Marketing)...JAMES GORDON of RADIO CLYDE (Copyright)...METRO RADIO/TFM's NEIL ROBINSON (Technical)...RED ROSE RADIO GROUP's DAVID MAKER (Programming)...BRIAN WEST remains Director AIRC and GEOFF MORFATT is Chief Executive RADIO MARKETING BUREAU.

New to the Board are RALPH BERNARD, BILL McDOWALD and DAVID MAKER.

BRIAN WEST and GEOFF MORFATT have been appointed Executive Directors of AIRC Ltd and DON EDGERTON, Finance and Administration Manager, takes over Co. Secretaryship from BRIAN WEST.

PPL MAY DEMAND BIGGER PAYMENTS FROM COMMERCIAL STATIONS

Following a rise in advertising revenue at Britain's ILR stations of 26% on last year, JOHN LOVE, Managing Director of PHONOGRAPHIC PERFORMANCE LTD has warned that the music industry may now begin moves to take even bigger payments from the stations.

LOVE claims that the latest figures, amounting to an income for the stations of £94m show that PPL has always been right in thinking that the most important commercial element in the stations output is records. He says Records bring the stations listeners and they result in advertising income.

PPL believes that a Sliding Scale of Needletime fees, with the percentage paid to PPL growing as does a stations advertising revenue, could be on the books.

He dismisses the ILR claim that Needletime payments are already too high by claiming that is an Accountants argument - and not a businessman's argument.

SIMON DEE FOR RADIO 2

SIMON DEE will be broadcasting again this Christmas on BBC RADIO 2. He'll be presenting SOUNDS OF THE SIXTIES CHRISTMAS SPECIAL on the station on Boxing Day (December 26) from 9.03 am. A few weeks ago RADIO 2

listeners were invited to vote for their favourite records from the 1960's.

CITY MONEY FIRMS TO ADVERTISE VIA LBC?

LBC RADIO is offering a £17,500 package for companies to advertise their financial results on-air. The package includes commercial spots, production and a teledata response service for the public to request copies of the Company Report.

The package consists of 50-spots run through one week. LBC's national and regional sales representatives INDEPENDENT RADIO SALES (IRS) is selling the package.

The [01] 200 0200 number will be used for respondents to call for further details.

ALASKAN COMMERCIAL STATION BEAMS OUT RUSSIAN PROGRAMMING MATERIAL

A commercial radio station in Alaska is broadcasting Russian language programming with its 10kW AM transmitter aimed at reaching people living in Siberia.

KHOM has, in fact, been running a regular religious message spot in Russian for the last ten years - as has another station across the same town, KIZY.

Asked by RADIO NETHERLAND's Media Correspondent JONATHAN MARKS if he had received any feedback from Russians to KHOM's output, he said: "Absolutely None!"

RADIO CITY BOSS CALLS FOR MASSIVE IBA RENTAL CUTS

The Managing Director of RADIO CITY (Liverpool) TERRY SMITH has asked the IBA to halve the current primary rentals paid by ILR stations. Furthermore, he wanted to see Secondary Rental payments abolished.

He was speaking at RADIO '87, the BMS conference event in Malta.

At the same time he urged the Home Secretary to allow the IBA to push-ahead with the immediate expansion of ILR, and for the development of Community and National commercial radio.

SANDILANDS QUITTS CAPITAL

What started as a whisper a while ago on the Euston Road, was confirmed finally and officially last week; JO SANDILANDS is quitting CAPITAL RADIO.

After six years with the London station the Programme Controller's announcement comes just 3-months after she gave birth to a son. CAPITAL say SANDILANDS is leaving for "family reasons" and she will not be returning, as scheduled, after Christmas.

When SANDILANDS went on Maternity Leave, RICHARD PARK, hired from RADIO CLYDE, as Head of Music, was given management go-ahead to do whatever was required to bring about a halt to a decline in the commercial stations audience figures. Figures had fallen annually for the last six years.

MERCURY (PROFIT) RISES

A pre-tax profit of £296,000 in the financial year to September 30, 1987, has been recorded by RADIO MERCURY. This is an increase of a massive £255,000 on last year. Turnover was up a staggering 49% to £1,400,000.

CRA FUNDRAISING

The COMMUNITY RADIO ASSOCIATION says it has achieved success in 5 major applications for grants.

In the last 6 months the CRA has received confirmation of the following grants:

£10,000 from HOME OFFICE Voluntary Sector Unit for out of London work.

£15,000 spread across 2 years from the GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION.

£22,000 over 2 years from the JOSEPH ROWNTREE TRUST.

£10,000 From GREATER LONDON ARTS.

and £21,826 from the LONDON BOROUGH GRANTS SCHEME.

TOP BROADCASTER JOINS NOW RADIO TEAM

STEVE MERIKE, with a commercial and public service broadcasting career spread over the past 3 decades has joined the Editorial team of writers for NOW RADIO.

He will be writing a regular review of programmes and stations.

BOB STEWART
DEPARTS
RADIO LUXEMBOURG

EXCLUSIVE

BOB STEWART is leaving RADIO LUXEMBOURG after almost 19 years with the station.

The senior jock is leaving to work for a Dallas commercial radio station.

He will be replaced by former LASER 558 star JESSIE BRANDON.

BOB STEWART, who joined 208 following a highly successful stint with RADIO CAROLINE (MORTH) will present his final show for LUXY on December 18th. He will fly to the USA on the 20th December.

BOB STEWART will be heard, in a pre-recorded show, on Boxing night.

JESSIE BRANDON will be flying direct from the USA, stopping off at LUXEMBOURG's Hertford Street offices briefly before flying on to the Grand Duchy and going on the air on December 28th.

GLORIA WILL GO ON
THE STREET

Leaving the comfort of Broadcasting House, RADIO 2 presenter GLORIA HONEYFORD will be presenting her show from London's Oxford Street on Friday December 18th. The show, running from 2.04pm, will include a visit to Selfridges. She will be assisted by ROLF HARRIS who will be asking children what they want SANTA CLAUS to put in their stockings.

RADIO TEES
RELAUNCHES
JANUARY 4th

IT'S "T-FM!"

EXCLUSIVE

Stockton-on-Tees commercial station RADIO TEES is relaunching itself from January 4th as T-FM "ninety six, sixty".

T-FM will have a new logo with the 'T' in red and the 'FM' in blue.

T-FM is now looking for new journalists to join its news team.

The decision to go for a new name and relaunch is based on the belief at RADIO TEES was too geographically restricting.

The new station identification package has been produced by Alphasound studios.

LINTER EXITS
AUSSIE RADIO

The LINTER GROUP is selling its four regional commercial radio stations in Australia. It is also looking for a buyer for a tv production company.

The sale of the four radio properties is expected to raise more than A\$40 million.

LINTER was particularly badly hit in the recent crash on the world stock markets.

In the UK LINTER controls GESTETNER.

COURT WILL RULE ON BBC SECURITY PROGRAMME

A High Court Judge should give a ruling on whether RADIO 4 can transmit the series *MY COUNTRY, RIGHT OR WRONG* on Wednesday. Until any change is made the BBC is having to operate under the varied blanket ban against broadcasting any information unless it has been cleared by Crown authority.

BRMB PROFIT

BRMB RADIO shows profits (pre-tax) up by 177% in 1987 compared to last year. The commercial station for Birmingham showed a pre-tax profit of £440,801 compared to £159,290 last year. Turnover, up 20%, was £3,005,825 - up by £510,690.

LBC FILES £1.6M PROFIT

LBC RADIO, which has recently introduced a brand-new schedule, and which has reported its first trading figures under control of CHALFORD COMMUNICATIONS, itself 92.7% owned by the Australian DARLING DOWNS TV PTY, has made a pre-tax (and extraordinary payment deduction) profit of £1,600,000. This is a ten-fold increase on last year for the station.

LABOUR TO LOOK AT MEDIA

The LABOUR PARTY is considering, if it gets back to power, introducing even more stringent controls on the media than those currently being proposed by the Government in the planned White Paper due in the spring.

A proposed council would have wide ranging powers to deal with all aspects of broadcasting (and the printed media).

RADIO 4 BRING BACK BIG NAMES FOR CHRISTMAS

RADIO 4 is bringing back JOHN TIMPSON and GERALD PRIESTLAND to host a special Christmas morning programme of talk and music starting at 6am. The programme will run until 8am.

NEW BBC RELAY OPENS SOON

The BBC is opening a new set of FM relay transmitters to serve the hilly area of High Wycombe. RADIO 2 will be on 89.9 MHz, RADIO 3 on 92.1 MHz and RADIO 4 on 94.3 MHz. Several unlicensed stations will be forced to change frequency as a result, according to NOW RADIO Correspondent STEVE HANLEY.

