Radio Werld

Marti Electronics inaugurates new plant. See p.13.

ol 20, No 12

Radio's Best Read Newspaper

June 12, 1996

Tests to Start Regardless

Despite Contract Disputes with Two Proponents,
The EIA Says DAB Field Tests Will Proceed

by Lynn Meadows

SAN FRANCISCO The Digital Audio Broadcasting field tests are ready to roll, with or without all the proponents.

As of mid-May, two proponents had signed the required field test contracts and the other two were still studying the wording.

The Electronic Industries Association has tried since March to get DAB proponents — USA Digital Radio, AT&T-Lucent, VOA and Thomson Electronics — to sign contracts agreeing to payment and terms for the field tests.

The latest deadline, May 10, came and

went without a single signed contract. A meeting held the following week did yield signed agreements from Thomson for the Eureka 147 L-band system and VOA for its satellite system.

But USADR, sponsor of one AM inband, on-channel system and two IBOC FM systems had not agreed to the terms of the contract. AT&T/Lucent would sign by May 31.

Electronic Industries Association Director of Engineering Ralph Justus and one of the organization's top lawyers were on-call to be available 24-hours a day through May 23 in case either proponent wanted to negotiate, said spokeswoman Lisa Fasold.

Contract negotiations began March 1, when contracts were sent out. Those contracts had a March 15 deadline. None of the proponents signed that contract. Instead, they raised several questions at a March 18 DAB subcommittee meeting.

In response, a special meeting dedicated to discussing the contract was arranged in early April. Later in April, revised contracts were sent out carrying a May 10 deadline.

On May 10, said Fasold, USADR and AT&T returned their contracts with a list of proposed changes. According to Fasold, USADR listed around 20 changes.

USADR sent the EIA a letter on May continued on page 11

Random House President Harold Evans moderates the discussion on political satire during a broadcast of the publishing company's radio show. Panelists included Ed Koch, former mayor of New York, Harper's Editor Lewis Lapham, Michael Thomas, author, and New York Supreme Court Judge Burton Roberts.



Dan Mason at Helm of New CBS Radio Group

Dan Mason began his radio career in Atlanta as program director for WZGC-AM-FM in 1975. In 1977 he moved to WPGC-AM-FM in Washington. The ensuing years saw him in San Antonio and Houston, Texas, with First Media, and eventually, in 1988, when First Media became Cook Inlet Radio Parnters, he was named president.



Dan Mason

A native of Louisville, Ky., Mason was tapped by Group W Radio in 1993 to oversee its operations. He is currently president of the CBS Radio Group, overseeing 18 AM and 21 FM stations. In a one-on-one with RW Editor in Chief Lucia Cobo, Mason shared his perspective on the industry.

RW: The Telecommunications Act of 1996 merely set into law what was already a broadcast reality — ownership consolidation of stations and larger groups in the hands of fewer operators. Is the CBS Radio Station

Group on the prowl for more stations?

Mason: CBS is a growing company and it has been since it began in the 1920s. It will continue to grow. Do we intend to take full advantage of the changes brought on by the

Telecommunications Act? Absolutely.

RW: Do you feel there is a point where a broadcast company may have too many voices in one market?

Mason: Time will tell. This rule change has rearranged the deck so much that the answer to a question like that still has to be sorted out.

RW: How are you handling markets where CBS and Group W Radio used to compete?

continued on page 13

WINS(AM) Optimizes Its Signal

by Lee Harris

NEW YORK Not many AM stations would drop \$9 million on a new transmitter plant and tower with the end of the millennium approaching and an unknown digital broadcasting system waiting in the wings.

But if your station has the highest cumulative audience of any in the country (AM or FM) and is consistently among the top five billers in the nation, you just might approve the project after all.

All-news WINS(AM) New York did not set out to spend all that cash to improve its signal when the project began more than a dozen years ago.

Meadowlands challenge

WINS is the longtime flagship of Group W and is now the flagship of the CBS Radio Station Group. Since about 1940, the station had operated at 50 kW, directional-nights, with a four tower in-line array, located in Lyndhurst, N.J., about 12 miles west of Manhattan.

Over the years, booming construction in the once vacant swamps of the Jersey continued on page 9

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NEWSWATCH

EEO Deadline Extended

WASHINGTON Stations can still comment on the proposed EEO Notice of Proposed Rulemaking at the FCC. The commission extended the deadline to July 1 and the reply comment deadline to July 31.

Marconi Nominations Open

WASHINGTON NAB member stations should have received the NAB open nominations kit for the NAB Marconi Radio Awards by now.

Nominations for the awards, which recognize excellence in radio programming and personalities, are due by June 17.

Lease a

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rds 🐠 :

ou know the world is crowded with digital

audio systems. When you are faced with

making a decision, it can be a confusing mess of

features, reliability, and cost considerations that

looking for an answer that has the flexibility to

would frustrate any broadcaster. If you're

The 22 winners will be announced at the NAB Marconi Radio Awards Dinner and Show on Oct. 12 in conjunction with the NAB Radio Show in Los Angeles.

Colfax Buys Again

PHOENIX Colfax Communications Inc. announced the purchase of Phoenixbased Sundance Broadcasting Inc. for \$95 million last month.

Sundance owns and operates nine radio stations in three markets: four in Phoenix. two in Milwaukee and three in Boise, Idaho.

This brings the Colfax station count in Phoenix to six including KOOL-AM-FM which Colfax recently purchased from

for as little as \$281 per month

Par Broadcasting. The others in that market are KZON-FM, KYOT-FM, KOY(AM) and KISO(AM).

The Milwaukee stations on the block were WMIL-FM and WOKY(AM); the stations sold in Boise were KARO-FM. KLTB-FM and KIDO(AM).

Green Leaving ABC

LOS ANGELES George Green, former president and general manager of KABC(AM) and KMPC(AM), is forming George Green Enterprises

the advertising business including talk radio station consultation, radio syndica-

tion, sales training and traditional adve tising account management.

Green, a 37-year ABC Radio veterar retired in May and signed Capita Cities/ABC Radio Division as his firs

MAB Annual Retreat

LANSING, Mich. The Michigan Association of Broadcasters will hold its 48th Annual Meeting and Managemen Retreat Aug. 19-21, at the Grand Hotel or Mackinac Island. The event is co-sponsored by Michigan Public Broadcasting.

The theme this year is "Exploring the New Broadcast Industry." The meeting will explore changes and effects of legislation and reorganization. Members will also be able to explore new ways to increase revenue. Registration is open to members and non-members. Call (800) 968-7622 for information.

Clarification

An article in the NAB wrap up issue (May 29) gave the mistaken impression that the commission had already streamlined the application process for various types of station changes like power and antenna height increases.

In fact, all that the FCC has done so far is issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (MM Docket 96-58).

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The company will specialize in facets of

give you total control, a gleaming track record to calm your nerves and a payment plan that won't break your checkbook, Harris and RDS have made it easy with the PhantomLite. The PhantomLite is a trimmed down version of the reliable, industry benchmark Phantom system that has satisfied hundreds of radio operators over the past few years. The PhantomLite system has features that others would have you believe are either impossible, or are only available in the highest price range. For example, a single PhantomLite system can handle manual or automatic recording, network transfers, scheduling, logging, and other tasks all while it remains completely functional on the air, making you sound great.

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Alliance Taps New Fund Source

y Lynn Meadows

VASHINGTON Heeding the call to ind more money for public radio, the listener Alliance for Public Radio may be to long-awaited knight in shining armor budget-embattled public radio stations.

The group introduced itself at a press onference at the Public Radio Conference n May.

The idea is called "affinity marketing." Listeners support their local stations by burchasing specific products and services. They sign up for free, give the call letters of the stations they want to support and then just buy products as usual. A percentage of their purchases from specific companies then goes to the station they chose.

Consistent source

Walter McRee, founder and president of the Alliance, said that the idea is to find new ways to provide a consistent source of money for public radio.

"We know that the government is not

interested in being our permanent benefactor," he said.

McRee and other members of the board of directors wanted to make it easy for public radio listeners to support their favorite stations.

"We know that on average, only 10 percent of our loyal listeners, who love us despite our fundraisers, give to us periodically," said McRee.

A non-profit entity, the new Alliance is not affiliated with National Public Radio or the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Board members anticipate all costs of the Alliance will be covered by participating vendors. That way the money received will be funneled directly back to the stations.

At the time of the conference, 11 public stations had joined the alliance: KUNM(FM), Albuquerque, N.M.; WBFO(FM), Buffalo, N.Y.; WRTI(FM), Philadelphia; WPBX(FM), Southampton, N.Y.; KGOU(FM), Norman, Okla.; KIOS-FM, Omaha, Neb.; WUKY(FM), Lexington, Ky.; WVPE(FM), Elkhart, Ind.;

WMRA(FM). Harrisonburg, Va.; WEKU-FM, Richmond. Ky. and KPBS-FM, San Diego.

