

Now Radio

THE Magazine for
Today's Radio
Industry

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**THE Magazine for
Today's Radio Industry**
NOW RADIO

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

The questions being raised over the national commercial radio issue are concerning those whose main interest is in the establishment of new local commercial and community radio stations.

We believe that the Home Secretary should not delay the progress of establishing the new Radio Authority or any of the other proposals he has made because of problems over INR.

Whatever the format of the three INR stations - one thing is sure - the Big Boys will own and control them. NOW RADIO feels its main responsibility is towards servicing the hundreds of prospective new commercial and community local stations and we urge Douglas Hurd to keep to plans to have the new Radio Bill law by Summer 1989...so that we could have the first new stations on-air by Christmas '89.

INR can wait.

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We apologise for some problems in the print quality of this issue. We had the choice between a delay in this issue reaching you, or in pushing ahead so that this issue arrived, as always, on time. Please bear with us!

HOWARD G L ROSE
Editor

RENTON GIVES RADIO BILL TIMETABLE & COMMENTS ON SIBC RADIO

On January 21, two days after the announcement by DOUGLAS HURD on the Government's plans for legislation for massive radio re-organisation, JIM WALLACE, MP for the Shetland Isles, received an answer to a written question in the House of Commons.

The MP's question was: "To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representation he has received regarding the future of community radio in Britain?"

In reply, MR RENTON said: "Many of the responses to our Green Paper, Radio: Choices and Opportunities, published last year, welcomed the prospect of community radio. As my Rt Hon Friend (Douglas Hurd) announced on January 19, we intend to bring before Parliament legislative proposals based on the Green Paper.

A supplementary question asked by JIM WALLACE MP was: "I know that those with an interest in community radio will be very glad that the Green Paper has been given the Green Light to it..is the Minister able to announce the timescale in which he hopes the proposals can be implemented? As he is no doubt aware, the SHETLAND ISLANDS BROADCASTING COMPANY has been on the air in my constituency and, judging by representations that I have now received, is popular. Can the Minister say how proposals will effect that company?"

In his reply, TIM RENTON said: "I thank the Hon Gentleman for his support for the proposals that we are announcing. Assuming that it is possible for a Bill to be brought before Parliament in the next session I hope that the proposals may be law by the end of the summer of 1989 and that the Radio

Authority will then be able to consider community radio applications and start issuing licences.

"As regards the station in the Shetlands, I am sure that the Hon Gentleman would not expect me to give my blessing to a pirate radio station. The gentleman concerned will have to make his application to the Radio Authority. I must say, however, that it seems just the sort of project that could succeed under the new regime that we have announced."

SUNSHINE ANNOUNCE BOARD MEMBERS

The South Shropshire organisation SUNSHINE RADIO have formed a company called COMMUNITY RADIO LUDLOW LTD.

The Chairman is DEREK SMALL a local farmer and landowner. MR GRAHAM SYMONDS of Ludlow is the Managing Director; Company Secretary ROB YARBOLD and Sales Director ROBERT VAUGHAN.

As detailed in the last NOV RADIO Magazine (issue 44/Jan 19) the company has applied to the HOME OFFICE for a Community Radio licence and in a letter to the HOME OFFICE has stated that the company will be carrying out a series of "trade test transmissions" on 101.7kHz AM.

ALL SYSTEMS GO!

As many new local commercial, community, ethnic and community of interest radio organisations complete their study of the proposals outlined by the Home Secretary NOV RADIO is planning a weekend event for prospective licence bidders. Plans call for a range of equipment on display (including a fully operational station, with transmitter!), specialists in all areas of establishing local radio and a series of talks and question & answer sessions.

**RADIO
INDUSTRY WELCOMES
HURD STATEMENT ON
FUTURE OF UK
SOUND
BROADCASTING**

**BROADCASTING IN THE
HANDS OF
BROADCASTERS
AT LAST!**

a
NOW RADIO
special
report

On Tuesday January 19, The Home Secretary, DOUGLAS HURD, outlined Government plans for the future development of UK Radio. Here is NOW RADIO's full report:

DOUGLAS HURD told Parliament that legislation will be put before it in the next session, starting October, to completely re-shape the non-BBC sector and introduce several hundred new local and community radio stations. He also outlined plans for up to three nationwide commercial radio channels.

DOUGLAS HURD said that the Government had drawn its conclusions after studying more than five hundred responses to the Green Paper, RADIO: CHOICES and OPPORTUNITIES, which it published in February 1987.

The new legislation will call for:

- Up to three new national commercial radio stations. Each would be obligated to provide a diverse programme service calculated to appeal to a variety of tastes and interests. A single format format will not be acceptable for any of these stations. The contracts will be offered through competitive tender to the highest bidder, subject to various conditions.

- Independent Local Radio will be deregulated. ILR stations will become responsible for their own transmitters and programming formats.

- New local and community radio stations will be established and will be subject to the same light-touch system of regulation as outlined for the ILR stations.

- Simulcasting; the broadcasting of the same programme over more than one transmitter, will be phased out. This will release many frequencies for the new stations.

- A new light-touch RADIO AUTHORITY will be set-up to regulate and assign frequencies for all non-BBC radio services.

- The BBC will continue to provide Public Service Broadcasting "as it judges best within the resources available to it."

A Radio Bill will be put before Parliament at the next session which starts in October.

Estimates vary about how long it might be before the first new local and community radio stations get licences and begin broadcasting, but some observers believe that if progress is made "at a healthy pace" the first new services could be on the air by Christmas 1989.

Reaction, from existing broadcasters, prospective operators, organisations and individuals, to the Home Secretary's announcement, originally made as a Written Answer in the House of Commons to a Question from MICHAEL JACK MP (Fylde), came in thick and fast from all quarters and a summary of those opinions, together with a careful breakdown of the points made by DOUGLAS HURD, are to be found on following pages.

PROMISE OF PERFORMANCE IS KEY TO KEEPING NEW RADIO LICENCES

DOUGLAS HURD, The Home Secretary, has said that "The key test which (new local) stations will have to pass, to obtain a licence to broadcast, is that of a widening of the range of consumer choice. "They will have to live up to their promises to their audiences if they want to keep those licences."

FREEDOM FOR PROGRAMMERS

Regulation for local and community services will have two effects. First, existing ILR stations will be given the freedom to develop new styles of broadcasting which they have sought.

Second, new local and community services will be given the opportunity to start broadcasting, to enhance the range of programming and diversity of consumer choice.

NUMBER OF STATIONS

The Government says that the number of services, and their scale, will depend on local demand and wishes.

The new RADIO AUTHORITY will be encouraged to be flexible and will be expected to encourage partnership and frequency sharing where this seems sensible.

LIVELY FUTURE FOR COMMUNITY RADIO

The Home Secretary has said he realises how disappointed many people were last year when the Government did not proceed with an experiment on community radio, in advance of legislation.

He said: "Our proposals now will provide the basis for a lively future for community radio, to strengthen that combination of local identity and cultural diversity which lies at the heart of a flourishing community."

THE RADIO AUTHORITY

The RADIO AUTHORITY will issue licences and supervise the performance of the new stations, as well as the existing ILR services.

The RADIO AUTHORITY will be assigned frequencies for sound broadcasting. On the basis of these frequencies it will invite applications for licences to broadcast at national and local levels.

