



Programming Matters – June 2009

Programming is what we listen to on shortwave and this column presents and discusses programs. The presenters of these programs and the stations they speak from are also topics for coverage. We also delve into many other topics to see how radio impacts our lives.

Welcome to the 21st Century. Kind of. I remember typing up my first column on a big old typewriter (discarded from my High School), and leaving spaces for the illustrations which were attached to the master copy with a paper clip (the original clip art).

For this first web posted column I'm not going to worry too much about illustrations and such. Just the facts ma'am, as Joe Friday used to say.

My apologies if this month's column lacks a bit of finesse in the layout, I'll work on that next month. For almost 20 years I just sent the column to Harold and let him add the illustrations. This is my first venture without training wheels.

So here we go, off into a hopefully bright new era....

Quote(s) of the Month

65 Years Ago This Month...

June 6, 1944



Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you.

In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

I have full confidence in your courage and devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!

Good luck! And let us beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking. (Dwight D. Eisenhower)

<http://www.kansasheritage.org/abilene/ikespeech.html>

20 Years Ago This Month...

June 4, 1989



"Please remember June the Third, 1989. The most tragic event happened in the Chinese Capital, Beijing. Thousands of people, most of them innocent civilians, were killed by fully-armed soldiers when they forced their way into city. Among the killed are our colleagues at Radio Beijing. The soldiers were riding on armored vehicles and used machine guns against thousands of local residents and students who tried to block their way. When the army conveys made the breakthrough, soldiers continued to spray their bullets indiscriminately at crowds in the street. Eyewitnesses say some armored vehicles even crushed foot soldiers who hesitated in front of the resisting civilians. Radio Beijing English Department deeply mourns those who died in the tragic incident and appeals to all its listeners to join our protest for the gross violation of human rights and the most barbarous suppression of the people.

Because of the abnormal situation here in Beijing there is no other news we could bring you. We sincerely ask for your understanding and thank you for joining us at this most tragic moment." (Radio Beijing announcer: LI Dan)

Source: Radio Beijing English Service (0400 GMT 11685 MHz):
Date: 4 Jun 89 06:26:22 GMT

<http://museums.cnd.org/CND-Global/CND-Global.96.2nd/CND-Global.96-06-05.html>

France

Strike called to protest lay-off plans

Article published on the 2009-05-07 Latest update 2009-05-07 10:30 TU

Four of Radio France International's five trade unions are calling on all employees to walk-off the job next Tuesday, demanding the scrapping of a management plan which would see the international radio network lose nearly a quarter of its workforce.

The "plan to save employment", announced by the new management at RFI in January, proposes laying off 206 out of just under 1,000 employees, in an effort to "modernise" the station.

The plan also mentions the possibility of hiring 34 new people once the firings have been completed.

The unions have already called four 24-hour strikes to protest the plan. Several of them have also brought management to court to attempt to have the plan thrown out for technical violations of labour law, so far unsuccessfully.

Management has called the unions' latest move, which dubs the plan discriminatory, "curious" and have called on them to "adopt a constructive attitude".

Six of RFI's foreign-language services, German, Polish, Romanian, Albanian, Laotian and Serbo-Croatian, will be shut down by the plan. Four others, Persian, Chinese, Russian and Vietnamese will have their broadcasts moved entirely online, a move unions object to, citing internet censorship in the destination countries.

RFI currently broadcasts in 20 languages, with only one, Turkish, exclusively on the web.

The English service is the only service which is not threatened with job losses.

RFI management says that the language services are outdated and were part of a Cold War effort to bring uncensored voices beyond the Iron Curtain in eastern Europe and south-east Asia. It has indentified Africa as its new target audience.

The journalists in the foreign-language services have circulated a petition pointing out the continued importance of their broadcasts. The petitions have received more than 2,000 signatures, including several French and European intellectuals and politicians such as film-maker Roman Polanski, French writer Michel Tournier and Socialist European MP Vincent Peillon.

One of the unions, CFDT, has broken from the others and called on workers to negotiate individual voluntary departures to reduce the number of firings.