Stations will pay a small annual fee. The scale runs from \$250 for stations with fewer than 25,000 weekly listeners to \$3,000 for those with 150,000 or more.

KUNM Development Director Mary Bokuniewicz said her station has been using affinity marketing with a long distance service.

No get-rich-quick scheme

She said that with just a few hundred listeners signed on, the partnership has generated \$5,000 in revenue this year.

"I know that the concept works. It's not a get-rich-quick scheme," she told attendees.

McRee played four promotional spots that the Alliance will supply to stations who join. Two are intended to introduce the Alliance

"Wouldn't it be great if every time you filled your gas tank, made a phone call or bought a plane ticket, some of that money went to support this public radio station?" reads one spot.

The other two will be played after the Sept. 1, kick-off date. They list some of the supporters like MCI, The Gap and American Express and give an 800 number to call.

Listeners who call the number will give information about what station they want to benefit and some as-yet-to-be-determined database information.

After that, the Alliance will send the listener a catalog with material about participating vendors. A team in Boston and Cincinnati is creating the Listener Alliance Registration and Transaction Service which will handle the accounting for this program.

In addition to a tracking system, the challenge now is to convince vendors that this is a good idea.

The Alliance's promotional material lists several desirable demographics that many vendors are seeking. According to the booklet, public radio listeners are among the most educated and affluent of any national audience.

McRee is very excited about the potential of the Alliance. He said the program is not meant to be a threat to the traditional membership model and suggested that when a listener buys enough products to meet the membership donation, he or she should be given a membership.

The extra money from the Alliance might make the biannual membership drives less of a "nail-biting" experience for staffers, said McRee.

It is anticipated that stations with weekly listenerships between 100,000 and 800,000 could realize as much as an additional \$1 million annually. Stations with fewer than 100,000 weekly listeners could gain as much as \$200,000 in additional income.

Asked if commercial broadcasters might take a skeptical look at the program and see it as a "call to action" buried a couple layers deep, McRee said the spots maintain standard underwriting policies.

"It is a call to action for Public Radio," he said.

FCC Proposes Using Spectrum for LANs

WASHINGTON Spectrum watchers will be interested in a new proposal open for comment at the Federal Communications Commission.

Responding to two petitions submitted in May 1995, the FCC is prepared to open up 350 MHz of spectrum for a new category of unlicensed devices. The spectrum in question covers 5.15-5.35 GHz and 5.725-5.875 GHz.

The devices, called NII/SUPERNet devices, would provide short-range high speed wireless digital communications on an unlicensed basis.

Local network usage

The petitioners, one a consortium of companies known as WINForum, the other, Apple Computer Inc., foresaw using the spectrum for local area networks. The devices could transmit digital data 50-100 meters. Apple had also wanted the FCC to permit the new devices to cover distances of 10-15 kilometers or more for "community networks" and to facilitate wireless access to the National Information Infrastructure (NII).

In its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the FCC wrote that it found merit in the concept of longer-range community networks and is seeking comments on whether to permit operation up to 1 W of transmitter output power within the 5.725-5.875 band.

A common theme both in the NII/SUPERNet rulemaking and Senator Larry Pressler's recent spectrum bill (see page 6) is spectrum flexibility.

Minimum mandates

The NPRM proposes subjecting the devices to the minimum technical standards necessary, both to prevent interference to other services and to ensure the spectrum is used efficiently.

With that in mind, the FCC proposed setting only power limits, out-of-band emission limits and a basic "listen-before-talk" protocol standard.

One advantage of such wireless technology

would be the elimination of cabling expenses, delays and drilling. The technology would also enhance flexibility and mobility within LANs.

According to Apple estimates, the cost of wiring America's K-12 schools would be \$30 billion, while equivalent wireless connections would cost substantially less.

In its petition, WINForum (Wireless Information Networks Forum) championed what it calls Shared Unlicensed Personal Radio Network (SUPERNet) devices that can transmit digital information at rates of approximately 20 Mbps.

Apple indicated that its unlicensed NII band devices could provide data transmission capabilities of 24 Mbps or higher.

Both petitions point out that these NII/SUPERNet devices will be compatible with the High Performance Radio LAN (HIPERLAN) standard currently being developed in Europe. Apple stated that such compatibility would further the creation of a Global Information Infrastructure (GII).

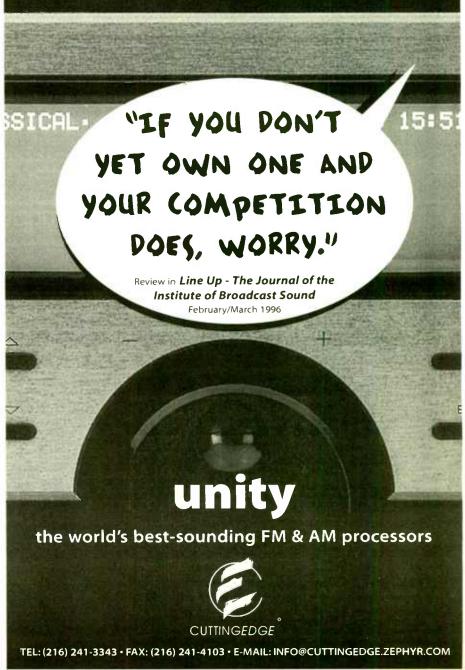
Spectrum occupied

Over the past year, the FCC has received approximately 175 comments and 17 reply comments regarding this issue. Many relate to the fact that the spectrum under consideration already has other tenants.

WINForum's original request included the 5.10-5.15 GHz band. The National Telecommunication and Information Administration, however, struck that down because that band is currently used for air traffic control operations.

Other occupants of the 5.15-5.25 band include aeronautical radionavigation, aeronautical mobile-satellite, fixed satellites and inter-satellite services for both government and non-government operations.

The 5.25-5.35 GHz band is allocated to radiolocation service for primarily for government operations as is the 5.650-5.925 GHz band. Spectrum between 5.725 and 5.875 GHz is also designated for industrial, scientific and medical applications and unlicensed Part 15 devices.



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Radio Timeline: Marconi to DAB

WASHINGTON What is that old line about putting the cart before the horse? I'm reminded of the old adage by the ongoing discussion about the future. The continuing debate about satellite digital audio radio and digital audio broadcasting and CD-quality radio is very beguiling.

On the one hand, you have the Europeans charging ahead with not only digital audio using Eureka-147, but also scoping out the ancillary data services and video transmission capabilities possible with that system. Technology is great, isn't it?

On the other hand, you have the original premise for wanting to move from analog FM to DAB FM: the elimination of multipath problems. After all, when we take this to the consumer, we as an industry have to be able to demonstrate to the consumer what value-added benefit he or she will immediately realize from spending X more amount of dollars to buy a radio receiver.

It is a lot like the infiltration of the PC into the home. It took a while, but when prices came down low enough and when the equipment and software was user-friendly enough, the benefits were immediately apparent. And then the sale of the PC for home use rocketed.

Obviously we, as an industry, are not rushing into the DAB fray. And that is good. As CBS Radio's Dan Mason points out, given our spectrum options, we must push for an in-band

solution. But what he also points out is that programming was, is and always will be the key to our success as a business.

So maybe we wait a little longer for the onset of DAB in this country — that is fine — as long as we implement it correctly and focus on the benefits to our listeners and clients.

Especially for the technically oriented among us, it is easy to step over the line of technology "just because we can" vs. "How will it enhance our business and ensure our longevity."

At RW we have reported and followed



Guglielmo Marconi

the rollout of RDS very closely here in the good old United States as well as abroad. The Electronic Industries Association just ended its campaign to outfit stations in the top 25 markets with RDS equipment. EIA is claiming success. Our own RDS Roll Call page lists more than 350 stations as being RDS-

equipped and active.

But the consumer awareness of RDS and consequently its demand for it has lagged the industry.

We cannot afford to have that happen with DAB. It matters too

much, particularly to the AM band. While it may seem premature to say this, given that DAB rollout in the United States is still many years away, I would urge you to start thinking about how to position this technology so that when it is ready to roll, consumers will be too.

We could get a helping hand from the HDTV rollout — a sort of whetting of the appetite for all things digital — but we can't really bank on that. Get involved in the debate now.

 $\star\star\star$ There is another interesting story we'll be

tracking for you (in fact, look for it in the next issue of RW). The Federal Communications Commission adopted rules specifying that the license of any broadcast station that remains off the air for any consecutive 12-

month period will expire as a matter of law, "not-withstanding any provision, term or condition of the license to the contrary."

Ouch. The first of such licenses will expire on Feb. 9, 1997, and that applies to any class of broadcast station, commercial or non-commercial, as well as remote pickup and auxiliary stations licensed to it.

Be forewarned. License expiration under these new rules will not be affected by a silent station's other FCC applications on file. In other words, it doesn't matter why you are off the air, if you are for 12 months, your license expires.

And of course, the new rules establish a process that is "simpler" than a revocation process previously used to terminate a broadcast license.