To ensure that the spectrum available is used efficiently, and that listeners have as wide a choice as possible, stations will in general be expected to broadcast on single frequencies.

Existing ILR and BBC radio stations will, over a period of time, be expected to give up their additional frequencies to make available extra channels for new local stations.

TECHNICAL RULES

The RADIO AUTHORITY will draw up a set of technical specifications to cover transmission equipment and signals radiated by stations under its control.

The Authority will inspect equipment as necessary.

THE IBA

The Home Secretary said that the IBA "has earned our respect and gratitude for its development of local radio under the duties laid upon it 15 years ago. But it has major challenges ahead of it in the field of television. We have judged that it would not be sensible to

ask the IBA at the same time to take on the task of developing a new and greatly expanded radio system, operating under a new and much lighter set of rules."

PRESENT SERVICES ARE LIMITED

DOUGLAS HURD said "The response to the Green Paper confirms our view that the time is now right for major change.

"We have been well served by radio broadcasters. Standards are high. But we have less radio than other countries. In many parts of the country listeners have no other service than the BBC. There are many tastes and interests which existing services can at best satisfy only to a limited extent. New frequencies will soon be available for broadcasting. In due course several hundred new stations are in prospect."

BENEFIT FOR LISTENER

In concluding his outline of plans for the future, DOUGLAS HURD said: "Our proposals are above all intended to benefit the listener. It may take a little time for the public to become accustomed to new kinds of service and to single frequency broadcasting. But we believe that the expansion of radio...can only be to the good of broadcasters and listeners alike."

NATIONAL LICENCES

The tendering process for the national radio frequencies will be dealt with in two separate stages. The RADIO AUTHORITY will first invite prospective applicants to submit their proposals. If the Authority is assured that the plans will meet with its conditions for programming variety, and not be a duplicate, for example of BBC

RADIO 1, the applicant will be able to move to the second stage. This will be the official submission of a sealed tender.

LICENCES

Licences will run for years. Licences will be available only to UK or EEC citizens or companies. No one group will be allowed to own more than one national station, or six local stations. Cross-ownership rules will state that newspaper groups will not be able to own more than a 20% stake in a local radio station and vice versa.

STANDARDS

The Bill to introduce the new light-touch regime to Radio will also duplicate, for example of BBC RADIO 1, the applicant will be able to move to the second stage. This will be the official submission of a sealed tender. incorporate measures to establish a new BROADCASTING STANDARDS COUNCIL which will deal with public complaints about the portrayal of sex and violence on television.

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RESPONSE

BBC

The BBC's Managing Director of Radio, DAVID HATCH welcomed the announcement from the Home Secretary.

He acknowledged that some listeners would find it difficult to locate RADIO 1 or RADIO 3 (which will lose their AM frequencies) on the FM band, but thought that the next couple of years would be time enough for the education of the audience to "the benefits of FM reception."

THE IBA

JOHN WHITNEY, Director General of the IBA, was unhappy with the decision of Government to remove them from the role of running both existing ILR and future local commercial and community stations. He said: "For 15 years we have successfully developed the ILR system. We believe that we are best placed in terms of experience and skills to bring into being both new community stations and the INR networks. We therefore regret the Government's announcement of its intention to remove regulatory responsibility for radio from the IBA."

WHITNEY also warned that the Government's proposals could lead to what he described as "Junk Radio" and a dramatic lowering of standards.

THE CRA

The COMMUNITY RADIO ASSOCIATION welcomed the plan for a new RADIO AUTHORITY. It pointed out that, since its inception five years ago, the CRA had argued for a separate agency for radio which would be able to both nurture and regulate community radio.

BEVAN JONES, Chairman of the CRA, also said, "It is vital that the new (RADIO) AUTHORITY distinguishes community radio from commercial radio."

"The new RADIO AUTHORITY should be aware of the social and cultural benefits of community radio" said SANGITA BASUDEV, Secretary of the Association.

The COMMUNITY RADIO ASSOCIATION says it remains concerned about the proposal in the Green Paper that public authority funding of stations should be banned.

BEVAN JONES said a complete ban on public authority investment and grants would be "Absurd."

AIRC

The Director of the ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT RADIO CONTRACTORS (AIRC), BRIAN WEST, welcomed the news that the IBA was not to regulate his members' stations under the new plans.

Stating that the ILR stations have just passed through a very good year financially, he has welcomed the news of competition in the market, adding that the ILR stations certainly have a head start over the new rivals.

ADVERTISING INDUSTRY

IAIN DAWSON of the LONDON MEDIA COMPANY says that if the new national commercial stations are marketed properly and effectively they stand to double radio's current three percent of less of the advertising cake.

The Advertising agencies, dealing with clients' national campaigns, tend to only want to talk and think about national commercial radio, thus forgetting the issue of new local commercial radio, and at the same time worrying some management in existing ILR stations that INR will hit them financially.

This is not true, as has been explained many times in the past in NOW RADIO; whereas the INR stations will attract national advertising campaigns, local radio will continue to rely on local and regional clients for the income.

The movement of a few, and only a few, existing clients who buy airtime coast-to-coast (and with ILR that means only being able to reach 40 - 50% of the audience that ITV can) will perhaps see local rate cards being adjusted so that they become more affordable to the smaller business. One fairly strong view, in this office, seems to be that there will be an increase in local sales more than making up for

the loss of an national income.

DES SHEPHERD

NORTHSOUND RADIO

PAUL STEVENSON, managing director of NORTHSOUND RADIO in Aberdeen, says that some of the smaller ILR stations - with large coverage areas of somewhat sparse populated areas - are concerned on two counts; the ending of cross-subsidy arrangements and the cost of owning and operating transmitters.

A station such as MORAY FIRTH RADIO, covering a stretch of coastline of around 160 miles appears to believe that the low rental it pays at the moment, which is cross-subsidised from profits of the larger metropolitan commercial stations, would not even pay its electricity bill if they are forced out of the present IBA-rental scheme into owning and operating their own transmitters.

NOW RADIO, for coming issues, is putting this whole question to a team of experts who will investigate probable costs of transmitter ownership and running costs for the smaller ILR stations - as well as the medium and large sized stations.

PIRATES

ROGER ROSS, originator of one of the newest unlicensed radio operations in London, when asked what he thought of the announcement by the Home Secretary, told NOW RADIO: "It's Great! What more can I say?!"

He went on to say that he hoped that his station, 14R (news music radio), would be given a licence. His station provides a mix of golden oldies with our minutes of news each hour.

NEWS MUSIC RADIO is currently broadcasting on 89.5 MHz FM from 0600 - 1900 daily and programmed by ANDY WALKER

Veteran community radio campaigner DES SHEPHERD of Rowledge, Colchester, welcomed the Home Secretary's positive statement on the future of radio broadcasting. He said, "I welcome the opportunity of there being as many as 500 new community and local radio stations around the country - thereby fulfilling a need demonstrated, partly by pirate stations and partly by the existence of aspiring community radio groups up and down the land. The Home Secretary talks of increasing the choice of radio to the consumer and I hope that the proposed new RADIO AUTHORITY will take this principle to its logical conclusion.

"As far as Colchester is concerned, I am aware of at least two new groups considering applying for a licence, in addition to the aspirations of those who applied for a licence under the aborted community radio experiment three years ago. My concern, as a member of the CRA, is to ensure that the RIGHT kind of community radio is licenced and the airwaves are not filled up with non-stop Top 40 and pop oldies."