BBC MAN FREED

ATAUS SAMAD, a BBC Correspondent for the External Services, has been released by the authorities in Bangladesh.

During the unrest in that country last month he was put under arrest.

BBC BOSS PRAISES MEDIA FOR RADIO COVERAGE

DAVID HATCH, Managing Director of BBC Network Radio, thanked Editors recently for their improved coverage of Radio in 1987. HATCH said that the Government's Green Paper (RADIO; CHOICES & OPPORTUNITIES) was to thank for a great deal of coverage. He said it brought about much public debate and discussion of the medium. He reminded the press, "We are not dead in Radio!"

SUBSCRIBE!

(0815) 814437

SALES OFFERS

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

You can order using VISA or ACCESS by telephone (0536) 514437 during office hours, or by filling in the enclosed coupon and mailing it to us at NOW RADIO, PO BOX 45, KETTERING, NN16 0NW.

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 FRANSISCO. 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 £7.99

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

NR007. RADIO SOVEREIGN. A C60 featuring airchecks of this popular Solid Gold formated pirate in Twickenham in 1983. Top DJs, Pro-jingles and commercials, newscasts, etc. Collectors item.

PRICE £3.50p

NR008. RADIO ON THE MOVE. This is the amazing and well-received book you've seen promoted in recent issues of our publications.

PRICE £3.50p

CLYDE BOOSTS PROFITS

Glasgow's RADIO CLYDE has filed accounts showing an increase in profits for the year ending September 30, 1987.

On turnover up from £4.46m last year to £5.26m this year pre-tax profits were £916,000. This compares to last years £532,000. A final dividend of 2.75p brings the total dividend for the year to 4.25p. This is an increase of 0.75p on last year.

The station reports that airtime sales revenue for October and November is up by 16% when compared to the same period in 1986.

CORONATION STREET STAR JOINS PICCADILLY RADIO

Sacked CORONATION STREET star VENDY-JAYNE WALKER is making her acting come-back in a Christmas Panto on Manchester's PICCADILLY RADIO.

VENDY-JAYNE WALKER, who played SUSAN BALDWIN before she was axed last month, will appear in a specially written Panto which will be broadcast on Christmas Day. Other star-names scheduled to appear on the station are RICK ASTLEY who will present a programme of his own favourite music. DANNY LA RUE, PAUL YOUNG and NORMAN COOK (of The HOUSEMARTINS) will also host special programmes over the holiday.

The regular station DJs will be taking part in a knock-out Mastermind quiz pitting their wits against each other before a live studio audience.

PICCADILLY jocks will be opening their presents live on-air via telephone on Christmas Morning. On New Year's Day there will be a special documentary on the STARTREK series presented by PICCADILLY DJ

COLIN COOK and Actor WILLIAM SHATNER, who plays CAPTAIN KIRK.

Live Music will include a special concert by the HALLE ORCHESTRA and THE CHRISTIANS.

Newman NICK PISANI will present a programme from Bethlehem on Christmas Eve.

CAROLINE BACK ON LOW POWER

In an effort to save their 558 kHz channel from being 'taken-over' by other stations, RADIO CAROLINE returned to the air on reduced power only a few days after losing its 300 ft aerial tower.

The 10kW AM transmitter is putting around 900 Watts into a temporary antenna strung between the ship's forward mast and the funnel. Losses mean the actual radiated signal may be as low as 100 Watts.

At press time a new aerial tower system, consisting of two 160 ft towers (square-bases) is being constructed for the station 'somewhere in Europe'.

The new owners of RADIO MONIQUE, who took-over the station from its original owner mid-October, are hoping it won't be 'too long' before their station is back on air during daytime, with VIEWPOINT in the evening hours.

The new owners of MONIQUE had taken over the service for which they pay a monthly 'rental'. This money was also being used to fund the forthcoming shortwave service of CAROLINE.

The original owner of MONIQUE has been retained by the new backers as a Consultant and supplier.

The collapse of the tower aboard the ROSS REVENGE has meant that two big advertising contracts due for airing have been postponed.

The Dutch broadcasters have now been taken off the ship whilst their station is off the air. CAROLINE maintains a skeleton crew for the ship.

L O O S E

E N D S

OWEN OYSTON continues to grab a share in ILR! Adding to his five-per-cent of CAPITAL RADIO in London, he's now indirectly owner of more shares in across-town station LBC. OYSTON has a 2.3% share of ASPERMONT - which in turn has a 50% stake in DARLING DOWNS TV Pty - which in turn owns CHALFORD COMMUNICATIONS - which in turn has a 49% share of LBC RADIO and the national sales operation IRS.....

A massive picture of TERRY BATE now appears on the wall of our main room here at the NOW RADIO office. For pure inspiration of what's possible when you believe in something and work for it.....

Bournemouth's 2CR will be staying with IRS. Seems they won't move to BMS after all, deciding that they want to be part of the Southern Region sales package which will offer a combined ratecard for INVICTA RADIO, OCEAN SOUND and 2CR.....

A number of very favourable calls to NOW RADIO from readers who've tuned in to listen to THE LIGHT FM (OCEAN SOUND NORTH). Well done, to all concerned. Seems the target-group are loving it!.....

GRAHAM DEME returned to his old haunt recently with a live OB from UNITED BISCUITS Harlesden factory.....

S U B S C R I B E ! ! !

ENSURE YOUR OWN PERSONAL COPY OF NOW RADIO MAGAZINE EVERY FORTNIGHT BY TAKING OUT A SUBSCRIPTION TODAY.

YOU CAN SUBSCRIBE BY POST (PO BOX 45, KETTERING, NN16 0NV)

YOU CAN SUBSCRIBE BY 'PHONE (0536 51 44 37) DURING OFFICE HOURS USING YOUR ACCESS OR VISA CARDS

YOU CAN ALSO ARRANGE A SUBSCRIPTION WITH A STANDING ORDER. PLEASE CALL OR WRITE FOR A SPECIAL FORM.

The HOME OFFICE has set-up a Parliamentary Broadcasting Committee to look into Public Service Broadcasting, Pay TV and DBS.....

Congratulations to MANX RADIO! They've been given an Award of Special Merit from The Isle of Man Department of Tourism for making the greatest contribution to tourism in 1987. They won the prestigious award for RADIO TT. RADIO TT was what on the mainland would be called a Special Event station, but which the Manxmen would regard as an everyday thing. MANX RADIO operated RADIO TT on its AM frequencies whilst normal programming continued on FM. RADIO TT offered race commentary on the TT event, event-news and information and music geared to the thousands of bikers who attend the week-long TT Races. Well done, MANX RADIO.....

We are publishing NOW RADIO REPORTS (87) on December 29th. Send £1 for a copy! NOW RADIO MAGAZINE is back on January 5th. And we've yet another big-one planned!!!

L O O S E
R I N D S

Congratulations (again!) to MIKE HURLEY for winning another two awards. This time the Bradford copywriter has taken 2 awards at The LONDON INTERNATIONAL ADVERTISING AWARDS.....

MARCHER SOUND (Wrexham) has appointed JON DARCH as its new Sales Manager. John joins from Stoke-on-Trent's SIGNAL RADIO. He was with that outfit from day-one.....

STEVE PERKINS is currently Senior Radio Officer at the IBA. But (a) because the IBA knows it is about to loose control of non-BBC Radio in the forthcoming legislation or (b) 'cos he wants to do something else (you choose, gang!) from January 4th he'll become Regional Officer/East of England for the IBA. Let's hope he has a keen interest in commercial television!.....

Press ads and tv commercials have been used to promote last Sunday's launch of THE LIGHT FM a.k.a. OCEAN SOUND (North). Station claims that some thirty percent of people living in present OCEAN SOUND (East) and OCEAN SOUND (West) areas will be able to hear the new service which is programming music aimed at an audience of 35-years plus. Like we've reported before, OCEAN SOUND (North), sorry THE LIGHT FM will be on air with its own programmes from 6am until 2pm weekdays and 9am until 5pm at weekends. A 4-hour

classical music programme is amongst the new batch on offer.....

London unlicensed station HITS FM went off the air a week ago last Saturday earlier than planned due to some 'idiot' calling their number and doing a bit of a wind-up. Anyway, they're back and fighting on with a beautiful signal zapping out over parts of Herts, Surrey, Middlesex, London, etc on Saturday's from noon til midnight.....

Another station, London-based NMR with its oldies format, will be back, they tell us before Christmas. They were hit by a DTI raid no more than 24-hours after going on the air with full-transmissions. Full, in this case, being what is at the moment a night time service from 10pm until 4am each night (when they're back).....

