

23 OCT 92

## THE WEEKLY UPDATE ON THE UK RADIO INDUSTRY

## THREE STATIONS FACE FINES

Three commercial stations have been fined £1000 each by the Radio Authority, two for "a serious breach of the license conditions" that require them to record their entire output, and one for failure to comply with its Promise of Performance.

Both **FM/Manchester** and **Niagar FM/York's** compliance in auto recordings became apparent when listeners filed complaints about programming they had heard. The Radio Authority's standard procedure is to demand a cassette tape copy from the relevant station of the offending output in order to decide whether the complaint is valid.

Both **FM** blamed "a fault with the logging machine" while **Niagar FM** said there were "teething problems" with its recorders during its first few weeks on-air. Both had to substitute written audio logs and **Niagar** provided a "reconstruction" of the program segment for the Radio Authority to determine the validity of the complaint, both of which it eventually dismissed.

The third station, **96 FM/Walsley**, was fined for failing to provide eight daily local news bulletins, each at least three minutes long, as

required by its Promise of Performance. It claimed this was "because of inexperienced, untried staff and the early presence of a newborn station", but the Authority upheld the complaint as a "fundamental breach" of license conditions.

Two other justified complaints concerned comments made on-air about the Duchess of York, one for "offensive use of bad language" by a **Wesley FM's** in-house phone-in host, including the phrase "Argyle's tits", the other for an **IBC** afternoon presenter's reference to her as "a strap-up".

The Authority also upheld complaints against two restricted service licenses - for **KL/Singapore's** afternoon broadcast of the copyrighted version of Prince's 1992 **P-M**, and for a **Link FM**/Newport broadcast show guest who used the words "you fucking prick".

Other recent successful complaints include an **IBC/London** interview with a manufacturer of car wiper blades that avoid police detection equipment who was invited to give his company's name and phone number; **Spectrum/London's** Arabic broadcast in its

Arabic programme of a prose reciting behind and murder of Joan; Southern Snow/Brighton's evening news bulletin - graphically reporting details of a man who strangled his girlfriend during sex; and a **Children's** **Spectrum/Luton** presenter's undue endorsement of a holiday company advertising at the station.

Unsettled complaints the Authority dismissed were: an allegation that an expletive was uttered in the background of **Classic FM's** air-track test tape; a complaint that **Norfolk FM/Wewey** closed its **Harwick**/**London** relay transmitter; an accusation that the owner of **Spectrum/London's** Arabic service is connected with the Iraqi régime; and a **Classic FM** listener who, after 45 minutes, complained the station was "so inaudible to music and stations".

\*\*\* In **Leamington**, **WMR/Leamington** working DJ Geoff Charles is being sued by traffic warden Valeria Perry, who he called a "fat black bitch" on air when she stuck a ticket on his car parked outside the studio. The station was disciplined by the PCC authority last year for falsely telling listeners that one of its DJs had been shot.

## RADIO DIARY

- 24 OCT 830 STREET MEDIA CONFERENCE in London includes Guardian/BS awards for student broadcasting organization of the year and student broadcaster of the year
- 26 OCT 8300 & FREEMAN SCHOOLS seminar (provisional). Info: Voice Of The Listener & Viewer, 101 Kings Drive, Greenwood, East 0412 580 tel:0474-352635
- 22/23 OCT 1992 THE CEO COMPLEX Arts Council conference on the arts, television and radio in the 90s at The Lane, Brighton. Info: Conference Profiles, 1 Murdoch Place, London SW4 5AR tel:071-236-4388
- 27 OCT 83700 CONCERT FOR TV & RADIO course tailored by Simon Peelt, former BBC Radio producer. Oxford Circus, 5.00pm-5pm. £29.55 + VAT. Info: London Media Workshops, 101 Kings Drive, Greenwood, East 0412 580 tel:0474-352635
- 28 OCT 830000 **FM** restricted service license starts broadcasting on **FM** to SouthWest London for 26 days. Info: 54 Norfolk Rd, Balham, London SW17 3SL tel:081-462-3105
- 30 OCT 090 **LONG** restricted service license starts broadcasting on **FM** to SouthEast London for 26 days. Info: 441 New Cross Road, London SE14 6TA tel:081-651-4616
- 31 OCT 041014 **FM** 5th birthday party at the Whitbread Hop Farm, Nicheks US. tel: 0822-872066
- 1/2/3/4 NOV 8300 **JURY** CHANGEMAN & NATIONAL TRADE SHOW OF THE CAROLINE ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS and NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCAST ENGINEERS at Vancouver, Canada
- 13/14/15 NOV 000000 **COMMUNITY** ENGAGINGING EURO 1992 organized by The Public Broadcasting Association of Australia at Albury Convention & Performing Arts Centre, Sydney. Info: (02) 310-2999
- 16 NOV 0410 **COMMUNION** on Meryburyth commercial station starts broadcasting on 96.6/103.3 **FM**. Info: Unit 62, Science Park, Cefilan, Meryburyth tel: 0970-63662

## INDEPENDENTS' DAYS

RBC Radio is organising a series of one-day seminars this autumn for independent production companies intending to sell programmes to the five national networks as part of their declared 10A "Radio" quota.