SIBC

IAN ANDERSON of SIBC in the Shetland Isles welcomed the Home Secretary's announcement, but with caution.

He told NOW RADIO, "We still must have a timetable...remember, as far back as 1970, we have had Government talking of hundreds of stations."

SIBC continues to broadcast, with what ANDERSON describes as "99.99%" local support, including the council, business and general listening public.

Advertising logs continue to grow on the music, news and area information station.

ABD

PAUL HOON, Chairman of the ASSOCIATION FOR BROADCASTING DEVELOPMENT told NOW RADIO: "We could not be more happy at the way things are going. What must be particularly encouraging for radio's would-be new entrants is that the Radio Bill should be before Parliament in the Autumn."

He continued: "With the appointment of a new (RADIO) authority we are now, at last, looking towards a period of positive development."

NOW RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

NOW RADIO COMMUNICATIONS, established to first publish a book called THE PIRATES WHO WAIVE THE RULES, and a few months later to publish NOW RADIO, will in the next few months under-go a much needed expansion as a result of the positive moves by the Government.

HOWARD G. L. ROSE of NOW RADIO, explains: "Our original launch of NOW RADIO was supposed to coincide with the launch of the two-year experiment with 21 community radio stations. As you know that experiment was put on the shelf and we had to carefully develop as a news/information carrier for the existing radio industry, and the prospective broadcasters of tomorrow.

"We now find ourselves firmly established as the voice of authority and reason; and a platform for a continuous debate for the industry. We have become much more than a publishing house, as we produce two regular titles, a third, two-monthly title, and the NOW RADIO NEWSLINE. We also act as a centre for people looking for help and advice, including those preparing to apply for licences."

ROSE said both main NOW RADIO titles would be able to play an active and leading role; in relaying

news about the industry itself; generating ideas for programming and sales; as well as in the restructuring of ILR stations for operation under the new RADIO AUTHORITY; and the step-by-step procedure for making an application for a new station, and beyond to the day-by-day running of such stations.

"We have a great team with years of experience in all areas and levels of sound broadcasting and all will play a vital role in our development." said ROSE.

COMMENT

The Home Secretary's outline of programming requirements from the three national commercial radio services is causing some concern.

No-one, it would appear, expected him to call for a set of stations each expected to cater for what he called a "variety of tastes and interests."

The fact that the three national commercial stations will be "auctioned off" to the highest bidders also has caused some alarm bells to ring. Question: If CAPITAL RADIO gets one national channel; will they have to give up their London station? Or if RED ROSE gets one; will they give-up their stations in Preston/Blackpool, Leeds and South Wales? The rules are supposed to limit companies to owning no more than one national or six local stations.....

For local commercial and community radio the picture is far clearer. However there are so many questions that will need to be answered in the coming few weeks. A task which NOW RADIO will dedicate itself to dealing with in your interest.

At least we seem to be "on the road" to, at last, having the kind of radio system that the vast majority of us have been seeking for longer than we'd like to recall.

POWER HIKE

CAPITAL RADIO and LBC RADIO are being given a doubling of their FM transmitter output. First reports said this was an effort to prevent interference from unlicensed stations on near-by frequencies in London. However, it now appears that the power hike has been approved by the IRA to secure both stations as much coverage as possible ahead of de-regulation under the new RADIO AUTHORITY.

NOTTINGHAM RADIO

A NOW RADIO Correspondent reports a new unlicensed station, HEATWAVE COMMUNITY RADIO (105 MHz) has begun broadcasting to the black community of Nottingham. The station broadcasts between 0600 - 0200 daily.

BBC RADIO LONDON RESHUFFLE MANAGEMENT

BBC RADIO LONDON's entire team of management are being replaced following the recent decision to allow the Corporation's three metropolitan stations a further 36-month reprieve on the condition that they improve audience figures.

The station Manager, DERRICK AMOORE, is taking early retirement at the age of 52.

His deputies are to be removed from the station and shifted elsewhere in the BBC in what is called "attachment".

AMOORE will be replaced by a Managing Editor.

The post is detailed in this issue of NOW RADIO in the openings section.

The new Managing Editor will be expected to put into action new programme schedules and introduce plans outlined in the Governors recent report on the station.

DUTCH POLICE ARREST RADIO MONIQUE STAFF

A number of DJs and shore-based staff of the dutch-language RADIO MONIQUE operation have been arrested and interviewed by police in the Netherlands.

RADIO MONIQUE, which has been off the air since the end of November when the mast aboard the radio ship ROSS REVENGE (11 prod. 11) attempted to get around dutch law by pre-recording some of its programmes for distribution to radio stations on cassette. Some of the cassettes are ordered by a Spanish company and end up aboard the ROSS REVENGE. Complete with commercials.

One of the RADIO MONIQUE DJs who was arrested has given police much valuable information. The police now hope to secure enough facts and proof to arrest a man they believe to be heading the operation.

The Dutch police have successfully managed to close down most of that country's bigger land-based pirate radio stations in recent weeks - and now it would appear their aim is to prevent RADIO MONIQUE returning to an offshore base, and perhaps to punish those who have been active in the running of the station.

A source within the RADIO CAROLINE organisation admitted this week that without RADIO MONIQUE and the 'continental link' CAROLINE would find itself in a difficult position, particularly regarding supplies to the radio ship.

Under UK Law it is illegal for a UK Citizen to work for, advertise on or supply an unlicensed radio station operating on the High Seas.

The Marine Offences Act 1967 provides for a £2,000 fine or 2 years in prison, or both in some circumstances.

A similar Law exists in most other European countries.

RICHARD PARK PROMOTED AT CAPITAL.

RICHARD PARK has been promoted to the post of Programme Controller at CAPITAL RADIO with effect from February 1.

He takes over the post from JO SANDILANDS who quit the station during Maternity Leave.

DAVID BRIGGS, currently an Executive Producer, becomes his Deputy.

PARK, 39 years old, joined CAPITAL as Head of Music in May last year. Prior to joining the Londonwide commercial station he was Head of Music at RADIO CLYDE in Glasgow, a station he joined in 1973 as a Presenter.

His broadcasting career began with the offshore commercial station RADIO SCOTLAND in the mid-sixties.

In his new post, RICHARD PARK will continue to be responsible for Music programming on the station.

38-year-old DAVID BRIGGS was on the original CAPITAL team when the station began broadcasting in October 1973.

RADIO ACADEMY CONFERENCE

The RADIO ACADEMY held a special one-day conference at the IBA last Friday (January 22) entitled "Co-operation, Co-existence, or Conflict?".

NOW RADIO Correspondent ROB CHAPMAN reports that the conference was well attended and tickets for the event were sold out more than a week before the event.

The conference was chaired by radio journalist WICK HIGHAM and the speakers included SIMON PARTRIDGE (Broadcasting Research Unit), MIKE SHAFT (Sunset Radio, Manchester), PAT WHITEHORNE (BBC Radio London), BRIAN LISTER (TFM 96.60), PETE WHITEHOUSE (Wolverhampton Community Radio Association),

RICHARD BARBROOK (Spectrum Radio, London), TONY BLACKBURN (BBC Radio London), PAUL COLLARD, DAVID LEES (Capital Radio, Sales), PAUL BOON (ABD), CHARLIE TURNER (KFM Radio), BEVAN JONES (CRA) and ARNOLD MILLER (BBC).