Tuesday's strike is planned to be indefinite.

http://www.rfi.fr/actuen/articles/113/article_3692.asp

RFI workers voted unanimously (though there was one abstention) to continue their strike on Wednesday (May 27). Unions also said five freelancers in the German service were told on May 26 that their contracts would end on June 1 -- even though a court has temporarily banned RFI's plans to lay off workers. (Mike Cooper, May 28, DXLD)

United Kingdom

I wonder if radio programmes with such evocative titles as Living Language, Poetry Corner, Time and Tune, or Singing Together sound familiar to you?

Add the smell of ink and blackboard dusters - and you might well be picturing yourself cross-legged on the floor in shorts or sporting pig-tails, with ears cocked to a huge wooden loud speaker.

Yes - these were (and some still are) on the list of many, many series made for BBC Schools Radio. It's now 85 years since it all began, heralding a wealth of imaginative programmes covering more or less every subject in the schools curriculum for children across the UK.

The music and movement programmes were always my favourite and if you're of a certain era - you too may fondly remember sitting with your classmates in the primary school assembly hall, waiting patiently for Singing Together. Out boomed a jolly voice imploring us all to join in with "Men of Harlech" or Aiken Drum - who played upon a ladle" Great stuff! These programmes gave many of us a lasting love of singing.

From 1952 - 1993, most of those pioneering Schools Radio producers were based over the road from Broadcasting House, at 1 - 3 Portland Place, London. Here they made thousands of programmes, featuring a variety of performers/writers such as Johnny Morris, Ted Hughes, Michael Rosen and Paul Copley.

Last week, I was delighted to attend the unveiling of a commemorative green plaque by Westminster City Council at 1 Portland Place (which is no longer leased by the BBC). And if you're ever in the vicinity of Broadcasting House, do pop over the road to see the plaque in all its glory.

It was a pleasure to meet so many former schools radio producers once again.

In its heyday in the 1980s, there was a staff of over 90 working in the department, which boasted 3 studios (known as 1 P/P 3 P/P and 5 P/P) and its own actors' repertory company. Such luxury!

Michael Rosen, who wrote and presented many programmes for schools, was pleased to be at the unveiling, as were two of the actors I recall from the old Drama Rep - John Bull and Douglas Blackwell - who both excelled at swashbuckling roles!

I'd be interested to hear any of your memories of schools radio - fond or otherwise.... Send your emails with the heading "Schools Radio" to: Radio7@bbc.co.uk (Mary Kalemkerian, BBC 7 Newsletter)

United States

VOA Journalists Inside Burma Report On Suu Kyi Trial

They are filing a steady stream of exclusive video and audio reports on the trial of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi

Washington, D.C., May 22, 2009 - Journalists operating inside Burma are filing a steady stream of exclusive video and audio reports for Voice of America's (VOA) Burmese Service on the trial of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Despite significant newsgathering challenges, the reporters are providing video footage, photographs and first-hand accounts of the latest developments surrounding the trial of Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been under house arrest for 13 of the last 19 years. Stories have included interviews with supporters of Suu Kyi, and video showing tight security at the site of the trial.

Suu Kyi faces charges she broke the terms of her house arrest by allowing an American visitor, John Yettaw, to stay at her home after he swam, uninvited, across a lake to reach her home.

Although the Burmese government has banned the press for all but one of the five days since the trial began, VOA has used a variety of means, such as satellite uplinks, internet circuitry and cellphones, to circumvent the government's efforts.

"Our role in providing accurate news and information is especially critical at a time like this," explained Than Lwin Htun, head of VOA's Burmese Service.

"Many unreliable sources of information are seizing this opportunity to spread rumors and disinformation through blogs and email communications," he said. "When the audience tunes in to VOA broadcasts, they are hearing the facts without any of the sensationalism that is commonplace now that the trial is under way."

VOA Burmese broadcasts 3.5 hours of radio programming a week on shortwave and AM frequencies. It also produces a 30-minute weekly TV program, distributed by satellite. These broadcasts as well as other special features are also available on its website, www.VOANews.com/Burmese/. More than 21% of the adult population in Burma tunes in to VOA broadcasts on a weekly basis. (VoA Press Release)

WRMI

Miami (May 4, 2009) - WRMI is pleased to announce that the Adventist World Radio DX program, "Wavescan," will be produced and distributed from our studios in Miami as of June, 2009.