LBC RADIO's THROUGH THE NIGHT show with MIKE CARSON has a really unique idea at the moment. Listeners are invited to their studios at 2am in the morning to call a friend or relative living abroad (USA, Canada, Australia, etc). The catch is you have to let the entire listenership hear your call and the person at the other end mustn't know it's going to happen!!! We reckon, now this has appeared in print, it'll not be too long before this clever idea spreads around the nations local stations like wildfire! But, will BT sponsor it, I hear your MD asking you????!!.....

L O O S E

E N D S

Good to hear STEVE WRIGHT singing the praises of none other than DAVID BASSETT on his RADIO 1 show the other day. BASSETT now hosting a Call-In show on BBC Local Radio in the West Country.....

After what seems like years at RADIO TAY, KENNY PAGE has returned to Israel and THE VOICE OF PEACE Radio station. Kenny, also a one time CAROLINER, on air daily with the mid-east offshore station. Departing the VOP, two days ago, was TIM SHEPHERD and on the 20th December, NEIL ARMSTRONG.....

When the CAROLINE mast collapsed, on 25th November, the station's Programme Director PETER PHILIPS was away in the United States on vacation. It was down to another staffer to telephone and give him the news. His Deputy, KEVIN TURNER, was aboard the station to take it through the Christmas season. He duly left the station at the end of November whilst work began on clearing up the mess and building a new antenna system.....

STEVE COLMAN, he who began his amazing (you should read these press releases!) with RADIO SOVEREIGN and who now stars with METRO RADIO is adding to his shere versitality by joining BBC TV for a new Children's Programme which takes to the air mid-February.....

LENNY HENRY's BBC TV show the other week had his pirate station 'BBC' using some backing music which was correctly identified as the old JFM theme tune from day's gone by. How many other ex-staffers of JFM (or listeners) noticed this fact?.....

The next issue of the Community Radio magazine RELAY will be the last. Another one bites the dust. This news comes hot on the heels of the revelation that MEDIA MONITOR has ceased publication. NOW RADIO, of course, continues and will welcome any former reader of the other two publications to join our subscribers.....

By the way, don't forget: if you wish to subscribe, or renew a subscription to NOW RADIO Magazine, NOW RADIO Reports - or order any of 'our own' products advertised from time to time, you can do so using your VISA or ACCESS cards by calling (0536) 51 44 37 during office hours.....

We got it (slightly) wrong. JOHNNY LEWIS and HOWARD HUGHES do afternoon drive shows on RADIO WYVERN and not breakfast as reported in the last issue. The split of the Worcester transmitters (with HOWARD HUGHES) and Hereford transmitters (with JOHNNY LEWIS) started a couple of weeks back. Appears to be a little more chat on the Herefordshire service.....

Whenever you get a LOOSE END...call it through to us!!

L O O S E
E N D S

PETER LEVY showed his professional skills the other day on BBC RADIO LEEDS (The Voice of West Yorkshire) when CORONATION STREET star LIZ DAWN (who plays VERA DUCKWORTH) threw a great big wobbly in the middle of a live interview! Poor lady was upset 'cos Peter wanted to talk about some newspaper stories...and "Our Vera" wanted to walk out on the guy! He managed to calm her down and she stayed.....

Talking about people walking out - or rather failing to walk in...naughty ROSS DICKINSON has been late for his breakfast airshift on the Leeds commercial station RADIO AIRE several times lately. On Wednesday December 2nd he wasn't heard on air until 8.15am (not bad for a show which should have begun at 6am?!). The former PENNINE presenter then received a written warning from management and was on time on Thursday. You're not gonna believe this, but on Friday he was late again! In fact 40-minutes late! You'll not be too surprised to hear that, after his Saturday morning show, he was greeted by the stations Programme Controller (Hi, kid!) who duly informed ROSS he was being suspended for a week. As a result CARL KINGSTON hosted the following week's breakfast shift while PAUL STEAD did CARL's evening show. It's never that simple, is it? It's a case now of watch this space!!!....

The STIRLING COMMUNITY RADIO GROUP put together a special sixty minute broadcast which was transmitted over the facilities of Campus station RADIO AIRTHREY during November. The broadcast was part of the activities the group organised at Stirling University that day which also included a day-long practical course on production and training for Community Radio. El Salvador, local bus services and arts for children were amongst the topics dealt with in the programme which also included some music. The potential audience was 2,500 students living on Campus.....

TOM BEESLEY has a new title! He's now Chairman of the JACTRJ...that's the Beeb's language for JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE for the TRAINING of RADIO JOURNALISTS. He left the BBC last year, having been Manager at RADIO NOTTINGHAM, Senior Manager (Local Radio) in London and Regional TV Manager for the Midlands in the past. TOM BEESLEY takes over from GERRY MANSELL who has Chaired the committee since it first started-up about six years ago.....

In January, BARNABY MASON takes over the Cairo Bureau for the BBC. He replaces BOB JOBBINS who is now head of the BBC ARABIC Service and based back in London.....

ANDREW GLOVER has joined the RADIO FORTH newsteam in Edinburgh from Aberdeen's ILR station NORTHSOUND.....

IF IT MOVES...TELL US!!!

L O O S E

I N D S

Congratulations to SEVERN SOUND for their bit for Christmas! They managed to raise £41,000 over two days for their MONEY MOUNTAIN which was run over two days. Three major charities benefited from the bulk, with 24 smaller organisations being given cheques for £250 each. The amount raised was over £10,000 up on last years figure.....

LONDON record label plunger MATHEW AUSTIN paid a mighty £100 for the first sight of the RADIO ONE playlist add-on's the other week to help raise some cash for CHILDREN IN NEED.....

They tell us that there's a new team of RIS officers in action in London, including a number of new boy's having a bash at keeping London's airwaves free of pirate radio stations. Six raids on one station in less than two weeks, and with no sign of actual interference being caused by that particular station, makes one wonder how they actually go about selecting who is for the chop!.....

On the subject of London pirate stations, you'll remember that HMR (News Music Radio) was hit by a raid on only its second evening of broadcasting recently. We were told by station boss ROGER ROSS that the RIS squad managed to go in and out of the building, removing the transmitter and

the like, within only five minutes. And that included getting down from a tower block. Oh for the day it's legit.....

How about some of the RIS officers being tempted away by current unlicensed but at the same time prospective new entrant broadcasters with large sums of money...to join them when they get licenses? Go on! How about LWR offering ERIC GOTTS the position of Chief Engineer. We know he's knowledgeable!!!!.....

New to Dublin city is SOUTHSIDE 95 broadcasting on 94.9 MHz....amongst the jocks on the station is PETER MADISON.....

Leeds UL station ABC RADIO is now attempting a round-the-clock schedule on 105.1 MHz.....

In Ireland, talks are going on all over the place between the present pirate radio stations and prospective financial-interests who could be brought in to strengthen any application for licences by such operations. Of course, this mainly means the bigger operations such as NOVA POWER 103 (talking with publishers of the IRISH INDEPENDENT), ERI (going in with CORK EXAMINER PUBLICATIONS Ltd) etc. SUNSHINE RADIO has already concluded arrangements for a wider representation on its Board and feels quite comfortable. Two big licences will be available for Dublin and two for Cork where ERI is situated.....

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AUDIO QUALITY: ULTIMATE OR APPROPRIATE?

FEATURE BY NORMAN MCLEOD

A certain Michael Smith of Wokingham mentioned some advantages of AM broadcasting in *NR 40*'s letters page.

His letter was a very interesting one to see, because he makes the point that for certain types of material, AM can sound 'smoother' than FM. Everyone, as he puts it, seems to be 'in love with FM'. No one is more so these days than the BBC, which is determined to force all national network listeners onto FM, whether they want to change their listening habits or not.

But Mr Smith quite rightly points out that AM reception has its own advantages. Some of these arise from the heavy compression and processing which is always applied to AM broadcasts, but to a lesser extent on FM radio. Others have to do with the tuning and reception characteristics of MF/LF broadcasting, and so on.

What is refreshing about the letter is that it flies in the face of accepted wisdom on the subject. Most people, particularly hi-fi freaks but also many radio engineers, regard AM broadcasting as so technically inferior as to be beneath contempt, and dismiss it practically without a second thought.

Here, for example, is hi-fi reviewer Martin Colloms' comments on AM radio: "Frankly - and rather sadly - AM is a dead loss for quality reception these days ... the stations restrict the bandwidth of the signals they transmit ... an expediency which deals fidelity a fatal blow ... nostalgia aside, we must accept that FM is it."