All attending NOW RADIO Correspondents have made favourable comments on the day with a particular mention to the statements made by CHARLES TURNER of KFM RADIO who explained how much cheaper it will be for stations to own and operate their own transmitters than under the present IBA-rental arrangement.

The Chairman of the session, NICK HIGHAM, has also received much praise for the way in which he handled the whole day.

NEWS EDITOR ON THE MOVE

News Editor of BBC RADIO BEDFORDSHIRE, DAVID ROBEY, is leaving the station to head the news operations of BBC RADIO WM. ROBEY, 34, was on the original line-up for RADIO BEDFORDSHIRE three years ago.

In fact he read the station's first news bulletin on day one.

NEWS JOB

BBC RADIO BRISTOL has appointed STEVE EGGINTON as its News Editor. He joins the station from the post of Chief Reporter for the WESTERN DAILY PRESS.

RADIO NEWCASTLE BOSS RETIRING

After seven years as Manager, BOB WRACK has announced he is taking early retirement from the BBC.

He joined the station in 1981 from the position of Programme Organiser at RADIO MANCHESTER.

He will leave RADIO NEWCASTLE at the end of March.

RADIO AUTHORITY POWER LEVELS

WHAT POWER OUTPUT YOU SHOULD EXPECT

As we go to press a series of important technical guidelines have been handed to NOW RADIO which relate to the future transmitter output levels of non-BBC Radio which is to be regulated under the new RADIO AUTHORITY.

The figures come from a reliable source, though are officially unconfirmed at press time.

The transmitter power levels will be as follows:

INDEPENDENT (LOCAL) RADIO:
all stations will be expected to run transmitters with a maximum 1kW e.r.p. Stations currently operating with e.r.p. greater than 1kW will be expected to make the necessary reduction.

NEIGHBOURHOOD and SMALL COMMUNITY STATIONS: 50 Watts e.r.p. FM or 25 Watts e.m.r.p. AM.

LARGER COMMUNITY and LOCAL COMMERCIAL STATIONS: 500 Watts e.r.p. FM or 250 Watts e.m.r.p. AM.

ALMOST SILENCE FROM OFFSHORE STATIONS

CAROLINE 558 continues to broadcast, though at very low power, from a temporary antenna system following the destruction of its 300ft tower in November. Work is progressing on the erection of a new telescopic antenna which is built at the stern of the ROSS REVENGE. When work is complete this will extend to 80ft and enable a long wire to be run to the ships forward mast.

The m.v. COMMUNICATOR remains in International waters with a 3-man crew. Further talks are expected this week relating to the future of the vessel.

NEW STUDIO FOR BEDS

BBC RADIO BEDFORDSHIRE will be opening a new studio in St Albans this month. The remote studio will enable contributors to work from their rather than be forced to make the journey to the stations Luton base.

UNION MOVE ON JOB CUTS

The NUJ says it is to mount a public awareness campaign to promote the benefits of BBC Local Radio and what the proposed 10% cuts will do to the stations.

The journalist's union also says it wanted to warn the public that deregulation will be a threat to ILR newsrooms as stations will not be under any legal requirement to provide news and public affairs programming.

AN OPEN
LETTER
TO THE
COMMUNITY
RADIO
ASSOCIATION

FEATURE BY NORMAN McLEOD

TIME FOR 'PERESTROIKA'?

Dear Friends,

First, let us congratulate ourselves on our achievements. When I first encountered the term 'community radio' in 1979 or thereabouts, there were only about fifty people in the country who had heard the expression and it seems that they all came to the same meetings!

Now we have the term appearing on the lips of Government Ministers; grotty ILR stations try to describe their efforts as 'community radio'; the IBA tries to be nice to us; the BBC, meanwhile, adopts the term for some of its distant outposts. And, of course, the cancelled experiment saw the greatest flurry of people calling themselves community radio this side of Alice Springs!

THE PROBLEM is that the Government Green Paper brushed aside the important distinctions between community and commercial radio as most people in the CRA would understand them. *The CRA cannot escape responsibility for this shaming debacle.*

We know that there are many people in this country who will call themselves community radio if it means they can have a licence to broadcast, and afterwards will simply wring their frequency for every penny it will generate, and do whatever it takes to achieve this, without regard for any principles or perspectives other than those generated by the balance sheet.

The CRA must stand up against this greedy, seedy shower with a ringing affirmation of what it stands for IN THE CONTEXT of the Green Paper, the Conservative Government, the realities of 1988.

Right now the core of its philosophy, its guiding light, remains the Ten Commandments of the Code of Practice: a foggy and unmemorable document little changed for many years. How many CRA members could quote chapter and verse from the COP without looking it up? It's only 250 words long but it seems like a lot more. It's off-putting, incomprehensible, and dull.

I have translated the Code of Practice into direct, user-friendly, modern English: the sort of phrasing that stands a chance of appealing to all shades of political opinion. Trying to communicate the essence of Community Radio in ten fairly short and direct statements requires great clarity of thought and economy of expression: but I think it repays the concentration applied to it.

If you reckon you can improve on my translation of the Code of Practice, please write in with your ideas. The ground rules are: (a) PLAIN LANGUAGE - no trendy buzzwords or gobbledegook (b) no more than 300 words in total, i.e. if you want to put extra words IN, you must take an equivalent number OUT, so that the total stays the same, and (c) no more than 10 sections altogether.

Best Wishes....

The above letter was sent to everyone on the CRA's National Co-ordinating Committee in December. I hope that we will be able to discuss it at a meeting soon, because if the CRA is to do more than just hold its own membership-wise I think it needs a clearer & more attractive set of principles to advocate. NJMcl

COMMUNITY RADIO PRINCIPLES

"There are innumerable ways of generating nonsense and making money, many of which can be pursued in broad daylight. But the elaborate machinery and the peculiar intimacy of the radio medium have better uses...."

LEW HILL (1949)

founder of Pacifica Radio,
USA

- 1 Unlike commercial radio, Community Radio is motivated by public need, not private gain: we will not be driven by an obsession with audience figures;
- 2 Community Radio will encourage its listeners to understand, respect, and value themselves and their environment: we will celebrate their festivals, cultures, music, religions and customs, whatever they may be: we will promote civic pride and awareness, and discourage lawlessness and anti-social activity;
- 3 Community Radio will strive to live fully in the locality it serves, by working hard to deserve, understand and involve its listeners: we will keep firmly in touch with their views and wishes;
- 4 Community Radio will stress and promote training in the art of radio: people from all walks of life, who never thought of themselves as broadcasters before, will be able to become effective radio communicators through our community stations;
- 5 Community Broadcasting will never be trivial or patronising: there are subtler and more important criteria of merit than popularity;
- 6 Community Radio stations will go out of their way to cover ground which other stations neglect or ignore: the greater the need or deficiency, the greater the effort applied;
- 7 There will be no place in Community Broadcasting for racial discrimination or sexual prejudice. Community Radio will seek to dispel harmful prejudices and false judgements, not to reinforce them;
- 8 Unlike commercial or BBC operations, Community Broadcasting services will be owned and controlled directly by the communities which they serve in an open and accessible manner;
- 9 Nationally or regionally networked programming cannot be allowed to overwhelm a station's schedule or identity if its community-based nature is to be upheld;
- 10 Community Radio will not be merely about airing the familiar, like so much broadcasting today: we alone are free to explore the unusual, tell the untold, and bring hidden pleasures and surprises to light.