WRMI has broadcast "Wavescan" since its inception. For the past three years, the program has been produced at the AWR studio in Singapore. However, that studio is being closed in June. As of the June 7 program, "Wavescan" will be written each week by Dr. Adrian Peterson, AWR International Relations Coordinator in Indianapolis, Indiana, and produced at WRMI in Miami. WRMI will

also distribute the program to the various stations in the AWR network around the globe.

"We are very happy to be working with Adrian and AWR on the production of Wavecan," said WRMI General Manager Jeff White. "Our association actually goes back about 25 years now, when Adrian was producing the predecessor of Wavescan -- Radio Monitors International -- at the AWR studios in Puna, India, and we were rebroadcasting the program to the Americas on Radio Earth, where I was the program producer."

Adrian Peterson will be entirely in charge of the content of the program, but segments of regional DX news will continue to come from "Wavescan" correspondents in several Asian countries.

"We are glad to play a small part in the new version of Wavescan," said White, "and we hope the program will be around for many years to come."

As of June 7, 2009, WRMI will be broadcasting Wavescan at the following days and times -- all on the frequency of 9,955 kHz.

0830 UTC Sunday
2130 UTC Sunday
1530 UTC Monday *
0015 UTC Tuesday
0500 UTC Tuesday
1130 UTC Tuesday
1130 UTC Wednesday
1430 UTC Friday *
0130 UTC Saturday
0730 UTC Saturday

* These transmissions are specifically beamed to North America. The others are beamed to the Caribbean and Latin America, but may be audible in North America also.

In addition, "Wavecan" will continue to be broadcast over the other stations in the AWR network. (via Jeff White)

Vatican Radio

Stay tuned for the Pope. But first a word from our sponsors...

Could we be hearing this soon?

Vatican Radio to air advertising

By David Willey

BBC News, Rome

Vatican Radio - the voice of the Roman Catholic church - is going commercial in July to meet rising costs.

It is one of the world's oldest broadcasters, first going on the air as long ago as 1931.

But the station now costs about \$30m (21.4m euros, £18.8m) a year to run and the Vatican has been looking for ways of raising new funding.

An advertising agency is to vet the radio ads to make sure they are in keeping with moral standards.

Vatican Radio's first transmitter was designed by the Italian who carried out the world's first long distance voice transmission - Guglielmo Marconi.

Global broadcasts

The station, known as the Voice of the Pope, broadcasts worldwide by short, medium and long wave, by FM in Rome, and also on the internet.

On 6 July it will transmit its first commercial advert.

The Vatican has chosen the Italian electricity multinational ENEL as its first commercial radio sponsor.

But Vatican Radio hopes to attract other advertisers from around the world to help meet increasing costs.

An agency will filter all radio ads to make sure they are in keeping with the high moral standards of the Catholic Church, according to the official Vatican spokesman.

Pope Benedict XVI has personally approved Vatican Radio's new experimental commercial venture.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/8068680.stm>

Southern Ontario



David Marsden

“Just wanted to invite you all to tune into David Marsden's radio program this week, especially Friday, May 29th for a special visit with the fabulous Geets Romo who will be joining David in the studio along with his wild and crazy characters from 7 p.m. until midnight. <http://www.therock.fm>

“The Marsbar Theater Chat Room will be open as well and I'd like to invite you all to drop in and visit us. The link is found over on David's website at <http://www.marsdenglobal.com>

“I'm looking forward to sharing my rhinestone throne with the lovely Lardette.

“Please come and join us for a night of nostalgia, fun, laughter and amazing music.

“And hey Craig...thanks for letting me plug David's show. It's close to my heart

Sistah Mar
Official Roving Ambassdor
For the David Marsden Radio Program
MUSIC YOUR EARS WILL THANK YOU FOR

Posted to the SOWNY board (The Southern Ontario Western NY Radio board) accessible at <http://www.sowny.ca> Sistah Mar, is my good friend Marilyn Hamilton, a woman of exquisite taste in all things musical who introduced me to the David Marsden experience on Thursday and Friday nights. David Marsden, also known as Dave Mickey in one of his other radio personas is (at least) a 40 year veteran of Radio in the Toronto area. When I was in my teens, I was more of a Rock 102/CHUM kinda guy and missed out on the whole CFNY/CHUM FM thing. But in the past couple of years I have tried to make up that lost time.