 $\star\star\star$

Also coming up in the next issue of RW is a very special interview with Guglielmo Marconi's daughter, Gioia Marconi Braga. As you know, in June of 1896 — one hundred years ago — Guglielmo Marconi took out patents in England for a new invention he called "wireless telegraphy." Soon after, the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company was born, a business whose American operation would later become RCA, the Radio Corporation of America.

Marconi's great invention was the first transmission of coded messages through the air. It would be other inventors and geniuses — such as Lee de Forest, Edwin Armstrong and Marconi's employee, David Sarnoff, who would create the

One hundred years ago, Guglielmo Marconi's invention of the radio revolutionized communications and changed the course of history.

In honor of Marconi and other pioneers in global communications, Mrs. Gioia Marconi Braga, daughter of Guglielmo Marconi, and IBM Bresearch invite you to a special lunchern.

Guest Speaker Dr. Robert Lucky, of Bellcore, will introduce IBM's Dr. Gottfreed Ungerboeck, 1996 Marconi Award winner.

Monday, May 20, 1996

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4th Floor - Dining Room #1

12:00 Noon - 1:30 pm

Lunch will be served

Please R. S. V.P. by May 16

Linda Spelling, Technology Solutions

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medium of wireless audio that we know today as radio.

Marconi's original vision, however, that of wireless personal communications — has come of age only in recent years in such devices such as cellular telephones, pagers and wireless data devices.

RW's Frank Beacham spoke with Marconi's daughter at a recent United Nations celebration of the 100 years of wireless in New York. Marconi Braga is the founder of the Marconi International Fellowship, an organization that honors the work of scientists and engineers in the field of telecommunications. Mrs. Marconi Braga was 18 years old when her father died in 1937.

That is it for now



READERS FORUM

you have comments for Radio World, call us at 800-336-3045 or send a letter to Readers Forum adio World, Box 1214, Falls Church, VA 22041 or e-mail 74103.2435@compuserve.com or MCI lailbox #302-7776). All letters received become the property of Radio World, to be used at our iscretion and as space permits.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Come March with the Microsoft Elephant

Director, Digital Products Broadcast Electronics Inc.

QUINCY, III. We have watched the discussion of the use of Microsoft Windows versus MS-DOS operating systems in radio digital audio systems with interest.

Last month. Broadcast Electronics introduced in Las Vegas a Windows 95 version of AudioVAULT, so our commitment to the Windows platform speaks for

Still, as we were the first major radio equipment manufacturer to develop a digital audio system running under the Windows operating system, I think it is time you hear "the rest of the story."

Radio is a business. That is why you have a proliferation of business applications in your building.

Radio is also undergoing a rapid ownership consolidation that will require you to ask your staff to do more with less. Your operations become more complex with multiple stations in the same building.

Multitasking digital systems are the only tool for what you want to do. Why dedicate a plethora of expensive PCs to run dedicated DOS applications, or crowd a control room with four or five monitors when one will suffice?

Digital audio systems are no longer simple cart machine replacements. You are asking technology to help your station operate more efficiently, to generate economies of scale and scope.

Radio World

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Next Issue of Radio World June 26, 1996

Your business is changing rapidly and you will need new technology to support

The development tools and support utilities that Windows 95 provides allows us. as a vendor, to develop the applications you will require, as well as the reliability you need, while keeping support costs

Integration of disparate tools is the next technical challenge we face. Windows 95 allows rational interfacing among all the products you use: from multitrack editors to newsroom systems to traffic and billing to music schedulers. Windows 95 will allow the next phase of development - paperless radio — to be implemented reliably

Windows 95 delivers much improved network stability, driver support and throughput. It allows thousands of different networks, printers, modems and peripherals to be installed and supported

Additional emerging technologies that will have an impact on radio — such as WAN, ATM, TAPI and the Internet - are or will be bundled predominantly as Windows tools.

All these benefits will impact your cost of competing in the new radio environ-

Purchasing a digital audio system is an expensive. long-term investment. Given this, why invest in an operating system that will require extra work to integrate with the rest of your systems?

We might try to avoid getting trampled by the Microsoft elephant, but the fact is that where Microsoft goes, many will follow: they are the technology leader.

Your risk of technical obsolescence is minimized if your system is based on a technology that will continue to be supported and enhanced.

Don't get me wrong, some great DOS software has been written. I applaud the creative approaches that many have used to overcome the limitations of DOS: Real-time multitasking kernels, DOS memory extenders and graphical libraries all make some DOS applications look and feel like Windows programs. But how much further can this go?

We are already seeing maintenance and support problems associated with many of these programs.

The further we push a static DOS platform to satisfy the changing needs of the radio industry, the greater the chance of sleepless nights.

The choice is fairly simple: Do you invest in an operating system that went through one of the most expensive, most thorough testing programs in the history of software (Windows 95), or a system where development has all but ceased (DOS)

Radio is not standing still, why should your operating system?

Bricks and Mortar

The ongoing debate here on the Opinion page about the role of the DJ in a station's success reminds us that similar debates have been waged before. Ironically, the on-air entertainer and the engineer are in the same boat: Technology and economies of scale could displace them.

We say ironically because it was the engineers and the entertainers of radio's Golden Age that catapulted the medium into the hearts and minds

of the nation. Lest anyone forget, however, it is a combination of a clean strong signal and appealing on-air content that are the bricks and mortar that hold any radio station together. Without these two important facets, no sales packages, no remotes, no audience ... in short, no revenue generation would be possible.

In the larger debate of radio's survival against satellite digital audio radio and digital cable radio. localism is worn like the shield that will save us all. It cannot save you, however, if you do not practice good local broadcasting.

The tools that technology affords us are many — but they are just that: tools. Many a successful large market station uses prepackaged formats and syndication as a backdrop to its more important local programming. A programming mix that usually includes strong local personalities working in the community and with the community on issues and events that matter.

A satellite-fed format can provide you a music format or an all-news package you cannot afford on your own, but it should complement your local talent and community involvement, not replace them.

With the advent of duopoly and mega radio group owners, the importance of a local broadcast identity for each station is more crucial than ever. Use the savings that technology and consolidation afford to nurture those other facets of your station: the talent and the engineers. Without these two key players, you'd have nothing to sell.

-RW

FM composite digital transmission

Dear RW,

I am writing this letter to clarify for your readers a misconception that occurred at this year's NAB Engineering Conference.

Another manufacturer, Intraplex, gave presentation on "T1 Digital STL:Discreet versus Composite transmission." During this presentation, and in the corresponding paper in the NAB Engineering Broadcast Conference Proceedings, Intraplex asserted that the transmission of FM stereo composite over a T1 line cannot be done in practice because of the nature of the sample rate required to digitize the 53 kHz FM composite baseband signal. Their paper suggested that in order to sample FM composite at 16 bits of resolution, a minimum sample frequency of 112 kHz would be required, giving a bit rate of at least 1.792 Mbps. This would indeed exceed the data throughput of 1.536 Mbps available on a framed T1 circuit.

We do not believe that the authors of the paper were aware of the QEI CAT-Link system. The CAT-Link has been transporting digital, uncompressed, real-time, FM composite audio with resolutions up to 16 bits for over six years. All this while also sending up to four other audio channels, simultaneously. This method is patented (Pat. # 5,054,070), and has been adopted by stations in hundreds of markets, including all of the top 50. The CAT-Link is the only STL system to offer the broadcaster the choice of transporting FM composite, CD-quality discrete or AES/EBU digital audio without the use of audio compression and in real time.

Eric Alan Eckstein QEI Corp. Williamstown, NJ

Homogenizing radio

Dear RW.

Owners, managers, please keep convincing yourselves that radio will be even better and more profitable without the DJ. I just love it. I want to purchase a station in the future and this type of thinking will certainly make the purchase less financially painful.

As I travel around the country I enjoy listening to radio, both FM and AM. I love to question locals about what they like and don't like about stations.

I seems the most popular stations overall are the ones that still integrate with the listener. It doesn't seem to matter what the format is, all people listen to the radio for entertainment and information.

As a local station manager told me a while ago, he is already playing 10 hits each half hour and doesn't know what else he can do. He's right. I listen to the station for about 10 to 15 minutes and then off it goes. The only problem? I can listen to 10 songs in 30 minutes on my car's cassette player and they are the songs I want to hear, minus those obnoxious, mind-numbing liners.

Inexpensive, motor-mouthed, inexperienced jocks will also turn off listeners. For those at the NAB radio luncheon, remember what Charles Osgood spoke about. Shows like Don Imus, Rush Limbaugh, etc., are popular because they are fun to listen to. They are entertaining.

If only product didn't matter. Life could be so easy (another word for cheap). Keep on homogenizing radio. It will make it cheaper for me to get into it. Thank you.

Mike Seaver Quincy, 1L

Pressler Reveals Spectrum Bill

WASHINGTON Get set for a Federal Communications Commission yard sale.