2nd Edition

--- © N McLeod 1987/6 ---

R O S K' S

R A M B L I N G S

What a week!!! Last Wednesday I managed to come flying off my motorbike on a nice 40-foot stretch of ice whilst on the five mile journey to the NOW RADIO office in Kettering. At first I thought that I had only cut my leg and had some stitches to patch it up. Later in the day the pain grew and a visit to Kettering General Hospital lead me to discover a broken bone. Result - leg in plaster and great difficulty doing all the things one normally does!! Arriving late in the office, not being able to maintain quality control of the printing and being a bit slower at moving around the premises are but three of the hassles I've had. If I've been slow dealing with you this week, please accept my apologies. Just hope that on Thursday this plaster comes off.....

EDDIE BLACKWELL departed ESSEX RADIO after a row which broke out because he wanted to move that stations national sales repping from BMS to SOUND ADVERTISING SERVICES. The major shareholders were outraged. Now we discover that ESSEX RADIO has received presentations by BMS, INDEPENDENT RADIO SALES and SOUND ADVERTISING SERVICES!!! If ESSEX RADIO ends up signing a contract with SAS (they're still with BMS at the moment), one wonders if they might offer EDDIE his job back again???

I have just had a telephone conversation with JOHN CATLETT who is on his way back to the USA after a few days in Europe. John, as you know, will be putting together the programming policy for RADIO TARA. I thought it would be a good idea to ask him about audition tapes for DJs for the new station, as we keep getting calls from subscribers who would like to work with the new station. John says you might as well hold back for the moment as it will be a few months before they start to think of who they're actually going to hire. The planning permission for the antenna still has not been received and the studios have yet to be built. I promise you that as soon as John is ready to listen to tapes (and, perhaps, hear from a few old friends) you'll read about it here in NOW RADIO.

Perhaps in the meantime, you might like to brush up your skills for this fabulous station I am planning to put on as a real showcase for the industry?!

Just in - and it might as well go here - the management of BBC RADIO GLOUCESTERSHIRE which goes on the air late summer...Station Manager is DAVID SOLOMONS; ROB SALVIDGE (from BBC RADIO BRISTOL where he was Acting Programme Organiser); SIMON CORNES (moving from post of Head of News & Current Affairs at RADIO ORWELL/SAXON RADIO) and Engineer-in-Charge ROY PRECE who until recently was holding the same position at BBC RADIO MANCHESTER. We wish 'em well!

So DAVID LEES of CAPITAL claims £20 million revenue for community (and other local radio). I would think that a figure of more like £90 millions for those stations alone (with 300 stations) is more like the figure.

HGLR

PRODUCT REVIEWS

This is a new section for NOW RADIO Correspondents to review new products, services and other radio-related items. If you have something for us to review, please send it to: NOW RADIO, REVIEW, PO BOX 45, KETTERING, NN16 0NW.

!!!!!!

LASER 558 STORY

Description: Double LP set.
Price: £9.99p
Producer: BILL ROLLINS
Distribution: NOW RADIO COMMUNICATIONS and other agents
Availability: Read NOW RADIO for release date

THE LASER 558 STORY is the latest in a growing number of historical recordings offered under the JUMBO label. Like the rest, this is another gem, especially for those of us who were perhaps busy working for other wireless stations and unable to catch every event in the station's short, exciting and eventful time on the air.

This double album set is narrated by former LASER 558 DJ CHARLIE WOLF. Perhaps this is both a good and not-so-good idea. Good, because CHARLIE (SEA) WOLF was one of the biggest stars to become known through LASER 558, and not-so-good, because he also features on the documentary - both in quality airchecks and interviews.

One can only praise the endless hours of research and production (and, no doubt razor blades), BILL ROLLINS devoted to this major production. The test really has to be: could I play this in 10-years time and feel proud of it. The answer here is certainly 'yes'!

You may like to discover that a certain person, featured on this tape, was described as a

"Pathological liar" in the original (review) version. On legal advice, despite the truth of the statement, BILL ROLLINS used one of those razor blades to remove the name of the rogue in question. The test for you, when you obtain your set, is to discover who the person is!

"The first pirate station since the sixties that shook the system.." is the way CHARLIE WOLF introduces the documentary - and from there on you

myself, not into how many decibels the headphones were set at during the morning drive show on July 12th, 1984 and what DAVE LEE STONE meant when he said "More Music!" at 5.43 on Wednesday morning, this is the ideal way to discover how and why LASER 558 was set up, how it was operated, how and why it was programmed the way it was, how the staff were hired (and fired!), how it approached the Dti-Euroseige and why it closed down...

You'll hear about the links between LASER 558 and RADIO NOVA, RADIO SOVEREIGN, BBC, CSI, GUARDLINE SHIPPING, RADIO CAROLINE explained by PAUL RUSLING; the purchase and equipping of the COMMUNICATOR; JOE VOGEL (aka 'Mighty' JOE YOUNG) describing how he was hired in the USA to be the first engineer, why CSI transmitters were chosen; the search for DJ's - JESSIE BRANDON, RICK HARRIS, SEAN MURPHY - later DAVID LEE STONE ("Stoner!"); the journey across the Atlantic; the erection and subsequent loss of various balloon aeriels; the early test transmissions (remember all those Beatles' songs??!), etc.

So it goes on to recall the opening and regular broadcasts, the trials, the errors and the success.

This is a must, not only for the anorak, but anyone interested in having documentation on the shelf of one of the most exciting stations ever to be heard (so far) this side of the Atlantic. A most fair price too. HGLK

L O O S E E N D S

The Chairman of GVR, NICHOLAS TRESSILIAN, was heard at the recent RADIO ACADEMY do saying as GVR was a rural radio station they liked to feel that they were Community Radio...! OOOOOPPPSSS...and they've got jingles that talk about GVR serving 6 counties, no less.....!!

Congratulations to DAVID HOUGHTON of the Broadcasting Department at the Home Office on being selected as Secretary-Designate of the new BROADCASTING STANDARDS COUNCIL which Government will officially set up shortly. To be honest, we had "word" a while back - even one suggestion that he was to be involved in the new RADIO AUTHORITY.....!!!

We've had many calls from delegates at the RADIO ACADEMY 'do' at the IBA the other week regarding DAVID LEES' speech. DAVID LEES is CAPITAL RADIO's Sales Controller, and opinion seems to be that he was simply pushing "a sales pitch" for CAPITAL. He was challenged over his prediction that whilst commercial radio would pull £200 million advertising revenue when all the proposed new stations were broadcasting - what he called "community radio" would only take a 10% share of that figure.....!

DAVID LEES also claimed that community stations would appeal to "special interests" which he thought would range from ethnic groups to sports. He seems to forget that a lot of the new stations will be commercial and aiming to slash his stations audience and advertising income. Thank God CHARLES TURNER was on hand to put him right....!

Uproar at BBC RADIO NORTHAMPTON

where 4 news staffers are to be given the boot as part of that stations cost-cutting moves.....

Perhaps those RADIO NORTHAMPTON news staffers should be contacting NOW RADIO's Editor who has been talking of establishing the country's first non-London based all news (and he means "all news") radio service.....!?