FIDELITY IS NOT EVERYTHING

That quote was taken from a recent edition of the review magazine "*Hi-Fi Choice*". From the point of view of the hi-fi enthusiast, for whom quality of reproduction is a paramount, overriding consideration, Mr. Colloms' assessment of AM is quite accurate and fair. To his credit, he also points out that the AM performance of many so-called hi-fi tuners is "embarrassingly bad", and one hopes that some day manufacturers will sit up and take notice of such comments.

But in brushing aside AM in a few words, and conspicuously failing to conduct any measurements at all on the AM section of the tuners, hi-fi reviewers are to some degree imposing their priorities on the rest of us.

Not everyone who buys a tuner does so because he or she is seeking the ultimate in audio reproduction quality. Indeed, if that is what they expect, many stations (most of the pirates and not a few official stations too) produce audio quality which is less than exciting when played through a revealing and accurate system, no matter how good the tuner is.

There are a few people - not many, I'll admit - who buy tuners because they like listening to the radio, warts and all. There are many more people who get pleasure from listening to ordinary transistor portable sets with no particular pretensions towards wonderful audio quality. There are literally millions of people who find nothing at all objectionable about AM quality on a reasonable receiver under reasonable conditions, and I am happy to be counted as one of them. I'd rather listen to a programme I liked on AM than something less interesting on FM. Wouldn't you?

APPROPRIATE QUALITY

It seems to me that for any given situation, there is an appropriate level of quality of reproduction to be aimed at, and trying to go further than that is pointless and can be expensive.

For example, telephone conversations are quite comprehensible with a bandwidth of just 3 kHz and lots of noise and distortion. To bring 'phone conversations up to the quality of FM radio - 15 kHz bandwidth and very low distortion - would serve no purpose whatsoever and would make calls prohibitively expensive.

AM radio lies somewhere between the telephone and FM radio in quality terms. At its best, you can recover (in Europe, anyway) about 6 kHz of bandwidth and around 30 or 40 dB of signal-to-noise ratio. With plenty of compression and processing to keep the modulation riding high over the background noise, the results can be perfectly acceptable for background listening in the car, at work, or at home.

Indeed, because FM transmissions, especially those of Radio 3 and Radio 4, are not compressed in the same way as AM, it can actually be MORE DIFFICULT to listen to a play or some classical music on FM in a noisy place on a small set because some of the time the modulation falls so low you can't hear it properly.

It is worth pointing out that radio's most successful years, before the damned moving picture box took over, were entirely an AM affair. FM radio didn't exist at all here until the mid-fifties, at which point radio's decline as a medium of national importance had already begun. And the sixties pirates were all AM too, weren't they?

COMPACT DISC: HMMMM...

Another thing the broadcasting industry will probably fall in love with soon, if it hasn't already, is the compact disc player.

People are willing to believe that CD players offer perfect sound forever. Certainly with a well-designed machine they do have some ergonomic and handling advantages, but anyone who has had the opportunity to compare CD reproduction with the best analogue equipment will realise that the resolution of the CD medium is limited in a way which analogue reproduction isn't. It also shows up mercilessly any defects in the original recording, and the results can be very variable indeed.

I find personally that CD players have their own distinctly hard, glassy sound which lacks the sweetness and air of the best analogue recordings. It's not surprising really: the signal is subject to very steep filtering and many stages of processing, including an error-correction circuit which makes up the music as it goes along. The types of distortion which you get from CD's is wholly different in character from analogue types of distortion, but that doesn't mean you don't notice it or it isn't there.

So give me a nice, gutsy AM signal any day. As Michael Smith says, the bits of the sixties don't sound right any other way. Who wants to hear every scratch and scrape of some battered old record? Far better to smooth off the edges than reveal them in all their glory. AM is good at that.

AM engineering is more fun, too. Great big mast radiators take a lot more doing than poxy little FM arrays. But that, as they say, is another story.

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ROSE'S RAMBLINGS

It sounded quite slick. What appeared to be a countdown of the (latest?) chart. The DJ told me the number and the title and that was about it. No time-checks. No DJ name-checks. No identification of what chart it was. And, most importantly, there was no station identification. Over what must have been a half-hour period tuned in I was to become non-the-wiser.

It was a Saturday lunchtime and I was travelling through London. That station could have been anything. Needless to say, it made me wonder how much of a problem this was for London's two-dozen or more unlicensed radio stations now offering much of a regular service.

I mean, in a competitive market, as London now is, it is more important than ever to ID your station. You could have the best music, the best DJs and loads of commercials paying the running costs. But no station

ID means your station gets no recognition, your jocks get no feedback and your advertisers don't discover whether the money they are paying you is worth it or not. Particularly a problem if the client uses more than your station, I would think.

Tuning around to find what else was available I discovered the non-identification problem to be widespread. There was another station running what turned out to be a 6 or 7 minute block of commercials. There was not one station ID between any of them. I've always thought that, not only is 7 minutes of commercials far too much, but even for those listeners who do put up with it, there's still no credit to the provider of these 'messages'.

I'm sure that the god Mercury became well known around Athens 'cos he ensured he got loads of name-checks. Alright, we knew we were listening to LASER-558 and it was ALL EUROPE RADIO 'cos the jocks told us. You don't have to use 'jingles' all the time, either. Your jocks should be able to use the station name at some point in their links.

Because of this non-identification situation (on-going!) I was not able to quickly work out which soul station was which. Now I'm in the business, carrying my SONY 2001D, and able to note the frequency and check from a list...Joe Public and his sister Joanna, are not like this. It could be they'll dial hop from one end to the other and end up by identifying only a couple of stations during their travels. And those are likely to be RADIO ONE, CAPITAL and LBC.

Come on! Remember to tell us who you are!!!

HOWARD E L ROSE

THE
STEVE MERKIE
INTERVIEW
PART TWO
INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY
ROB CHAPMAN

RC: *What did you do at RADIO ONE between CAROLINE and RNI?*

SM: Biggest mistake I ever made, leaving RADIO ONE. I did a Sunday night programme with real commercials! There was me, ANNE NIGHTINGALE and NOEL EDMONDS. Took it in turns - did one every 3 weeks. We decided we would have commercials and make it commercial radio, but on RADIO ONE.

RC: *How did that go down?*

SM: Like a brick khazi! No, actually it didn't go down too badly. I just went on there and took the mick. We had all these wonderful commercials for carrots, rain and string!!! And we made them all in Production 2.

RC: *I remember there being a programme on Sunday afternoons called FIRST CHANCE where all these ex-pirate DJs who were drifting into RADIO ONE did a little 5-minute demo on air. I remember you doing one....and ROBBIE DALE and also JERRY KING from CAROLINE NORTH.*

SM: I did the very first one. The next one was NOEL EDMONDS. I've still got it at home somewhere. It's a killer! I played THE

SUPREMES, that's about all I can remember off-hand. Five minutes in front of a live audience trying to pretend you were a disc jockey. JOHNNY BEERLING produced it I think. Then I did the BREAKFAST SHOW for 2½ months. Then I went off on my honeymoon. I mean I'd been married a while but we only had about 35p to our name. Suddenly I had all this money so off we went to the Channel Isles and when I was there they offered me ALL OUR YESTERPLAYS which at the time I turned down because I didn't want to do it. Biggest mistake of my life. I was at RADIO ONE until September 1970.

RC: *I was always surprised that you didn't join RNI in 1970.*

SM: I'll tell you why ROB, because I was never into all that. My whole premise for being in radio was for the joy of radio not the joy of sitting on a ship. Plus the fact that it was my contention at the time - and indeed in the end I was proved to be right - that it was never going to be run as a business. It was run because MEISTER and BOLLIER had decided they wanted to own a pirate ship and they had the finance to do it. It was a hobby. BOLLIER called his daughter CAROLINE and his son ROMAN! He was into that! They invited me first time round but I was on RADIO ONE. The only reason I went in the end was because I didn't have a job. I got a call from MEISTER out of the blue at home. I don't know how he got my number!

RC: How did you find working for RADIO ONE generally, compared say with the freedom you had enjoyed on CAROLINE?