A newly introduced bill would require that the FCC "exhaustively license" all available spectrum by selecting bands of unallocated frequencies and auctioning them.

The idea is one of many included in the discussion draft of a "grand spectrum" bill that Senator Larry Pressler, R-S.D., introduced in May.

Pressler, chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, wants to address what he calls the "ill-conceived, inflexible and inefficient" federal policies governing spectrum use and allocation.

"The spectrum is one of America's most valuable natural resources," Pressler said. "However, this resource is being wasted because we use a 1930s regulatory system to attempt to manage it."

Permanent authority

The discussion draft bill would expand and make permanent FCC authority to auction spectrum frequencies. That authority was initially granted in 1993 and will expire in 1998.

Pressler held four hearings on spectrum this spring as homework for this bill. He repeatedly heard how helpful spectrum flexibility would be for licensees. The new bill would grant

spectrum licensees the right to use the assigned spectrum for any services that are technically feasible.

"The government — not consumers — largely decides who uses spectrum fre-

CEO Eddie Fritts commended Pressler for undertaking a comprehensive approach to spectrum reform. He said the NAB was pleased to see spectrum discussed in the policy rather than the budget arena.

The NAB must be intrigued by Pressler's solution for the move to digital television. One 6 MHz Digital Television

The discussion draft bill would expand and make permanent FCC authority to auction spectrum frequencies.

quencies, what they are used for and how they are used," said Pressler. "This is central government planning at its worst."

The bill would consolidate federal spectrum management by eliminating the National Telecommunications Information Administration. That administration's spectrum management duties would be taken over by the FCC.

Another provision calls for the creation of a Base Relocation and Closing Commission. The commission would determine how the federal government should relinquish 25 percent of its spectrum holdings below 5 GHz so they could then be auctioned.

Block grants

To expedite public safety spectrum allocation, the bill would give spectrum block grants to the states. They could allocate it within state boundaries for public safety uses like police and emergency transmissions.

The National Association of Broadcasters was reserved in its comments about the bill. NAB President and

(DTV) channel would be assigned "non competitively" to every current NTSC broadcast licensee.

The licensee could accept the DTV license and pay a deposit fee or return it to the government and continue to broadcast in the analog bandwidth.

Broadcasters who accept the DTV license would pay a fee with installments over 15 years. The total fee would be the market value of the license. That would be determined by an auction of unused broadcast television frequencies conducted by the FCC.

If broadcasters returned their old analog spectrum to the FCC at the end of 15 years, their total payments (less interest) would be returned. For each year afterwards that the broadcaster kept the analog spectrum, the deposit to be returned would decrease by 20 percent.

"Rather than reacting precipitously to any one part of the bill, we look forward to conducting a comprehensive analysis and entering into discussions with the senator and his staff about the many complex issues presented," Fritts said in a statement.



DALLAS For now, group owners are buying "in blocks" as recent announcements by Chancellor Broadcasting and Cox Broadcasting suggest.

Chancellor (Nasdaq:CBCA) announced it planned to acquire eight radio stations in Florida from OmniAmerica Group for an aggregate price of \$178 million. The purchase price included \$163 million in cash and \$15 million in Chancellor Class A Common stock.

At the same time, Cox Broadcasting announced it will acquire all of the stock of NewCity Communications Inc. based in Bridgeport, Conn., for \$250 million. The deal will add 18 radio stations and two LMAs to the Cox collection for a total of 37 (25 FM, 12 AM).

With eight new stations from OmniAmerica, Chancellor will have 43 stations in 16 markets. The move is a follow-up to the company purchase of Shamrock Broadcasting in February.

"We will seek to aggressively improve the results of these stations as we have done with the Shamrock stations which is evident by our recent first quarter results," said Chancellor President and CEO Steven Dinetz.

Three of the OmniAmerica stations (WXXL-FM, WJHM-FM and WOMX-FM) are in Orlando, Fla. Chancellor

already owns WOCL-FM in that market. Two others (WAPE-FM and WFYV-FM) serve Jacksonville, Fla., and the other three (WEAT-AM-FM and WOLL-FM) service West Palm Beach, Fla.

"This acquisition is an exciting step in solidifying our position as the leading radio broadcaster in Orlando, one of the country's top-five fastest growing markets," Dinetz said.

The NewCity merger assures Cox a place in Orlando too. NewCity has four stations in that market including WDBO(AM), WZKD(AM), WWKA-FM, and WCFB-FM.

NewCity also has stations in Bridgeport, Conn. (WEZN-FM); Birmingham, Ala. (WZZK-AM-FM and WODL-FM); Atlanta (WJZF-FM); San Antonio, Texas (KKYX(AM), KCYY-FM, KCJZ-FM); Syracuse, N.Y. (WSYR(AM), WYYY-FM, WBBS-FM) and Tulsa, Okla. (KRMG(AM), KWEN-FM and KJSR-FM).

"We intend to be major players in the exciting environment that surrounds radio after the recent telecommunications deregulation," said Robert F. Neil, executive vice president-radio, Cox Broadcasting. Dick Ferguson, NewCity president and chairman of the NAB Radio Board, will stay on at Cox.



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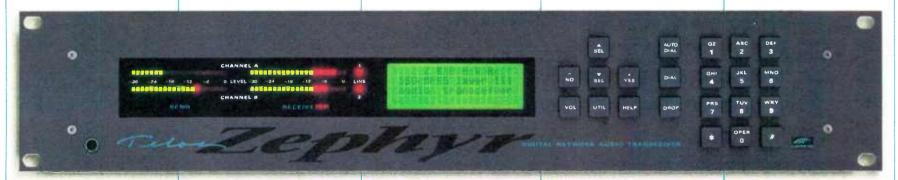
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Radio Plays Part in Olympic Test

Atlanta Traffic Advisory Test System Integrates High Speed FM Subcarrier System

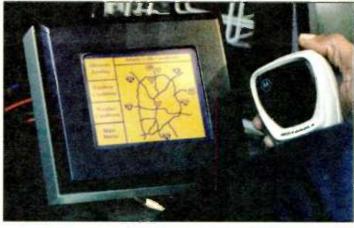
by Lynn Meadows

ATLANTA Radio may not be the hottest technology on the Information Highway, but it is playing a significant role on real life highways and byways in Georgia.

By the July 19 kick-off of the Olympic Games in Atlanta, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) will be in the middle of testing the most state-of-the-art traffic advisory system in the country.

The Southeast Region Team coordinated by Scientific-Atlanta is directing the Atlanta Driver Advisory System (ADAS), a radio-controlled driver advisory system. ADAS, funded with a \$7.2 million grant from the Federal Highway Administration, is only one part of the entire traffic advisory system under test.

ADAS is being installed in 100 delivery vehicles supplied by Federal Express and 100 road-side assistance and other vehicles supplied by the GDOT.



ADAS Mobile Unit

FM subcarrier radios, 220 MHz narrowband transceivers and GPS

The vehicles are being outfitted with

system used in the tests is called the Subcarrier Traffic Information Channel (STIC).

Developed by Mitre and licensed Scientific-Atlanta, STIC is one of three systems currently being considered by the National Radio Systems Committee become the offi-

cial high speed FM subcarrier standard.

WRFG(FM) at Clark Atlanta University is providing the subcarrier channel for STIC. The channel will offer drivers traffic speed levels and incident reports as well as weather and event notices.

With information on construction delays, accidents and congestion, drivers will be able to choose the best

The highway information will come from Atlanta's Advance Traffic Management System developed by TRW for GDOT.

Over 400 video detection cameras are being installed on Georgia high-

Drivers will be able to choose the best route.

ways primarily around Atlanta. Computers attached to the cameras will make sense of the information received

For example, if the posted speed limit is 55 mph and the cars are only going 10 mph, the GDOT officials will know there is a backup on that road.

The information is relaved not only to the test vehicles, but to kiosks throughout the state, to hotel rooms, and to other places travellers might need it.

For now, the 220 MHz transceivers installed in the 200 vehicles will provide a simulated driver emergency signal capability for evaluation purposes only

FHA Engineering Systems Manager Shelley Lynch said that an additional 250 local buses will have GPS

Information on the bus route schedules will be available at the kiosks with a touch screen.

Radio has another role in the advisory system: new signs along the highway will notify drivers to turn to AM 530 when the lights on the sign are

Nobody expects the system to fix traffic problems, said Lynch, but with it, GDOT will have many more resources to help spot trouble areas quickly.

"We hope it will help during the Olympic period," said Lynch. She said that the FHA is optimistic that parts of the system will remain after Sept. 30, the test's scheduled stop date.

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leatured sound editing for the

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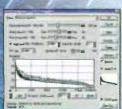
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Now there's no need to slave away filtering

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find the Spectrum

Analysis Plug-In a

great addition.

The Sonic Foundry Batch Converter Plug-In is a time saving utility for those needing to convert tens, hundreds, or even thousands of sound files to a different format automatically, All Sonic Foundry plug-ins require Sound Forge 3.0.