"Use it, or lose it!" was a phrase used by BRIAN WEST of the AIPC recently when talking about the BBC station's having to come up with new ideas for 'splitting their frequencies'. Well those intending to "Use it..." grow in number almost daily. Add to your list the following known about...BEACON RADIO with plans for EASY BEACON on its AM frequencies and targeted to the over 50's agegroup. BEACON's regular "Latest hits...Greatest Memories" format will continue on FM...RADIO AIRE, the RED ROSE RADIO Group's Yorkshire outpost looks like going for an oldies format....and INVICTA in Kent is looking at doing the splits....CLYDE FM hoes for a February 29 on-air date with a rock format aimed to pull in another million pounds per year and a 20% increase in audience...CAPITAL's CFM will go seven-day's from Easter after a cautious Saturday and Sunday start....RADIO TRENT wants to run a new AOR station and BRMB looks like going for rock....RED ROSE wants the (world?! Ed.) to launch its ROCK FM service and CITY and PICCADILLY are also planning to expand. The Manchester station wants to run a Yuppie-CD station.....

Former CAROLINE jock DAVID ANDREWS is the latest signing of CHILTERN. He's on air Saturday night 2300 - 0100 hours.....

**SUPPORT THOSE
WHO ADVERTISE
IN NOW RADIO!**

LOOSE KNOTS

Vanna buy time on NEWSLINK? Four 30-second spots running alongside IRN news on 12 for 12 months will cost a mere £4,750,000.....One spot per day for 13 weeks will be cheaper at just £355,000.....

BOB STEWART married safely in Dallas and has found a new home and is on the lookout for a position in commercial radio. Shouldn't be much of a problem for our Bob and he'll certainly be doing the rounds for voice over work!.....

Congratulations to SYBIL FENWELL and CHRIS CARY on the birth of a son, NICHOLAS. The young one was born On January 12th.....

The ultimate gift for the anorak with everything? There's a clothing company with a shop based in the Power Court Shopping Centre in Dublin. The company is called RADIO and they are producing and selling a bright, white, fur-lined anorak with the RADIO logo on it.....!!!!

All Ashore!!! KEVIN TURNER has quit CAROLINE 558 where he was Deputy Programme Director and is currently working afternoon drive on OCEAN SOUND (West). He's going under his real name PETER MacFARLANE...TONY PETERS (yes, another former CAROLINE 558 jock) has joined the CAROLINE WEST crew at RADIO WYVERN and is on late night 2200 - 0200 daily. Also at WYVERN are JOHNNY LEWIS (breakfast drive) and DAVE WINDSOR (afternoon shift)...and finally, for this bit of CAROLINE 558 staff-on-the-move, DAVE ANDREWS is joining CHILTERN RADIO.....

How about this as a way to finance a new local radio station??!! The

Dutch province of Flavoland is getting a new regional station which will go on-air later this year. To finance it an extra \$6 is being put on the licence fee paid by holders in the province - bringing the station \$1,800,000 for its first year of operation.....

We all know what experts the IBA are when it comes to things in engineering and technical matters, don't we?! Well who was the goon who telephoned MORAY FIRTH RADIO in Inverness, Scotland and asked them to pick up a radio and have a listen to SIBC in the Shetland Isles? Does nobody at the IBA realise that an FM signal does not travel as far as 250 miles???!.....

Corrections: IAN ANDERSON's wife is called INGA.....ROB CHAPMAN is actually working for a MASTERS DEGREE.....

It was 0945 on Tuesday last week when METRO RADIO's STEVE COLMAN was playing THE CHRISTIANS 'Ideal World' where the line comes up.. "a sudden blackout stops the show...." and, yes - you've guessed it!, there was a power failure around the whole area. METRO was back, however, after only two-and-a-half minutes - the time it took their own emergency generator to come on line.....

RADIO 1 boss JOHNNY BEERLING must have been happy with NICKY CAMPBELL sitting in on the MIKE SMITH breakfast show recently; he's now going to look after SIMON BATE's show a fortnight from Monday, February 8. The show airs between 0930 - 1230 weekdays.....

The BPI AWARDS will air later that day (7.30pm) on RADIO 1 (stereo) and BBC 1 TV (simulcast). Show will be hosted by NOEL EDMONDS. Of course all your fave RADIO 1 DJs will also be appearing.....

L O O S E
E N D S

READ ME!!! On page 10 of last Tuesday's NOV RADIO REPORTS we carried a story which was slightly misleading, and which has resulted in numerous calls both to the NOV RADIO office and the BBC. We must apologise to the BBC for claiming that RADIO 4 would be removed from Long Wave..DAVID LEES of BBC ENGINEERING explained to NOV RADIO that there was no foundation to the belief that RADIO 4 would move off of Long Wave, though in the future the BBC was looking at expanding the service to include some WORLD SERVICE output along with more News & Current Affairs, Parliamentary broadcasts, etc. The actual story was about European Parliament staff signing a petition calling for the BBC to maintain RADIO 4 on 198 kHz - though, of course, what the BBC are planning could be even better.....

After 2 years of on-air dialogue AA ROADWATCH girl MARY-ANN RANDLE has been proposed to by BBC RADIO BEDFORDSHIRE presenter JOHN TERRETT.....

A delegate at the recent RADIO ACADEMY conference took a train from Peterborough to London which was delayed in Hitchin (Chiltern Radio territory...) for more than 45 minutes. Checking CHILTERNs sponsored travel/weather sequence he was surprised to hear that the commercial station was announcing absolutely no delays whatsoever on British Rail services into King's Cross station.....!!!!!!

Following the success of propaganda station RADIO MARTI, the UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY in Washinton is now looking at beaming a new TV station towards Cuba from

an antenna farm in Florida.....

Engineers note this! VOICE OF AMERICA engineers in Washington D.C. have just received their most detailed Reception Report. It came from Korea and was on a telex role and was no less than 65 feet long.....!!!!

True or not? PETER PHILLIPS, Programme Director of MARGATE COMMUNITY RADIO (aboard the ROSS REVENGE) quoted as saying "Must do something about the programming.....!!!!".....

The fact that the first new local and community stations might not be able to broadcast before Christmas 1989 (estimate) is not stopping scores of companies planning their operations right now.....

It would appear that whilst a TV operation is proving difficult to establish Roughs Tower may yet house a new radio station. There will be talks and perhaps even more talks.....

REWARD!!! ENERGY 103 in Dublin is offering a massive £1,000 reward for the recovery of its 99.9 MHz FM transmitter.....

London's all Compact Disc station CD 10-24 is making plans to return to the air as a stand-alone facility. Until now they've simply taken over airtime on TKO each Saturday to broadcast their programmes, but pressure from TKO to carry music fitting to their format, and TKO advertising, has resulted in the decision by those involved to set up their own station. Expect to hear the station soon.....

NEWS??
(0536) 51 44 37

COMMUNICATIONS

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

THE EDITOR
NOW RADIO
PO BOX 45
NETTERING
NORTANTS
NN16 0NW

STUDENT RADIO

Aldrath Grove
York

Dear Sir,

I refer to NORMAN McLEOD's comments on Student Radio and NASB in NOW RADIO issue 43, in his Review of the Year and Comment respectively.