SM: It wasn't stiffling. I only had one producer and he never turned up because at seven in the morning you don't expect him to. His name was MIKE HAWKES. Lovely man. The guy who really got me into RADIO ONE was a man called KEITH STEWART who again was a really lovely man.. The producers at that time were wonderful people. The guy who got their act together was not ROBIN SCOTT - the original Controller - but MARK WHITE. He was the guy. He had the bearing of a Colonel but you always knew where you stood with him. I remember being at a meeting with TONY BLACKBURN and him. He called us in and said to BLACKBURN: "Listen here, my boy!" This was to the top DJ in the country. I mean the guy was earning untold wealth. But MARK WHITE treated everybody equally. Him and TOMMY SHIELDS are the two most wonderful men I've met in radio, without doubt. MARK WHITE really made RADIO ONE. When DEREK SHIMMERY took over RADIO ONE from MARK WHITE he took over a very good network. He then enhanced and developed what MARK WHITE had done with a lot of good talent - people like NOEL EDMONDS - and so on. As I've said where things started to go wrong for RADIO ONE was when they started to employ Pretty Boys. The 1970's were the golden years for RADIO ONE, but in the eighties they look good on tv and sound awful on the radio.

RC: Let's talk about RAI now. How did you get involved?

SM: A guy called VICTOR PELLI rang me up and said could we meet in London. He flew in to London and I took the train up from Bognor! I met him in the CUMBERLAND HOTEL and we had a 3½-hour discussion about

radio. At the end of the 3½ hours he said I want you to come and run the English Service of RAI and I said thank you very much indeed when do I start. We negotiated a salary and he said who are you going to have? And before I could say anything else he said: "By the way, I've talked to ALAN WEST.." So I knew ALAN was coming. When I met VICTOR PELLI I wasn't initially keen because I remembered the mess of earlier days and I thought well these guys don't want to run it as a business proposition and therefore none of our futures are secure.

RC: Was this all very hush-hush at the time? Presumably they still had the agreement with VERONICA not to come back on the air?

SM: Yes I think it was all very hush-hush at the time, but to be frank with you I stayed out of all that because it was nothing but trouble and I didn't want any part of that. So I said to VICTOR, look if I come out I want to run it the right way.

RC: You did a lot of the production work when you got out there, didn't you?

Yeah. They made me Station Manager. Specifically to look after the English Service and also the World Service. Hiring and firing with VICTOR was also my responsibility. Also with MEISTER. He would come and ask me what was happenig here and there.

RC: So you got hold of these people like TONY ALLAN and

MARTIN KAYNE?

SM: They all came by different routes. There was CRISPIN ST JOHN. I'd never met the guy. We heard his tape and it was brilliant. With TONY ALLIS we wanted a mid-morning person for the World Service, so he was right for that. ALAN WEST and I were the first two to go onto the ship when it was anchored off Scheveningen.

RC: It was a very different station in 1971 to 1970, wasn't it?

SM: Absolutely right. I just removed all the indulgence - the so-called progressive music. As far as I was concerned it was going to be run as a business and if the people there didn't want it to be run as a business they could always leave.

RC: So you were going for the pop market? In direct challenge to RADIO ONE, or what?

SM: Absolutely. We saw our competition as HILVERSUM 3 in Holland, BRT 2 in Belgium, EUROPE #1 in France. VERONICA to a lesser extent. And in England, RADIO ONE.

RC: Then suddenly within the space of two months the English Service was shunted away into the evening - was that always on the cards?

SM: That was always on the cards. There was no way that sufficient advertising was going to be there in 1971/2 for an English-language service. The Dutch advertisers wouldn't advertise in an English-language programme - although 90% of the Dutch speak English.

RC: So you felt at then about just having the evenings. That was the deal?

SM: On yes. We were on from 6pm til 2am. It was, as you say, a much more

professional radio station. A tighter radio station. The amount of mail we got was quite phenomenal. I mean it was good pop radio.

RC: Was there a good feeling on board? Did you feel it was working?

SM: Yes we did. All the time VIC PELLI was there we felt we had a voice in the ear of the Board. There were one or two up's and down's like when DE TELEGRAAF in Holland said that we were a spy-ship. They all came out and I showed the Minister of Telecommunications round the ship. RADIO VERONICA wanted us off so they put about this story that we were a spy-ship from East Germany, spying on Dutch defences!

RC: Were you on board when the bombing happened in May 1971?

SM: I was on leave.

RC: That must have brought it all home to you..

SM: The vulnerability of it. Yes.

RC: Were you aware of the precarious position that existed between you and VERONICA?

SM: There was a precarious relationship between us and everybody. There, was a point where a ship appeared out of the mist and we were all issued with revolvers! Because we thought it was another ship come to try to take us over. But it didn't. So, yea you're bound to be in a precarious situation aren't

you? Illegally broadcasting on a ship 3 miles from anywhere. At one point we had a 24-hour escort from the Dutch Navy. They were out there for 3 weeks.

RC: Did you have to play many of the BASART PUBLISHING plug records like you had to play MAJOR MINOR on CAROLINE?

SM: On no. That was for the Dutch service. We did play some stuff from there because it was a good laugh. We did play some of the Dutch records. Some of them were quite popular.

RC: Not all the MAJOR MINOR ones were that bad, were they? Like DAVID McWILLIAMS. And same of the PRESIDENT stuff like FELICE TAYLOR...

SM: Yes. Some of it didn't need to be plugged. Some of them are now classics. They were on plug.

RC: How did it all end at RMI?

SM: I was fired! It seems a strange thing to say but RMI was becoming too popular. It was becoming too successful. There was FORD and COCA-COLA wanting to advertise. So we're talking about big money. And I don't think MEISTER and BOLLIER really wanted all that. I really don't. I think they just enjoyed the to-ing and fro-ing, the up's and down's of pirate radio. I think they just wanted to own a pirate radio station and weren't bothered about making money.

RC: So who fired you then?

SM: BOLLIER. I came back from my weeks leave; arrived at the house and he was standing there. "You're Fired!" And that was it. I caught the next plane back.

RC: Had you thought of leaving after the bombing incident? Because some

people did leave, didn't they?

SM: The only person who left was MARTIN KAYNE and that wasn't to do with the bombing. That was to do with his wife. She said it's either me or them! And he chose his wife.

RC: How did you feel about being fired? Hard done by?

I felt very bitter.

TO BE CONTINUED

1987 NOW RADIO COMMUNICATIONS
& ROB CHAPMAN
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In the next issue, discover about Steve's letter from RADIO 2, his views on the prospects for British Radio post-Green Paper, Community Radio, ILR Management, Training, LASER, CAROLINE today and more....

LP SPOTS ON LBC RADIO

PICKWICK RECORDS are running commercials for four albums featuring ABBA, RICHARD CLAYDERMAN, AL JOLSON and a classical collection featuring JOHN WILLIAMS, PLACIDO DOMINGO, NEVILLE MARRINER, ITZAK PERLMAN, VLADIMIR ASHKENAZE, RADU LUPU amongst others. Proceeds of the sales of the classical album will be donated to MENCP. The advertising campaign on LBC RADIO is booked for a three-week period.

PIRACY ON THE HIGH SEAS

THOUSANDS OF POUNDS BACKING MISSING FROM PIRATE RADIO PROJECT

BLAZING ROW ERPUTS OVER OFFSHORE RADIO OPERATION

NOW RADIO EXCLUSIVE

The backer of a project to relaunch an offshore radio service from the former LASER RADIO ship MV COMMUNICATOR was confronted last Thursday by the fact that between £50,000 and £100,000 investment money has disappeared from the operation.

The backer, a British national and evangelist, who is owner of Estate Agencies and Property companies, discovered the massive amount of money had been taken away from the radio project during a stormy meeting with a representative of the owners of the ship.

The £50,000 to £100,000 investment money, is believed to be about half the cash the backer has so far provided. He has been expecting to hear two radio stations broadcasting from the ship: STAR FORCE 576 and HARMONY 981.

It is alleged that the money has been 'diverted' from the radio project by another British citizen who is currently waiting for trial in a Kent Court for alleged offences under the Marine Offences Act 1967 for involvement with LASER 558; a London-based office operation which allegedly represented and managed affairs for LASER 558 and for providing material for the radio ship.

The one-time CAROLINE ROADSHOW, and later LASER ROADSHOW deejay bases himself at a London

advertising agency based in New Bond Street. From there he is said to conduct business for the planned STAR FORCE 576 and HARMONY 981.

A Partner in the agency told NOW RADIO that he had no knowledge of the allegation that money invested in the radio project was missing.

"It's news to me." was his comment. The Partner said that he did know the backer of the project.

Asked whether he was aware of the legal position a British company would have in regard to selling airtime for an offshore radio station, he told us the person [at the centre of the allegations] was not an employee of his and that he worked on his own.

Before representatives of the ship-owners spoke to NOW RADIO on Friday, we had spoken to the London-based Briton who appears to front the operation and questioned him about the ownership of the vessel. He admitted to us that the vessel did not belong to him or the backer, but that: "Possession is nine-tenths of the law..."