Spectrum Analysis includes Spectrum

Graph and Sonogram display for easy

frequency (or pitch) identification.









Stations Weigh the Options: Buy, Sell or Else

by Lynn Meadows

FALLS CHURCH, Va. Even before he passage of the Telecommunications Act helped accelerate the consolidation the radio industry, brokers were warning single-station owners "buy, sell or se."

But the large groups have not swalwed up all of the stations in the top 150 arkets. Several local owners and operars expressed mixed plans and opinions bout what the future could hold in light massive deregulation.

Opinions on whether to buy or sell were

ixed. All concludi that they would onsider selling if e price were right, hat price varied, owever. As one wner explained, his

right price" would depend on somebody etting "awfully stupid."

lave I got an offer for you

WFMZ(FM) President Richard Dean in Illentown, Pa., is getting offers regularly om people interested in his station. He said multiples of 18-20 times cash flow have been offered.

"If we didn't enjoy what we were doing, e'd be crazy to stay in," said Dean.

Dean has heard the warnings about the eed to buy or sell.

"In this particular case, we're continuig what we're doing," he said. "I probaly would not be buying."

Broker Robert Mahlman of The Mahlman Co. said that in terms of conolidating, "The big markets are gone." ccording to Mahlman, owners in small and medium markets need to be making ecisions now.

Mahlman said that there are between six and 10 large institutions looking to apand into medium markets. Their goal to buy enough mid-size properties to public. Public money is much cheaper an going to the bank.

Mahlman estimated that an owner would need holdings in five to eight maracts before going public.

One broker warns that there is nothing - besides scruples — to stop a well-financed company from underpricing ads and driving other stations out of business.

But John Casciani, owner and operator f WNUC(FM) in Buffalo. N.Y., said he expects the mega-groups will push ad rices up. Because groups are paying uge multiples for stations, explained asciani, they will have to get a return platively quickly to justify their purchas-

ate lift

In Buffalo, where rates have been notoously low, Casciani said the big compaies have the muscle to command rates that stations should have been getting all along. Casciani has raised his rates which are still below those charged by the big groups in town.

"We can do very nicely and still allow smaller deals," he said.

While brokers have approached him periodically, Casciani said he did not plan to sell. He said he would eventually like to buy and anticipates that down the road, some groups will find their mammoth size too cumbersome and spin off some of their properties.

With new and more expensive deals being announced weekly, the pace of consolidation might feel frenzied.

"I don't feel any urgency at all," said Cary Camp, owner and operator of KLKL(FM), K D K S - F M and KOKA(AM) in market 126, Shreveport, La.

Camp said stations in the top 10, 20 and 30 markets may feel a sense of urgency, but he said the big companies will have to finish

Classic ROCK 93.7

have to finish gobbling up the top markets first.

One broker said that an owner's best shot is to

expand in and dominate his or her own market.

In some situations, he said, competitors who have hated each other are now trying to cooperate or set up an LMA.

Three-station owner Camp takes a different approach. In his view, an owner whose stations are all in the same market



is at the mercy of the economy of that market. Camp said he plans to expand into other markets, but will stay within 250 miles of Shreyeport.

In market 53, Jacksonville, Fla., Greg Perich, owner and operator of WJXR(FM), has seen a steady stream format and owner changes in the past years

Last one standing

"We're the last stand-alone FM in the Jacksonville market and beyond," said Perich. Despite several offers, Perich said

he is not interested in selling.

Instead, he plans to expand both in Jacksonville and beyond. Perich said that one of the major advantages of being a local owner and operator is the ability to react quickly to local events.

Dorsey Newman is the owner of two AMs in Huntsville, Ala., market 113. He said that not much has happened in light of the Telecommunications Act in his neighborhood.

He expects most of the coming activity to take place in the top 100 markets.

"I'm looking at other properties that we might acquire in the future," he said adding that those plans are long term.

In Myrtle Beach, S.C., market 185, Arlyce Posey, owner and general manager of WSCA(FM), also anticipated purchasing activity to start in large markets and move to smaller ones.

Posey echoed observations made in other markets that the Telecom Act may have enhanced local station values.

"I would sell if somebody came with the right price," said Posey.

WINS Signal Project

continued from page

Meadowlands made it increasingly difficult to maintain the directional pattern. WINS was eventually forced to roll back its daytime power to 30 kW to keep the pattern within tolerances.

Expensive engineering studies were undertaken to determine the best means of optimizing the WINS signal. Many options were considered including relocation of the transmitter site.

After about a decade of consideration, the final plans were drawn up. They called for separate day and night patterns off a brand new four tower parallelogram array to be constructed on the same site as the existing in-line array. This presented some major engineering challenges.

First, Westinghouse had to buy and shut down a couple of stations that would interfere with the new signal: 1010 kHz co-channel KSYG(AM) in Little Rock, Ark. (taken dark about a year ago) and adjacent channel WRNJ in Hackettstown, N.J. (still on the air at 1000 kHz).

Because the new array would be constructed on the existing site, there was a debate over how to protect site workers from radiation hazards. The matter was solved by an arrangement with WABC(AM).

WINS hooked up a 10 kW transmitter to the WABC auxiliary antenna in nearby Lodi, N.J. WINS operated off this site at 7 kW nondirectional during midday and weekend construction periods. The signal was not bad, considering the power reduction.

Share and share alike

The auxiliary transmitter will remain in place after construction. In return, WABC will set up an auxiliary transmitter at the WINS site, diplexing into one of the four new towers. The towers were purchased through Stainless — that also erected the towers under the contractual arrangement.

As a result, the transmitter building will

be a bit on the crowded side. In addition to the WINS main and standby transmitters (a new Harris DX-50, and an MW-50) and the 10 kW WABC rig, there is an auxiliary facility for WNEW-FM, WINS sister station. The FM antenna for WNEW-FM was supplied by ERI.

The phaser for the project was designed and built by Kintronics.

A six-bay FM antenna has been



Assembling the WINS Tower

clamped to one of the new 400 foot AM towers. This site would only be used in the event of trouble at the Empire State Building, where WNEW-FM has both main and alternate main antennas.

There is no room for backup program origination facilities at the transmitter, but there is a direct link from the studios of Shadow Traffic a few miles away in East Rutherford, N.J. In a pinch, WINS personnel could work out of the Shadow facilities.

Another engineering challenge had nothing to do with electronics. The Jersey Meadowlands are protected wetlands, and all construction requires clearance and review from the Army Corp of Engineers.

While cooperative, the Corp was over-

seeing such arcane matters as making certain that weeds were replanted in the exact location where they had been dug up to lay cable.

The environment inside the transmitter building was also a consideration, resulting in a major asbestos abatement project. All told, WINS called on the services of more than a dozen subcontractors including environmental consultants.

Constant construction

Like most major undertakings in broad-

casting, this job is running a bit behind schedule. The snowiest winter in memory made the already swampy tower site even less accessible to heavy equipment.

The final phase of the project calls for laying a new ground system over the existing grid and knocking down the three remaining towers from the old array. Only when this is accomplished can final tuning of the new array bogin.

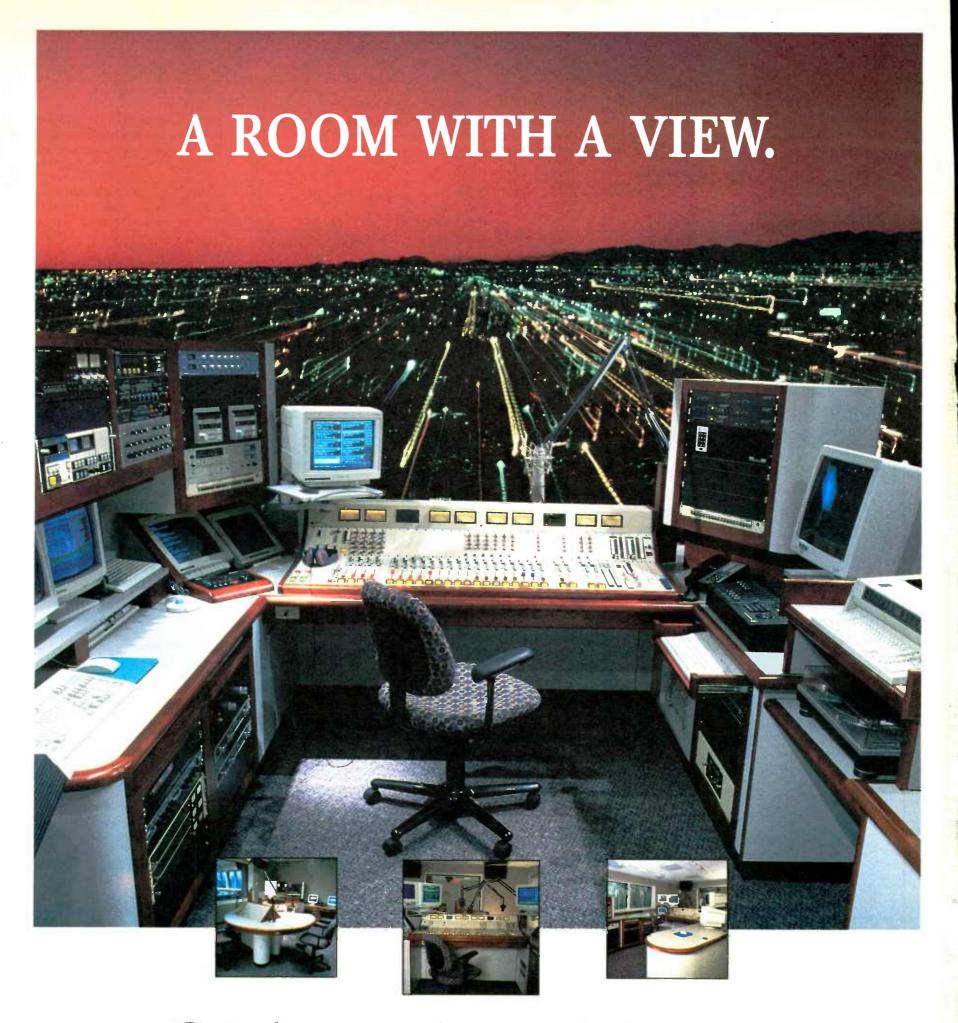
Final tuning is perhaps a bit of a misnomer. With the constant construction in the Meadowlands, the pattern will still require frequent adjustment. Project Chief Bob Moore and WINS Director of Engineering Operations Mark