As the outgoing Director of NASB, after 15 months, it is wholly depressing to see all our effort and achievement summed up as "not much progress on this front....". On top of this, Norman goes on to berate those who make an attempt to put the NASB house in order as "unthinkably 'careerist'". Just for the record, I'll explain the reasons for our incorporation.

When DAVID PREST and I took over in November 1986, NASB was in a pitiful state, with poor attendance at meetings and even worse communications, some member stations being faced with legal action for non-payment of copyright fees and NASB owing one of the copyright bodies £6,000 plus, after years of, essentially, bad management. We are becoming a Company limited by guarantee to clear this debt and to avoid the same situation ever arising again. A more important result will be that we can go ahead with the national advertising campaign and get some

badly-needed extra revenue for our members who are struggling to maintain, let alone improve, their output on meagre grants. Norman may find all this "intractably obscure" but it seems fairly straightforward to me - and many others.

Finally, I can't see how Norman can complain about "some lads" who wear collar and tie to the meetings (I don't suppose he notices the "lasses" like me?) If I remember rightly, in those heady days of 1971, students wore maroon, velvet flares.

Yours faithfully,

CLARE KELLETT

Director

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
STUDENT BROADCASTING

MORE MUSIC
MONDAY

Hillcrest Rd
Hornchurch
Essex

Dear Howard,

It's my opinion that RADIO 1's recent MORE MUSIC MONDAY was a success. Personally I did not miss the chatting chaps at all. However, if the powers that be decide that RADIO 1 is to become a More Music station, how do they get around the Needletime problem?

Yours sincerely

ALAN POTTER

RADIO CAROLINE
REPLIES

New York
11518
USA

Dear Howard

I think it's about time a few salient facts were pointed out to NORMAN McLEOD on the subject of his pet hate, CAROLINE 558.

Up until the collapse of the mast on November 27th, 1987 had been one of the most successful years ever in the history of the station. Achievements included increasing the transmitter output to 10kW, installing superior audio processing in the form of a new OPTIMOD, increasing the efficiency of the aerial, and installing a new Diplexer. All this resulted in quite the best signal from the station in a long time.

Life on board had become far more pleasant: gone were the days of fuel and water shortages, the food was good and generally plentiful and the station had become so reliable you could actually set your radio alarm by it, and not be late for work!

On the subject of the format, which was incidentally given a minor tweak in January, I think everyone on board realises that it is the main reason for the audience increasing to over 3.2 million on the last survey: compare that to the 50,000 who were prepared to put up with the free-for-all prior to November 1985.

It's certainly true to say that advertiser-support was low, but considering the restrictions imposed on the station by the MOA, and the fact that it was generally held to be a good move not to accept lots of UK ads (and yes, there were many enquiries) the station was doing OK. With the existence of RADIO MONIQUE and VIEWPOINT, it really doesn't matter if 558 carries no ads at all. What does matter is that the station gives its listeners what they want: and judging from the mail and the surveys it was doing (and still is doing) just that.

Had the mast stayed up you would have heard new commercials; but that's life isn't it? CAROLINE is still the only station audible in the UK to play over 16 records per hour, with minimal patter from the

DJs, and it's a strange view to take to say that it's sold out just because the music played these days is recognised and more mainstream. I'm sorry but it's a simple fact that the days of obscure rock and reggae were a disaster.

KEVIN TURNER
Deputy Programme Director

OUTRAGED AT THE IBA

Address supplied

Dear Howard,
Having, as you know, for sometime worked behind the scenes for NOW RADIO I feel sufficiently incensed to crawl out of the woodwork to protest at the contents of a small news item on page 4 of NOW RADIO REPORTS (January 26/issue 009).

The item, headed Power Hike, suggests that the power of both CAPITAL and LBC's FM transmitters are to be doubled in an effort to prevent interference from unlicensed stations on near-by frequencies in London.

What utter nonsense it is to suggest that a little pirate station running a few Watts can pose an interference problem serious enough to warrant the IBA to double CAPITAL and LBC's power output.

Would it not be nearer the truth to suggest that with the proposed phasing out of simulcasting both CAPITAL and LBC see their futures on the FM band?

What an ideal time to apply to the IBA for a power increase when the Authority is reeling at the impending loss of radio, and would agree to virtually anything to demonstrate their "we'll show 'em" attitude.

Which pirates are causing the interference? On several days recently, and from different locations, I have checked the frequencies above, below and between CAPITAL and LBC and have

found nothing, remotely illegal. What I did discover however was some pretty horrific harmonics caused by those two transmitters at various points on the band. Presumably these will increase in strength when the power goes up?! What about BBC RADIO LONDON? How long will it be before their FM transmitter is turned up because they are quieter than their rivals...it could go on and on.

It is surely the DTI who dictate what power stations run, and they themselves must be held responsible for some excesses in the past.

Surely before the legislation regarding the complete re-shaping of British radio begins its progress through Parliament, would it not be possible for the DTI to get its own house in order by recommending that stations that are broadcasting well in excess of their service areas are told to turn the power down, and that all applications for power increases are deferred until the RADIO AUTHORITY is off and running...and this includes CAPITAL and LBC's attempt to carve up the whole of London for themselves.

Yours sincerely,

BOB MATHEWS

MERIKE & McLEOD

Ryton
Belgrave
Staffs

Dear Sir,
Congratulations on taking on STEVE MERIKE 'on board' - one of my favourite jocks, right from his early days on CAROLINE SOUTH, '67/'68. A fine addition to your formidable team! Incidentally his interview made excellent reading. Very eye-opening in a number of places!

Also very much appreciated is

NORMAN McLEOD. I love his 'no holds barred' style of writing. In my mind he hits the nail right on the head every time.
Keep up the excellent work.

Yours sincerely,

DAVE HARDY

NOW RADIO: "A HELPING HAND"

Aggis Farm Rd
Verwood
Dorset

Dear Howard

I am a new subscriber to NOW RADIO, and I must say I find it an excellent publication. I am also extremely pleased to see that you intend to help prospective Community Radio operators along the path towards their licence. I myself have been waiting for over ten years for radio deregulation to happen. Having jointly set up, run and worked on a campus radio station in the seventies, I have since resisted the temptation to set up a clandestine operation and have never been able to get into the 'big league' with the amounts of investment required.

Now however, I feel I am in a position to create a truly local community station that works and sounds good too! I have my own ideas about what sort of format would keep people listening and I have never heard it happen yet (at least not in this country). Help is needed however, not the least being in how to actually apply for a licence. Therefore NOW RADIO seems to be just what I need at the moment. I'm sure there are many others like me at the moment with great hopes and plans for the near future in the marvellous world of radio. Keep up the good work!

Yours sincerely

STEVE SAVILLE

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.

VACANCIES

The BBC require a **MANAGING EDITOR** for **RADIO LONDON**. He or she will need to implement radical changes in the stations programme schedule and organisation. Applications are being invited from candidates with proven editorial and managerial experience in broadcasting, together with strong leadership experience and a commitment to the opportunities for public service radio in London. For an application form, and further details about this position, including salary and other conditions of employment, contact: **IAN MARSHALL**, Head of Personnel & Administration, BBC South & East Region, Box 1, Elstree Centre, Borehamwood, Herts, WD6 1JF. Or telephone (01) 953 6100 ext 2150 (quote ref. 6252).....

NORTH SOUND RADIO in Aberdeen is on the look out for a new **PRESENTER** to join its team. If you've got what it takes, call **PAUL STEVENSON** on (0224) 632234.....