At Thursday's meeting the representative of the backer claimed that 60 tons of fuel oil for the ships generators had recently been delivered to the ship from England. This was immediately discounted by the representative of the ship-owners. The backer of the project was then asked to call the person who was supposed to be responsible for the fuel delivery. The result was a discovery that the last fuel to be taken to the radio-ship COMMUNICATOR came from the Continent aboard the tender used for RADIO CAROLINE/MONIQUE and was put aboard the COMMUNICATOR in August at the same time as two antenna mast towers.

The backer of the project claims that, having invested so much money in it, he now claims the ship. The actual owner of the vessel claimed to NOW RADIO that this amounted to "Nothing short of Piracy on the High Seas."

The ship, which has been off the English coast silent since running short of finance and falling foul to a series of technical problems since earlier this year, had returned to the air following a sale by the Admiralty Marshal for £35,000. The purchaser was the Essex-based East Anglian Productions. They in turn sold the vessel on to a Panamanian company.

At one point earlier in the year a U.S. citizen came to an Agreement with the Panamanian company. However full funding of the investment was not forthcoming and ownership legally reverted to the original Panamanian company.

We sent a Reporter to the m.v. COMMUNICATOR on Friday to ask the crew questions. DJ Paul Jackson said: "We are not allowed to talk to you."

The crew of the vessel have signed agreements that they will not talk to anyone from the media. If they do they lose their 'jobs'. Already one former crew-member, who left the ship a few weeks ago, has found himself being under threat of legal action for passing on photographs of the ship to a free radio organisation. That organisation has been told that it must not offer the photographs for sale.

Aboard the ship at the moment are the Captain, DJ Paul Jackson, Engineer Mike Barrington, generator man Dave and Engineer/DJ Joe 'Young'.

A spokesman for the ships owners told NOW RADIO: "They believe that

because (deleted name) is paying them, they should do as he says. That's what makes this whole affair one of piracy. They just perhaps do not understand the true position they are in."

When NOW RADIO spoke to the project-backer he said that he "didn't think anything had disappeared in the real sense."

He said that there were almost certainly explanations available to answer all possible allegations.

We asked him whether he was worried about the legal position of the ownership of the vessel, and whether he felt that pouring vast amounts of money into radio stations aboard a ship that he was not actually the owner of, worried him. He said that the ownership issue was currently being resolved.

When asked if he felt bitterness that he may have lost so much money, if the allegations were true, he said: "I try to keep bitterness from my heart at all times.."

We then managed to speak to the Briton at the centre of the allegations. Asked if he had any comment to make about the missing money, he said: "Look, there is just a mad panic on because of the situation with (the American who earlier this year had agreed to buy the ship and who still has the ship's papers)." He denied that money had gone missing and claimed that all money was accounted for.

Whatever the actual truth of the situation, it would appear today, as such as at any time in the troubled history of the COMMUNICATOR, there is a basis of legal problems, debtors and misleading information, half-truths and downright lies. Like in any game-of-chance, there are winners and losers. In this particularly nasty game, perhaps (bar one), it might appear all are destined to be losers.

NEW EDITION
1987

Radio on the move

This is the fifth edition of the ever popular guide to a smooth passage through the air waves in the UK. The unique layout enables the programme of one's choice to be located and tuned no matter what part of the country one finds oneself in with the minimum of wasted time and no technical knowledge.

In this day and age the ever increasing sophistication of radio receivers and their ability to reproduce high quality transmissions can be used to the best advantage with the use of this guide which has been thoroughly updated after the three years of almost constant change brought about by the international agreement reached in 1984.

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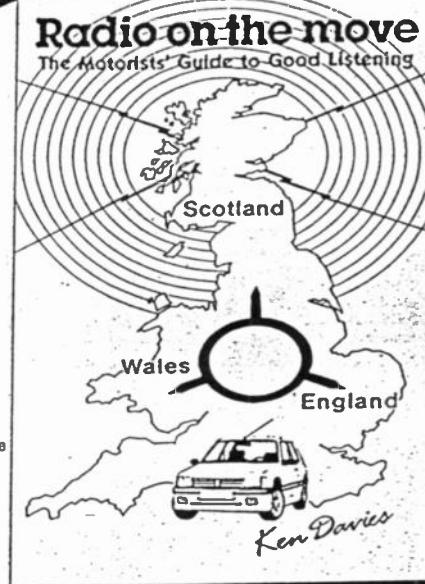
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		Total

LBC CHRISTMAS APPEAL

LBC RADIO in London has launched its Christmas Appeal. It is in aid of the RNLI and called LBC MARINECALL. Listeners are asked to call a special number (0898) 500 350. On that number listeners hear a special message and the longer the caller listens, the more money is raised to build "D" Class inflatable lifeboats. The cost of LBC MARINECALL is 38p per minute peak rate and 25p off peak. 20p of this amount goes to the ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION. 300 lines are available at all times and calls can be made from anywhere in the country.

THREE PARTY AGREEMENT OVER IRISH RADIO BILL

The 3 main party Whips in the Irish Parliament have agreed to the contents of RAY BURKE's Radio Bill. They have told the Minister for Communications they will give the Bill all the support required to get it through in time for Christmas.

TALKS

The Dublin-based NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY BROADCASTERS has begun talks with PES ahead of the Department of Communications issuing radio licences in the spring. (Full details of the Radio Bill in NOW RADIO # 41).

CHARLIE WOLF BACK TO EUROPE?

EXCLUSIVE

DJ CHARLIE WOLF may be returning to European Radio in the new year. The star who made his name on LASER 558 has been offered an opening with the new satellite-delivered CABLE ONE radio service which will be based in Hilversum, Holland.

CABLE ONE's breakfast shift will be presented by TOM MULDER (6am - 10am) who was also known as KLAAS VAAK over RADIO VERONICA. He nowadays is employed by TROS.

Between 10am - 2pm CABLE ONE may be hosted by YVONNE KELLY. She's the co-singer of the #1 hit IF I HAD WORDS.

Other well-known jocks include KAS VAN IKERSEL (KAS COLLINS) who will host drivetime in the afternoons.

BENNY BROWN, former AFI and RADIO LUXEMBOURG air personality has been asked to host programmes as has LINDA DE MOL.

CABLE ONE should take to the air January 20th. First test-transmissions will begin January 2nd, after a special Christmas Day programme for cable system listeners in Glasgow, Scotland.

A major report on CABLE ONE will appear in NOW RADIO MAGAZINE (issue # 43) on January 5th, 1988.

It has been compiled by HANS KNUT, NOW RADIO's Correspondent in the Benelux.

SO THAT'S WHAT THIS KNOB IS FOR ! ! !

PART 3

FEATURE by ROB CHAPMAN
For NOW RADIO

We continue to hear how ROB CHAPMAN discovered the world of radio..Part 4 (the final episode will appear in the next issue)....

There is nothing quite as sinister as dead-air. When something you were used to being there was no longer there, and without explanation or warning, the feeling was indescribably eerie. And in those immediate days after March 3, 1968, I wondered what the hell was going on. It was my dad actually who came in from work one night and said he'd read something in the 'paper to the effect that CAROLINE had been towed away and it wasn't coming back. So that was that and we entered into what should have been the dark years for offshore radio fans. Except for me, looking back, they weren't dark years at all.

Of course nothing could compensate for the loss of CAROLINE, and I think it was DAVID HUGHES in DISC & MUSIC ECHO who expressed it best when he wrote "only after a couple of weeks of enforced RADIO ONE does the loss of CAROLINE really hit home". And he was right. We've taken the alternatives for granted (perhaps we still do?) but without the choice RADIO ONE did indeed sound truly awful. The game for the next couple of years became spot your favourite ex-pirate jock in the most unlikely BBC time slot (joint winners PETE DRUMMOND playing West

Coast and Underground sounds on Friday's MIDDAY SPIN and TOM LODGE having to introduce the JDO etc on RADIO ONE O'CLOCK).

But for me the late sixties were years of discovery. I wasn't prepared to put up with "What's the Recipe today, JIM?!" for the rest of my life. These were years of devouring ROSKO, RAVEN and PEELE programmes, of reading MELODY MAKER from cover to cover, taking in the folk and jazz pages and all the other stuff I'd never heard of. There was a desire to absorb new information and new music, and it was around this time that my eyes first took note of the jazz diary in MELODY MAKER which would each week list all the jazz programmes on European radio. And so I discovered AFN and RADIO BERLIN and RADIO STOCKHOLM, and all the other Euro-stations where new music seemed to be cherished and not ignored. As I recall the jazz diary never seemed to bear much resemblance to what I actually heard. Chances were if I tuned in for an hour of MILES DAVIS I got an hour of Blues instead, or if I tuned in for an hour of Blues I got an American football match! But it didn't matter. I was constantly discovering new sounds, new stations, and was tuning in to a whole new world.