Olkowski hope to flip the big switch early this summer.

What does WINS gain from this massive expenditure of cash, time and manpower? The new pattern should add more than one million New Jersey residents to the station's primary contour and shore up some dead spots in the existing pattern.

The expanded and reliable signal delivery should help WINS maintain its status among the nation's top five billers, and there is enough redundancy to ensure that the all-news station will be on the air in the event of an emergency.

Meanwhile, management is hoping there will not be any more big checks to write until it is time to upgrade to digital.



Great studio systems start with vision. Take WKHX/WYAY for instance. When Cap Cities/ABC decided to build a new home for Atlanta's country powerstations, they wanted to build the finest radio complex possible. So they called the studio experts at PR&E.

PR&E consulted with management from project concept all the way through the design and installation of the client's new technical complex. Our team worked hard with their engineering staff to implement all the technical details of their vision. The result? One of the smoothest functioning broadcast facilities in the country.

Planning new or upgraded studios doesn't have to be overwhelming. Just call the experts at PR&E and find out how easy and affordable a fully-integrated, state-of-the-art radio studio can be.



WHERE GREAT RADIO BEGINS

Firm Funds Investment Group

DALLAS Look for middle-market action from a group called Capstar Broadcasting Partners.

Hicks, Muse. Tate & Furst Inc. has committed up to \$100 million to a new radio industry investment group to be headed by R. Steven Hicks. Hicks plans to resign as president and CEO of SFX Broadcasting by Sept. 1.

DAB Tests To Start This Month

continued from page

24 citing three issues it was concerned with in the contract. First, according to Bernee Strom of USADR, the NAB and EIA had a "memorandum of understanding" that said the NRSC would evaluate the IBOC proponents while the EIA evaluated the test results of the non-IBOC proponents.

According to Strom, the EIA violated that agreement when it released data from the lab tests early and compared the results of the IBOC systems with the non-IBOC systems.

The two other issues USADR has with the contract are that the test procedures need to be spelled out and the test criteria need to be defined.

Strom said USADR wants every "i" dotted and every "t" crossed before proceeding with the tests. The proponent wants to avoid problems similar to those that surfaced during the lab tests last year. According to Strom, those included improper testing procedures, early release of data and direct comparisons between the IBOC and non-IBOC systems.

None of these issues should surprise the EIA, said Bernee Strom of USADR. She said they were all included in USADR's letter of intent sent in December.

By May 31, however, AT&T/Lucent and the EIA had reached and agreement, and the company added its in-band/adjacent-channel (IBAC) and IBOC systems to the field tests.

Testers are moving the VOA and Eureka equipment out of the NASA Lewis Research Center in Cleveland into the field test truck heading to San Francisco.

Further negotiations will be needed to decide what becomes of AT&T and USADR equipment. Once it is returned to the proponents. Fasold said, the EIA can no longer field test it because the integrity of the systems would be in question.

Fasold anticipated that the tests on the Eureka and VOA systems would begin around the second week of June. They are expected to be finished by June 30. That is when permission to use the L-band for Eureka testing expires.

As for USADR, Strom said "The ElA isn't the only sanctioned testing body." The company may consider using an independent testing entity.

Meanwhile, field test organizer Bert Goldman continued to look for a radio station that would agree to test the IBOC systems. Fasold said that if the two do sign their contracts, the EIA is contemplating building its own station to use in the tests.

Steven Hicks is the brother of Hicks, Muse Chairman and CEO Thomas O. Hicks.

The Hicks brothers purchased WSIX-FM in Nashville in 1987.

The station became part of Capstar Communications in 1989 and in 1993, Capstar merged into SFX, which Steven Hicks co-founded with Robert F.X. Sillerman.

The soon-to-be-formed Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst Equity Fund III will allow Capstar Broadcasting Partners President Steven Hicks to acquire in leveraged transactions up to \$1 billion of radio station properties.

Said Thomas Hicks, "My partners and

I at Hicks Muse are delighted that we will now be partnering as a firm with Steve and building value for our

In 1993, Hicks Muse helped form Chancellor Broadcasting. The plan is to have Steven Hicks and Capstar focus on markets ranked 25 and below nationwide, while Chancellor continues to focus on the top-25 markets.

"Our principal strategy will be to

The plan is to have Capstar focus on markets ranked 25 and below nationwide.

investors based on his tremendous experience and outstanding track record as the most successful owner and operator of middle-market radio stations in the country." acquire or merge with several successful middle-market radio groups which will continue to be operated by their existing management who will become our partners," said Steven Hicks.

MARKETPLACE

Recently Introduced Products for the Radio Broadcast Professional

Digital Workstation Upgrade

A new digital effects upgrade has been added to the DSE 7000 digital audio workstation from Orban. The package includes a replacement DSP board with 24-bit internal processing and new version 6.0 software.



Orban provides digital effects upgrade for DSE7000.

Available effects types include Orban parametric equalization, Optimod compression, digital delay and Lexicon digital reverberation. The upgrade will be standard on all

new DSE 7000 units shipped in late spring of this year and may be retrofitted into existing units. The complete upgrade will be provided at no cost to customers who purchased a unit after Jan. 1, 1996.

For more information from Orban, contact Amy Huson in California at (510) 351-3500; fax: (510) 351-0500; or circle **Reader Service 110**.

Brilliance AudioFlex Snake Cable from Belden

plete satellite data broadcast downlinks in a plug-in expansion card. Both install into a standard personal computer ISA card slot.

The DataNet operates at an aggregate data rate of 256 kbps while the FlexData operates at an aggregate data rate of 267 kbps. Both receivers can provide serial data directly on the PC bus using a software driver, or directly output the data on a rear data-output connector.

For more information from International Datacasting, contact the company in Georgia at (770) 446-9684; or circle **Reader Service 136**.

Acoustic Fabric Panels

New acoustic fabric panels are now available from NetWell Noise Control. The hardboard compressed fiberglass sound panels are wrapped in more than 30 different colors and are available in either a 1- or 2-inch thickness. The panels can also be cut to meet custom size demands.

The acoustic fabric panels feature NRC values of 1.05 with a low frequency absorption rate of almost 46 per-

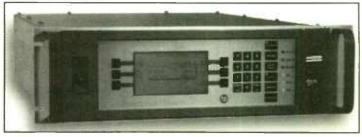
cent at 125 Hz. Panels are available in sizes ranging from 1-foot by 4-feet up to 4-feet by 10-feet and can be clip-mounted or glued to a wide variety of wall surfaces.

For more information from NetWell, contact the company in Minnesota at (800) 638-9355; or circle Reader Service 162.

Medium Power Amplifier

New from MCL Inc. is the MX3000 TWT medium power amplifier. The MX3000 is a compact. single-drawer

amplifier that occupies 3 standard rack units and is suited



MCL Inc. MX-3000

for transportable, satellite uplink applications.

The MX3000 is available in several models including 400 W C-band, 350 W X-band and 350 W Ku-band. Included with all models are a power supply, control logic module and cooling assemblies.

For more information from MCL, Inc., contact Ron Adamson in Illinois at (708) 759-9500; or circle **Reader Service 214**.

New Line of Audio Cables

A new line of flexible, non-kink multipair audio cables that exhibit a low level of microphonic or triboelectric noise is available from Belden Wire & Cable. Brilliance AudioFlex Snake Cables can be used for connecting multiple audio channels in lowand high-level componentry.