BBC RADIO HUMBERSIDE in Hull has a rare vacancy for a **PROGRAMME ASSISTANT** to join the station on a six-month contract. Salary £8,282 - £11,610. Call (0532) 441188 ext 257 and quote reference 6213.....

BRMB RADIO wants a **RADIO PRESENTER** with experience and **BALLS** (even if your a lady!!!). Communicate with **MIKE OWEN**, BRMB, PO Box 555, Birmingham, B6 4BX.....

OCEAN SOUND is seeking a top flight **REPORTER** to join. Aircheck and c.v. should be sent to **CHRIS RIDER**, Head of News, OCEAN SOUND, PO Box 99, Fareham, Hampshire, PO15 5TA.....

SOUTHERN SOUND RADIO is looking for an exceptional **ILR PRESENTER** with good jocking ability and a brain. Write with c.v. and cassette

to: **JEREMY SCOTT**, Programme Controller, **SOUTHERN SOUND RADIO**, PO Box 1323, Brighton, Sussex, BN4 2SS.....

HEREWARD RADIO has a vacancy for a **BROADCAST ENGINEER** with experience and the ability to become part of a small but dynamic team with plans for expansion. Write with c.v. to **JIM VARRACK**, Chief Engineer, **HEREWARD RADIO**, PO box 225, Queensgate Centre, Peterborough, PE1 1XJ.....

BBC RADIO CAMBRIDGESHIRE is seeking a **NEWS PRODUCER** to be based at its Cambridge studios. Salary £10,881 to £15,388 plus £1,066 p.a. allowance. Ref 6210. Call **ALISON SARGEN**, News editor on Cambridge (0223) 315970.....

RADIO 210 has a vacancy for an **ASSISTANT COMMERCIAL PRODUCER**. Salary around £10,000 inc. commission. Based Reading. Write with full career information and outline of interests to: **STEPHEN STEWART**, Commercial Production Manager, **RADIO 210**, Reading, RG3 5RZ.....

BBC ESSEX has vacancies for **REPORTERS**. Based in Chelmsford, you may also work at the station's district offices in Southend and Colchester. Completed application forms should be accompanied by a 10 minute demo -tape (non-returnable) demonstrating versatility as a news reporter, including a 3 minute news bulletin and a news interview. For application form telephone (01) 953 6100 ext 2387 quoting Ref 4934. Applications must be in by January 22nd. Salary scale £9,357 - £11,610 plus £624 annual allowance.....

POSITIONS WANTED

PHIL BLIZZARD, Presenter. (0782) 634584.

VACANCIES

CHILTERN RADIO NETWORK is presently seeking an ASSISTANT PROGRAMME CONTROLLER to work alongside PROGRAMME CONTROLLER PHIL FOTHERGILL. This is a highly successful 3-station network, and candidates must have expertise in the development of split-frequency programming formats, with a particular emphasis on music scheduling. CHILTERN will provide whatever salary package is necessary to secure the right person. Write with full CV to PHIL FOTHERGILL, CHILTERN RADIO, Chiltern Road, Dunstable, LU6 1HQ.....

RADIO BANGKOK in Thailand has a vacancy for an experienced DJ/PRESENTER to join its team (including RICHARD JACKSON) working on a highly successful, popular and professional commercial music station. Superb salary and conditions. For further details call (01) 440-3081 after 7pm any evening.....

BBC RADIO NORFOLK has an opening for a REPORTER for its Norwich newsroom. Salary £9,357 - £11,610 plus £624 p.a. allowance. Ref: 6170. Call (01) 953 6100 ext 2387 for application form.....

BBC RADIO OXFORD has a vacancy for a REPORTER. Salary £9,367 - £11,610 plus £624 p.a. allowance. Ref 6228. Call (01) 953 6100 ext 2387 for application form.....

RADIO CITY (Liverpool ILR) urgently needs a new SPORTS REPORTER. Radio experience preferred but is not essential. Demo tape and applications to CLIVE TYLDESLEY, Sports Editor, RADIO CITY, PO Box 194, Liverpool, L69 1 LD.....

SWANSEA SOUND is looking for a top daytime PRESENTER to join its

winning team. Demo tapes, airchecks and CV to DAVID THOMAS, Programme Controller, SWANSEA SOUND, Victoria Road, Gwerton, Swansea, SA4 3AB.....

BBC RADIO KENT has a vacancy for a NEWS PRODUCER. Ref: 4942. Salary £10,881 - £15,388 plus £1,066 annual allowance. Call (01) 953 6100 (ext 2387) for application form.....

BBC RADIO BEDFORDSHIRE needs a NEWS EDITOR. Salary £13,509 - £17,530 plus £1,066 annual allowance. Ref: 4971. Further information by calling MIKE GIBBONS on (0582) 459111.....

BBC RADIO NEWCASTLE has an opening for a REPORTER. Ref 4962. Salary £9,357 - £11,610 plus £624 annual allowance. Further details by calling DAVID PEEL, News Editor, RADIO NEWCASTLE on (091) 232 4141.....

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DEALING WITH RED TAPE:

COMMENT BY NORMAN McLEOD

Radio must be the most heavily-regulated activity in the world, I reckon. Were I in business making sausage rolls or delivering milk, no doubt I'd have a few regulations and laws to contend with, but they would never be so restrictive as to stop me doing any work at all in certain areas.

Obviously I musn't poison people with my sausage rolls and I have to drive my milk float with due care and attention, but there is at least an element of common sense in the interest the Government takes in my affairs.

Try to find common sense in, say, frequency planning arrangements, and you'll look a long time. It seems, for instance, that a temporary station operating in July cannot use a frequency the BBC doesn't need until October.

There is no mechanism I know of whereby a station running in July can interfere with a service which doesn't start until October, but the rules don't recognise this scientific fact at all, and the absurdities spoken in all seriousness by officials describing their practices have to be heard to be believed!

The *dti* may have absurd rules, but at least you can eventually find out what they are. The problem with the Home Office is that much of the time you don't know what their policy is, because it's not published, is still under discussion, or they haven't made one up yet which covers your particular eventuality.

All you can be sure about is that your priority is very low indeed.

THE DEPARTMENTS THAT LIKE TO SAY NO!

One major problem with all aspects of broadcast radio regulation - and one which the new Radio Authority will hopefully tackle - is that there is plenty of opportunity for buck-passing and delaying tactics to be engaged between the Home Office and the *dti*.

In theory, the Home Office establishes policies on various matters (openly or otherwise) on the basis of what the *dti* reckons is technically possible.

During the seventies, broadcasting was for the BBC and the IBA only, and anyone who wanted to do anything outside these institutions was fobbed off with various excuses explaining why they were on a hiding to nothing.

The most famous excuse of all was the time-honoured phrase "*There are no frequencies available..*", which was uttered parrot-fashion on a regular basis until quite recently.

The same people who told you that Citizen's Band radio could not possibly use 27 MHz are still working there somewhere, and the same mentality of trying to resist anything that means more work prevails. The *dti's* track record on declarations of impossibility is not impressive.

Still, I can report at last getting a straight answer to a straight question out of a civil servant. Calling an engineer in the *dti* lately, the phone was answered by a chirpy young lady. "I haven't spoken to you before," I said, "what do you do?" "*As little as possible!*" came the reply...

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