Attendance on the Independents' Day courses will cost participants £200 per person, though this will be refunded should the BBC decide to purchase one of their productions.

In addition to seminars discussing how to submit a programme proposal, technical quality, contracts and

costings, each delegate will be given an accompanying handbook, a set of BBC Guidelines and cassette recordings of pertinent 90A sessions with Radio 40 David Birch and the five Network Controllers.

Sylv Jones of RBC Radio Training says attendance is not a "qualifying badge" for a successful commission, though the seminars will convey "masses of useful information". He is circulating a questionnaire to interested parties to elicit opinions on their next format. Initial responses suggest that independent

radio production is unlikely to number as many as sixty companies, even by 1996/7.

\*\*\* Radio 5 is requesting bids from independent producers for contracts to supply three of its live weekly evening youth programmes. The three shows must reflect the North, Midlands and South regions of England, and will replace similar output previously produced by BBC Regional Centres. Tender documents are available from the Radio 5 Controller.

## CHRISTMAS CRACKER

Radio Cracker, the temporary pre-Christmas station raising funds for third world charities, is about to finalise a deal with BSkyB to broadcast on one of the Astra satellite radio channels. These transmissions will then be relayed overnight by the project's 85 local FM stations if they are unable to originate their own programming.

The Radio Cracker station in Harrow is to provide the live to be sustaining service, as well as hourly news bulletins throughout the day,

and its studios will be linked by FF headlines to a satellite link at Sutton. Direct home reception of the station across Europe will be possible for the first time.

Last year the nationwide scheme, based on a network of local church groups, relied over 80 by using the slogan "One In, Ten Out", a target it also to beat in this year's one-month satellite broadcast starting 28th Nov.

Radio Cracker studio equipment - size,

turntables, mixer, cartridges et al - is urgently needed ON LOAN to complete the Harrow studios. Offers, however anticipated, will be gratefully received by Bob Lancaster on 01-807-6883.

\*\*\* Solar Radio's Astra satellite service has closed, following several months of test broadcasts. Another Astra station, Forecast, now carries programmes by Israeli Voice Of Peace founder Abi Eshon.

## PENNY'S FROM SEVERN

Chiltern Radio plc has appointed Penny Hilton as Chief Executive of its Gloucester subsidiary Severn Sound.

Hilton, aged 31, takes up the post on 1st Nov in addition to her existing responsibilities as Director of Chiltern Radio Network Promotions & PR, the area of the company's operation in which she has worked since joining in 1986. She plans to

serve home from Milton Keynes to Cheltenham in the next few weeks.

"I am delighted to be moving to Severn Sound," says Hilton, "from concrete over to real cows."

Bob Coles, who has caretakered the post for the past three months, is set to work on Chiltern's bid for the new Severn Struary regional licence.

launched in 1990, Severn Sound was acquired last year by Chiltern, who subsequently branded the two services Net FM and Supersound AM in common with the rest of its network. The stations face additional competition next year from new Cheltenham AM "CD 603", and their three frequencies are to be re-audited by the Radio Authority next May.

## RADIO CONTACTS

**DOLPHIN RADIO**, 144 Albert Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, Tel: 0202-722944 (Local Radio) (community radio group)

**DRACOPHILIN PROMOTION BOARD**, 3-8 The Secretary, London SW1P 3AR, Tel: 071-233-0544 (consultants body)

**RADIO CRACKER**, Onea (West Midlands), Corporation House, 5 Ethel Street, Birmingham B2 4SD. Tel: 021-633-0073 (restricted service licences nationwide from 28 Nov)

**RBC RADIO TRAINING**, 379 Burton Road, London NW1 3AS (organisers of BBC Independents' Day seminars)

**DRACOPHILIN RADIO**, Longwood House, Bushoaks Lane, Clonsilla Hill, Gloucestershire GL52 3PW. Tel: 0262-672399 (radio consultancy)