The cables feature Belden French Braid Double Shield that provides flexibility and improved flex life over standard braid or single- and double-spiral shields. Brilliance cables allow for convenient, direct connections without the use of heat-shrink tubing or other time-consuming preparation steps.

For more information from Belden, contact the company in Indiana at (800) 235-3364; or circle **Reader Service 188**.

Satellite PC Card Receivers

The SR253 DataNet and SR263 FlexData satellite PC card receivers from International Datacasting are com-

U.S. Shortwave Faces Challenges

by James Careless

OTTAWA In theory, U.S.-based international shortwave (SW) stations do what domestic AM and FM stations do: they broadcast radio programming.

However, when it comes to the technical and financial challenges they face, the two businesses couldn't be more different; so different, that having an ability to work in one wouldn't necessarily guarantee you success in the other.

Technical challenges

There are 18 privately owned SW stations in the United States. Most of them — like WHSB Cypress Creek, S.C. (owned by the Christian Science Church), and WYFR Okeechobee, Fla. (owned by Family Stations) — are religious broadcasters, relying on donations and church support to keep them going. A few others — such as WRNO Worldwide in New Orleans and WRMI Miami — are truly commercial outfits, whose main purpose is to make money.

In either instance, all of these stations are faced with the same technical challenge: namely, how to get their signals out to their target audiences, which can be anywhere in the world.

This challenge breaks down into three parts. First, there is power: to be on the shortwave bands, the FCC requires broadcasters to operate with at least 50 kW of transmitter power, and to build the complicated, costly antenna arrays capable of delivering SW signals across thousands of miles.

Second, there is the problem. Unlike FM and daytime AM radio, SW transmission relies on reflecting signals off the ionosphere — a series of electrically charged layers circling the earth — in order to deliver them past the horizon. (In other words, the SW broadcaster transmits skyward to the ionosphere, that then bounces the signal back down to earth.)

The challenge here is that the electrical qualities of the ionosphere vary widely,

first as a factor of exposure to sunlight (meaning that a frequency that works at noon won't necessarily work at midnight), second due to the influence of solar radiation, which varies over an 11-year cycle due to changes in sunspot activity, and third because of the sudden onslaught of solar storms, which can wipe out ionospheric 'bouncing' altogether, occasionally putting stations effectively off-air as far as their listeners are concerned.

basis, a relatively small crowd in the United States, and also due to the fact that American rating services don't cover Canada, Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

The result? When it comes to pitching spot sales, these broadcasters have no audience numbers to persuade advertisers with.

Despite this, some shortwave stations have tried to live on spot sales, as if they were domestic AM/FM broadcasters. The

Technical hassles can be handled by a competent broadcaster. However, the financial challenges are something else.

Coping with ionospheric changes means that SW broadcasters don't have the comfort of parking themselves on a single frequency 24 hours a day. Instead, they've got to move around the various high and low shortwave bands on a regular basis, in order to get their signals out.

The bottom line? When it comes to putting a shortwave station on-air, "it's a lot of money to get started," says WWCR General Manager George McClintock. "It's a lot of money to operate. It's engineering-driven, and therefore (this) makes it deadly for those owners and station managers who do not understand engineering; they're going to kill themselves."

Financial challenges

Despite the hassles of shortwave signal propagation, it's fair to say that the technical hassles can be more or less handled by a competent broadcaster. However, the financial challenges are something else.

The key problem is that "there's no Arbitron ratings for shortwave," said Jeff White, general manager of WRMI (Radio Miami International). This is because shortwave listeners are, on a city-by-city problem, said Kim Elliott, host of Voice of America's "Communications World" program, is that they all failed.

"Entertainment-oriented radio that would sell spot advertising never made it on shortwave," says Elliott, who stresses that he's speaking for himself, rather than on behalf of the VOA. "The old Radio Newyork Worldwide did not succeed. WRNO did not succeed, even though it tried very hard with that format. KUSW out of Salt Lake City (the station whose signals were used to drive Manuel Noriega out of his refuge in Panama) attempted that format, and folded rather quickly."

Founded in 1981, WRNO is the only one of these stations still in business, but only because Owner and General Manager Joe Costello gave up on spot sales. As he says now, "I anticipated. I thought that we could sell commercials ... but you just can't sell it to the local Ford dealer"

However, what Costello and other stations have discovered — including religious outlets like WWCR — is that "people will pay for coverage." In other words, independent programmers — be they religious groups, governments, political refugees or hardline extremists (usually on the right) — will pay U.S. SW stations to purchase 'block time' slots, so that they can reach whoever it is they want to reach.

WRMI, for instance, sells block time at \$100 an hour. Given its coverage of the Caribbean, it's only natural that many of the WRMI clients are Cuban-American groups opposed to Fidel Castro. They pay the station to carry Spanish-langauge programs such as "La Voz de la Fundacion," which runs on WRMI daily for three hours at a time.

This show actually used to run six hours, said White, "but the Cuban community here seems to be going through a financial crisis, so a lot of these programs have been cut back. We've been replacing them with more English programs."

Increasingly, many of these English programs — not just on WRMI, but any of the SW stations who lease airtime — are being produced by "organizations in the United States to broadcast to a basically North American audience," he said.

A number of these shows promote extreme right-wing survivalist/militiatype views, the sort of views that some believe motivated the Oklahoma City hombing.

"The percent of people who are interested in these various religious and, political

and other special interest topics tends to be very small," said Elliott, "usually much less than even I percent." To reach them, "you need a medium that covers a wide footprint in order to get enough listeners to make it worthwhile. Shortwave is a relatively economical way to do that"

Of course, selling block time doesn't ensure that what gets to air will be of the highest quality, said White. In fact, "I'll be the first to admit that some of the programs we air are not the most interesting in the world."

Still, the overall impact of all sales strategy is that "the private U.S. shortwave business ... (is) engaged to a large extent in domestic broadcasting," said Elliott, "sort of ersatz clear channel broadcasting."

However, there is a problem with this approach, at least from a legal standpoint. Under a 50 year-old FCC rule — one that was aimed at keeping the VOA from turning into the government's domestic propaganda voice — U.S. SW broadcasters aren't allowed to broadcast domestically. This is why the commission requires a minimum transmission power of 50 kW, and demands that antenna sites be capable of delivering signals internationally, to whatever foreign market the station says it wants to cover. (Besides this, however, U.S. SW stations have free rein when it comes to content.)

What this has led to is a legal fiction, where U.S. shortwave stations end up serving an American audience, without legally saying they're doing so. The U.S. listeners just happen to be between the antennas and the target audience — say Canada — so they just happen to be covered. (Human rights groups who want to shut down these so-called 'hate broadcasts' have cited the 'no U.S. broadcast' rule in their legal attacks, but so far to no avail.)

This is a fiction that the broadcasters endure, but don't enjoy. That's why "we are trying to get rid of that rule," said Costello, although a check with the FCC reveals no plans to have it changed.

Money on shortwave?

The short answer is "yes," said Larry Magne, Editor in Chief of "Passport to World Band Radio," (the SW annual which sells up to 80,000 copies a year).

Singling out McClintock's WWCR, which is now running via four transmitters," Magne said, "you talk to these guys; they'll wring their hands and say they're barely making money. Well, nonsense: these transmitters are going on almost as fast as he can put them in. So I suspect he's making very good money."

Jeff White agreed, when asked if there's money to be made in this market.

"Yes, there is," he said. "It's a very specialized business. But WRMI has made money since the day we flipped the switch and turned it on the first time. I mean not huge amounts of money — nobody's getting rich off it — but yes, it makes money." (It's worth noting, White added, that his station staff numbers just five, which helps keep overhead low.)

The bottom line? U.S. SW broadcasting may be esoteric, occasionally rowdy and definitely not glamorous, but it does offer some opportunities to the shrewd entrepreneur. And, with only 23 stations in the market, and the potential of digital shortwave looming on the horizon, there could still be some more growth — and profit — in the future.



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Marti Unveils Smart New Factory

ov Mike Vanhooser

cleburne, Texas The grand opening of the new Marti Electronics factory signaled the beginning of a new era for a company that has led the broadcast industry for nearly half a century, and whose name is the generic term for Remote Pickup.

Marti is now set to continue that leadership into the next century. The new facilities are a dramatic improvement over the old plant, which was a maze of offices, shops and warehouse areas, and had been adequate in the beginning but were no longer viable with the increased product line.

The new plant is 20,000 square feet, almost twice the size of the old facility, and is built for expansion. The manufacturing area is designed as a model of efficiency, with an all-parts inventory in the center of the area, assembly lines surrounding the parts area, and final assembly, tune and test, and shipping covering the outer walls.

The layout provides for a smooth and efficient travel of the assembled product, from the first component being installed



In sparkling new facilities, Marti is ready for next century.

until it is packed, shipped and out the door. This efficiency is necessary to handle the ever-increasing demand for Marti products, the newest ones of which were on display.