I also discovered the first lady of offshore radio; VERONICA. And by pressing a tranny close to my ear I could hear the faint tones of LEX HARDING and TOM COLLINS (and all the other Dutch names I couldn't decipher at the time!) VERONICA sounded to me like everything RADIO ONE should be but wasn't. Looking back I'm amazed at the poor quality of the sound I was prepared to listen to just to find a decent station. I was that hungry for good music. Listening to VERONICA was like having a braille Bible. And I still can't hear THE YARDBIRDS 'Over Under Sideways Down' without

thinking of VERONICA jingles!

I suppose this was the only period when I was a true 'free radio' fanatic, because by now to compensate for the loss of CAROLINE I'd started subscribing to FREE RADI NEWS and some of the other offshore literature - although I drew the line at joining GEOFFREY PEARL's Pools Syndicate! It was through such a grapevine that I was clued up in advance about the coming of RII in 1970. Since the MI AMIGO and the North ship had been towed away there had been nothing but rumours and more rumours of new stations. But this one was for real, and just as the free radio mags had predicted there was ROGER DAY on 186 metres, soon to be joined by ANDY ARCHER, CARL MITCHELL and ALAN WEST. It's hard for me to be objective about 1970 period RII. It remains to this day the only station I've followed faithfully from test transmissions to closedown, and it has a very special place in my loyalties. For one thing, at the time it seemed like the return of CAROLINE - half the jocks were familiar names. But more importantly I suspect was the fact that we had been starved of non-stop pop music for nearly two years. RII more than filled the gap.

There are so many memories I could list here; like tuning in one Monday evening in March to hear ALAN WEST announce that they were sailing to the English coast, and listening as the signal got unbelievably louder and louder (in time honoured fashion of course the station was off the air for most of the next day with transmitter problems!). Of course as we all know now this was the start of Northsea's troubles and within a month they were being jammed, and so began my brief flirtation with free radio politics. Like so many others I marched to DOWLING STREET on June 14th to

protest - literally rubbing shoulders with SIMON DEE at one point, pop fans! incidentally at this juncture I could call the Editors bluff. For if he insists on giving my articles smutty anatomical titles I could reveal what really happened on the way home from that march. It certainly had nothing to do with free radio (although there is a vague connection with anoraks.) But, I digress.....!!

So what happened? We marched, we sang WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE KIDDING MR WILSON. Grocer HEATH won the election and the jamming continued. To me something didn't add up. While all around me the free radio organisations were trying to come to terms with this apparent contradiction in party political strategy I was starting to think that as regards pirate radio THEY ARE ALL THE BLOODY SAME. Even to this day I meet people prepared to concoct some wild story to justify why PMG CHATAWAY turned out to be PMG STONEHOUSE with a different coloured rosette on. But for me those days of naivete died during the summer of 1970 and I've kept such contradiction and cant at arms length ever since.

RII eventually limped back to the Dutch coast and began what I regard as their finest period of broadcasting. That jam-free August/September was the peak of offshore pop radio as far as I'm concerned. So stand by for a roll call fellas; ALAN WEST, CARL MITCHELL, ANDY ARCHER, SPANGLES MALDOON, STEPHEN LADD, MICHAEL LINDSEY, DAVID GREGORY, ROB EDEW, DAVE ROGERS and all the others who came and went during that eventful year. The finest team ever assembled on one boat.

RII being what it was there were

still there were one or two major events to come. Like a certain Saturday afternoon in late August when those of us who weren't lucky enough to be at the Isle of Wight pop festival were settling down to a warm, lazy afternoon's local cricket and jam-free pop music from the MEBO. I remember it well. I was just making my customary escape from the house to avoid the lunchtime washing-up when an innocent remark from SPANGLES MALDOON caught my ear. "There's a boat coming towards us and we don't know who it is" he said. Within a few minutes that casual comment had become "We appear to be having some trouble out here. Could anyone listening please phone our Zurich office." The KRS MANDERS attempted hi-jacking had begun.

I sat there absolutely transfixed. Dad came into the front room to hear what all this talk of petrol bombs and cutting the anchor chain was about. "Sounds like the CAROLINE episode all over again", he said, far more hip to all of this than I'd ever expected. I hoped and prayed that it wasn't going to be March 3rd all over again. But at times it was touch and go. "49-metres is off the air!" said CHICAGO. "And 31!" someone added a few minutes later, and to this day I've never experienced such a feeling of radio as a lifeline. It was as if the medium wave broadcast I was listening to could at any minute be snuffed out. I forgot all about the cricket. Instead I sat and eavesdropped on the most exciting afternoons listening I'd ever heard.

Eventually the MEBO 1 appeared on the horizon and the day was saved. I finally got to the match around tea-time. One of my mates asked me where I'd been. "Oh, washing up." I grinned. "You should have been here," he said. "We've been listening

to RMN all afternoon...you'll never believe what happened...."

TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT TIME.

© 1987 ROB CHAPMAN

CHRISTMAS
& NEW YEAR
HOLIDAY
HOURS

[NOW RADIO]

The following arrangements have been made for our office over the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

December 24th - 9am - 4pm

December 25th - Closed

December 26th - Closed

Sunday December 27th -
9am - 4pm

December 28th - 9am - 5pm

December 29th - 9am - 5pm

December 30th - 9am - 5pm

December 31st - 9am - 4pm

January 1st - 9am - 5pm

PUBLICATION DATES

NOW RADIO REPORTS will next appear December 29th (Issue # 7) and then January 12th (Issue # 8).

NOW RADIO Magazine's next issue (#43) will be published on Tuesday January 5th.

If you have any queries, do not hesitate to call (0536) 514437 during normal office hours.

COMMUNICATIONS

WE ALWAYS WELCOME YOUR LETTERS FOR PUBLICATION. PLEASE SEND THEM TO:

THE EDITOR
NOW RADIO
PO BOX 45
KETTERING
NORTHANTS
NN16 0NW

::::

INVICTA RADIO
Canterbury
Kent

Dear Howard,

Why do you get so excited over the rumoured return of the COMMUNICATOR? Without doubt it is the worst run of any off-shore station and I include the LAISSEZ FAIRE and NEBO in that. Irregular transmissions have been the name of the game thus far. They have given off-shore radio a bad name. Yet again you appear to have been taken in by talk of large amounts of money invested and to be made. Come on! How many months will they last this time? Anyone with a brain knows that there is no money to be made on a ship and with deregulation on the way, shouldn't they be a lovely memory? If these American money people have money to burn I will be pleased to send them my bank account number!

Yours sincerely,

ROGER DAY
Programme Manager
INVICTA RADIO

Lyndhurst Grove
London
SE15

Dear Howard,

I was interested to read in NOW RADIO (Issue 41/December 1) that CHILTERN is alleging that CAROLINE

on 819 kHz is (was) interfering with its luton transmitter on 828 kHz.

Every time a pirate comes on the air somebody somewhere alleges interference. Sometimes the claim is justified, sometimes it is just propaganda.

I thought it would be fun to investigate CHILTERN's claim. I've done the sums, according to CCIR propagation prediction methods, and I reckon that CAROLINE's ground-wave field strength at the eastern edge of CHILTERN's service area must be about 69 dB (μ V/m). The median sky-wave field-strength at six hours after sunset works out at 63 dB (μ V/m). So if there is a problem, it's probably the ground wave that's causing it.

If CAROLINE is limiting its audio bandwidth to about 5 kHz then the CCIR-recommended adjacent-channel protection ratio is 1 dB, (unless they've changed it recently). This means that CHILTERN listeners are safe providing CHILTERN's field strength is at least 70 dB (μ V/m). I believe this figure corresponds exactly to the edge of the IBA service area.

CAROLINE appears to be bang on the borderline between interference and non-interference. My figures, however, contain a margin of error of several dB either way. More to the point, PETER CHICAGO's sums are unlikely to be any more accurate than mine. The only way to be sure is back up the theory with a survey of the actual field strength. Has CAROLINE done this?

If CAROLINE is not limiting its audio to 5 kHz, and it didn't when it was on 963 kHz, then a protection ratio of at least 7 dB is required. In this case CHILTERN's complaint would almost certainly be justified.

Yours sincerely,

RICHARD LAMONT

Preston Road
Brighton
Sussex
MCLEOD ANSWERS BOON

Dear Paul,
Thank you for your comments in NOW RADIO (Issue #41).

May I take your letter point-by-point? Your praise of your 'loyal and dedicated team' is laudable, but who on earth are they? What is their experience of radio; whom do they purport to represent; what kind of principles do they stand for? Is anyone I have heard of a member of your organisation, and if so, who? It's no good referring to an ancient edition of Now Radio which I haven't got: the current issue doesn't even contain the ABD's address or 'phone number. (It doesn't contain the CRA's either, come to that, a situation which I shall urge them to rectify.) How on earth is a busy journalist supposed to be able to contact your organisation?

The fact that 'eight key points', which you claim as your own, have been incorporated in the Government's Green Paper is more an indication of how much your thinking follows that of our current Government as it is the other way round. To interchange cause and effect might be to exaggerate one's importance, given the tons and tons of material submitted in evidence. I could claim my own eight points no doubt if I looked hard enough - there's plenty of paragraphs to choose from - but it's the tone of the document as a whole that counts, since a Green Paper is not legislation, but merely a precursor to it.

Your claim to have single-handedly solved the complex problems of frequency allocation and needletime have been given some currency already, but I have yet to inspect

any firm evidence that great strides have been made in either department. If you have some, such as a letter from the DTI agreeing that hundreds of frequency assignments will be available, or a statement from the director of PRS saying that in future all stations will be allowed to use as much needletime as they want at a bargain rate, you should be giving it much wider currency than you have up to now. I should certainly be interested to see it for a start.

I should be very intrigued to find out how I was supposed to respond before June 30th to BBC plans which were only announced a few weeks ago. Time-travelling, perhaps?

Finally, your suggestion that I should join the ABD in order to organise your meetings for you is not the sort of remark likely to win me to the fold. I may just join the ABD at a public meeting, that is if you ever get round to holding one, but only after I have had a chance to see and hear for myself who is in it and what it stands for.

The Community Radio Association has many faults, God knows, but at least its heart is in the right place, and it's prepared to stand up against the greedy, seedy money-grabbers who are waiting to rip off the public spectrum given half the chance pushing out the lowest common denominator in mindless pop and twaddle. We know the ABD is FOR more radio stations, but what - if anything - is it AGAINST? Over to you.....

Best Wishes

NORMAN MCLEOD

The COMMUNICATIONS section is here for your opinions, feedback and suggestions. Please - Use it!

BO FAREWELL, THEN 1987

COMMENT BY NORMAN MCLEOD

As this will be my final comment feature issued during 1987, perhaps it would be appropriate to indulge in even more frivolity than usual, with a list of the 1987 McLeod awards for outstanding contributions to broadcast radio during the past year.

1 BEST MUSIC PROGRAMME

The winner for 1987 is the ANDY KERSHAW late-night Thursday show on Radio 1. This programme has a wonderfully wide range of interesting and tuneful music, and spares us the horrible thrashings of alienated youth which PEEL has been inflicting on us since 1976 in an attempt to keep his listening figures down and his street credibility up. May AK's tape recorder batteries never give out!

2 BEST LEGAL STATION

I've yet to hear any local station, BBC or ILR, which stands out far enough from the crowd to be noticed, yet alone deserving of special mention. So I award this honour instead to FIP. I can put up with the dreadful French records because the rest of it is so refreshingly different.

3 BIGGEST WALLY

The spectrum is jammed full of idiotic prattle merchants with the mental development of a Sun reader and a total lack of insight into anything more complicated than Sean Penn's favourite colour. But for not only purveying brain-rot but being proud of it, the award must go to STEVE WRIGHT. Runner-up: ADRIAN JUSTE - for stupid chortling.

4 GREATEST CONTRIBUTION TO RADIO INTERFERENCE

There are two main candidates here: the biggest award must go to ALAN SUGAR of Amstrad computers, for manufacturing a device which obligingly wipes out all but the strongest stations on all bands so that you are free to concentrate on your word processing without being distracted by the radio!

But a close second is the Home Secretary, DOUGLAS HURD, who allowed the pirates to get completely out of hand by cancelling the community radio experiment (prior to which almost everyone was well-behaved) and leaving a vacuum into which all sorts of cowboys and technical ignoramuses have flowed.

This year's booby prize for excessive zeal must go to the diligent officers of the Radiocommunications Division of the DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, for protecting us from the great dangers of 50 milliwatts at Special Event stations so thoroughly. A number of stations had to turn their power down even below this trifling amount for fear that someone, somewhere, might hear them clearly. Thanks, lads: it's reassuring to know the spectrum is in such safe hands!

5 FOOT-IN-MOUTH AWARD

The 1987 award for the most self-destructive activity must go to the COMMUNITY RADIO ASSOCIATION, a fair number of whom were not particularly interested in radio as such, but more in ridding those around them of the terrible twins 'racism and sexism' in such an authoritarian and unforgiving manner that they managed to put everyone's backs up.

May I wish all winners, losers and runners-up a very happy 1988!

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Now Radio

Openings

RADIO 1 seeks an experienced professional to handle its PROMOTIONS. You'll be involved in setting up promotional broadcasts, RADIO 1 ROADSHOWS, etc, etc. A 2 year contract is offered with a salary up to a maximum £27,500. Based Central London. Ref: 4822. Application form from BBC APPOINTMENTS (01) 927 5799.....

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RADIO 210 is seeking an experienced SENIOR RADIO JOURNALIST to join their team at the Reading newsroom. The salary will reflect the responsibility that goes with the job and will match age and experience. Applications in confidence to: PHIL COOPE, Head of News, RADIO 210, PO Box 210, Reading, Berkshire, RG3 5EZ.....

THE VOICE OF PEACE Radio Station requires an AM/FM BROADCAST ENGINEER. Further details from NOW RADIO COMMUNICATIONS, PO Box 45, Kettering, Northants or telephone (0536) 514437.....

METRO RADIO have a vacancy for a top daytime PRESENTER. Aircheck cassette and cv to: GILES SQUIRE, METRO RADIO, Swalwell, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE99 1BB.....

A PRODUCER is required for BBC RADIO 2 Presentation. You will be responsible for the station's on-air promotions. Offered on a contract basis for a minimum of one year. Salary £14,043-£19,226 plus £624

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.

allowance. Ref: 4762.....

BBC RADIO 1 has a couple of vacancies. A PRODUCER and TRAINEE PRODUCER are required. Salary a maximum £15,000. Ref: 4775.....

BBC RADIO WALES News Department has a vacancy for a lively versatile JOURNALIST. Based Cardiff. Salary £10,881-£15,388 plus £624 p.a. allowance. Ref: 4807.....

TFM 96.60 (RADIO TEES until the new year) has openings for RADIO JOURNALISTS. Write with c.v. to JAN VERRILL, Programme Administrator, RADIO TEES, Stockton on Tees, TS18 1HR.....

COUNTY SOUND, the Guildford ILR, seeks a REPORTER. No beginners. CV and demo to MARTIN DHACOW, Head of News, COUNTY SOUND, The Friary, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 7YX.....

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BBC RADIO MERSEYSIDE has an opening for a NEWS PRODUCER. Salary £10,881 - £15,388 plus allowance of £1,066 per annum. Ref: 4794.....

Like to join NOW RADIO? We're looking for an ADVERTISING MANAGER to work on the development of advertising and promotional projects in the new year. If you have what it takes - and what we are looking for we can offer generous payment and conditions. Please apply in writing, and confidence, to: NOW RADIO, PO Box 45, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN16 0HW.....

**OPENINGS, NOW RADIO NEWSLETTER,
PO BOX 45, KETTERING,
NORTHANTS, NN16 0NW
Telex: 8951182 GECOMS G
(NOW RADIO)**

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Installation & Service
Enquiries:

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Now Radio

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	£175.00	(1- 6 insertions)
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MECHANICAL DATA

Type page size 195mm x 130mm, half-page 97.5mm x 130mm. Column length 160mm, width 58mm. Number of columns — two. Mono. Colour by arrangement. Spot colour by arrangement. Camera ready artwork required. Inserts: £300 per sheet (max A4).

PUBLICATION DETAILS

NOW RADIO MAGAZINE is published every two weeks. Subscription rates: 26 issues/1 year £24.00. 13 issues/6 months £15.00. Single copies £1.50 each. Multiple subscription details available on request.

NOW RADIO MAGAZINE / NOW RADIO REPORTS SERVICES GUIDE ENTRIES

LINES	NO. OF INSERTIONS	COST PER INSERT	LINES	NO. OF INSERTS	COST PER INSERT
4	6	£ 9.00	8	6	£14.00
4	13	£7.50	8	13	£12.00
4	26	£6.00	8	26	£10.00

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Payment: Strictly payment with order. Note: Minimum number of entries is six issues of Now Radio Magazine/Reports.