The new Marti products highlighted were the latest additions to their remote broadcast equipment line. Featured were the Frequency Agile RPUs, synthesized to cover the entire UHF RPU band, nec-

essary to cope with the increasing congestion and required coordination in larger markets. Built when a remote broadcast via RPU is not feasible, the alternative is the SMARTI digital telephone codec, capable of sending and receiving 7.5 kHz audio plus contact closures over any standard telephone line. In addition to showcasing the Marti product line, many of the products of Broadcast

Electronics were also on display, as Marti is now a member of the BE family. BE displayed its AudioVAULT hard disk storage system, solid-state FM transmitters and broadcast consoles.

Accompanying the ever-present George Marti in making the rounds and meeting the crowd of almost 350 — most of whom he greeted by name — were Jim Godfrey, President of Marti Electronics; Jack Nevin, President of BE; and Howard Crowe of Cirrus Technologies. All participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Cleburne Chamber of Commerce, marking the official opening of the new facility.

The tours, ceremonies and speechmaking concluded, it was now time for the serious business of the day. All attendees then drove to the Marti Ranch for a traditional Texas Barbecue, complete with huge amounts of incredible delicious food, Mariachi band, margaritas and beer, for which George Marti has become almost as world-renown as for his outstanding broadcast equip-

This brought a grand conclusion to a wonderful day, as well as being a glorious beginning of a new generation, with Marti Electronics ready to continue its world leadership in the broadcast delivery field.

Mason Leads New CBS

continued from page 1

Are you combining operations or are the stations still in competition and operated separately? For example Chicago, where WMAQ and WBBM have been going head to head for a number of years.

Mason: We are going to continue having separate news products. There has been consolidation in the financial areas and the administrative areas, but in the product area, we intend to have two distinct news products in the market.

RW: How are the two cultures meshing?

Mason: The most pleasant surprise to me in this whole period of change has been the cooperation of the former CBS Radio stations, the people within them — they have been tremendous. And we have streamlined a lot of their operating procedures to match Group W's in the area of legal and human resources.

RW: How have the other players in the Chicago market reacted to your new ownership status?

Mason: There's been no reaction. With duopoly and the new Telecommunications Act, all of us are in the same position. In this day and age, when stations change hands between companies, it is not as big a news event as it used to be five or 10 years ago. I remember when a station changed hands years ago, you'd have a television crew cover the news event. Nowadays, you don't even get a call from the newspaper any more because it is common.

RW: The AM dial is dominated by powerful AM stations — many of which are owned by the CBS Radio Station Group. The majority of AM stations, however, will need technical innovation, or something as drastic to do more than survive. What can be done for the nation's pioneer band?

Mason: We have a whole new world ahead of us with digital radio. Time will also take care of that in the future. But a well run AM station can be a daytimer as

well as a 50 kW station. For instance, we have a very successful, daytime AM station in Chicago, with WSCR sportstalk. It is very unique programming and it cash flows more than many FMs in the market. So yes, facility is important, but programming is probably more important. I can show you a lot of 50,000 W radio stations that have no ratings.

RW: Is Westinghouse committed to developing an in-band, on-channel solution for radio?

Mason: The partnership has proven that IBOC works. Does it have technical flaws? Yes. There is a commitment from this radio station group to DAB. We have proven that the technology works and we will continue to develop it further.

RW: Is there the necessary patience in the industry to wait for an IBOC solution? **Mason:** I don't know that we have any oth-

Mason: I don't know that we have any other options.

RW: KRLD(AM) - Why is this an interesting deal for radio?

Mason: That was a unique situation and our first preference would have been to buy KRLD for cash. But in this day and age, stations are a more valuable form of currency than cash, which is really unusual. Cash is not king in 1996. Now maybe in 1997 or 1998 it might be again, but not today.

RW: You've started to take advantage of some programming synergy between the two companies. You now have some of your stations carrying "60 Minutes" on the radio. Mason: Doing it on the radio was not a new idea. George Nicholaw, vice president/general manager of KNX wanted to do this for 20 years. But in the old CBS culture, 10 people found a way to not make that happen.

In the new CBS culture, you have a couple of guys like Andrew Heyward, president CBS News, and Dan here, new guys who don't know any better. It sounds good to both of us so let's do it and see what

happens. It has been very successful so far.

RW: How is it that a company that has as long a history in the radio business as Westinghouse/Group W is also one of the groups that is continually on the leading edge? What is it about this company that allows you in the radio division to be so flexible and on the move?

Mason: That is a very easy question to answer. This is a company that is in radio broadcasting for the long haul. And when you are in it for the long haul and you have long range plans, you can do things like that.

The commitment to broadcasting, for 50

or 100 years, provides you with a different perspective. You still have to be disciplined, but you don't look at business the same. You can be more strategic. We have come a long way in the last four years ... in financial performance and the company is right there with the top of the industry as far as margin performance.

We have a lot of work to do in our new company with the additional stations but we are running well ahead of all of our targets at this point. And I don't anticipate any problems whatsoever in transforming this company with the financial performance to back it up.



Amateurs Seek Sumptuous Signal

HICKSVILLE, N.Y. Last time, I wrote about the myriad ways resourceful amateurs have reshaped their home rigs to sound very much like their workplace broadcast transmitters.

A few have actually surpassed the fidelity of commercial transmitters. A "broad-as-a-barn-door" receiver like the old Hammarlund HQ-129X tuned across such a sumptuous signal is the sound equivalent of biting into a warm, juicy slab of grandma's homemade apple pie. All of the ingredients are basic and wholesome, but you can't help but feel a little guilty as you revel in the sensation. Sometimes I find myself listening to

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dataworld

wonderful audio. A likeable mic

Assuming that the prerequisite restoration work has been done on the transmitter, it's time to turn our attention to the microphone and the interface between the microphone and the rig's speech amp.

people I don't even like, just to hear the

Most of the microphones designed specifically for communications work lack the frequency range and ergonomics for comfortable broadcast-style hamming. The average desk mic, besides lacking fidelity, is pretty difficult to relax with. They really fit best into the hightension environment of an old-time police or fire dispatcher. The Turner +3 or more modern Kenwood MC 60A desk mics look impressive, but force you into a hunched position in front of the rig. Worse still, they get in the way of log books, note pads, computer keyboards and other items you want directly in front

The obvious solution is to abandon the desk mic all together in favor of a recording/broadcast mic on a boom. This approach frees up desk space, allows the

user to have both hands free and fixes the position of the mic in space.

The means of suspending the mic is limited only by imagination. The most elegant approach is a

broadcast Luxo Arm. The height and reach of this wonderful invention allow it to be attached to a convenient point behind all but the bulkiest rigs. The long reach allows the user to sit back in his or her chair Kicking back, locking down and sipping on a hot cup of java in between precious pearls of radio repartee is my idea of living

For the budget conscious

As a somewhat less sexy alternative, the ubiquitous flexible gooseneck with appropriate hardware is available at any Radio Shack store. Budget conscious hams might even consider the possibility of building a poor man's Luxo Arm. The common drawing table lamp — the ones utilizing parallelogram arms counterbalanced with springs — can be converted to hold lighter, electret or dynamic microphones. These lamps can be had for a song, or even plucked from a dumpster for a good deal less than a song. The lamp head is unbolted and replaced with a microphone shoe. For neatness sake. the mic line cord can be fed through the tubular frame structure in place of the defunct AC cord.

stock Heathkit DX-60, are switched into a standard microphone plug.

plugs in the shack. A good choice for older tube rigs is the quarter-inch stereo phone plug. Some older transceivers such as the Swan rigs were originally fitted

the tip/shield was designated for switching with the collar/shield carrying audio.

Some later rigs were outfitted with more elaborate mic sockets. These multiconductor systems were usually fitted with locking collars for more secure attachment for mobile use, etc. In some recent cases, additional pins were provided as an interface between comprehensive controls in the mic and the transceiver, for remote frequency and volume control, etc. In any event, the manufacturer (or schematic) can provide detailed information about which pins are specifically utilized for audio and T/R switching. Rather than removing the plug from a perfectly good hand mic (still valuable for testing and mobilizing), it might be a good idea to order an extra plug from the manufacturer for your customized installa-

Once the audio and PTT (Push To Talk) connections have been isolated and brought out from the socket, the PTT wires can be terminated in any type of switch you might imagine. A foot switch, console-mounted toggle or even a locking switch built into a hand grip can be crafted. One ham has a command position featuring a seat that's the spitting

variable mic and fixed line inputs works well for some folks. The original, mostly metal version of this useful item is highly resistant to RF. A new streamlined model will have to be tested. At higher frequencies and power, it may be necessary to wind the unit's external power-supply cord around a ferrite choke or simply use the internal battery power source.

Naturally, the lack of EQ means that just the right mic and rig combination will have to be found by trial and error. A very, very, very slight touch of reverb can be helpful in adding dimension. Many say, as with drugs, it is best to "Just Say No" to reverb. If you are one of the rare breed able to control the temptation to overdo, a touch of reverb can add fullness. A side benefit of the Radio Shack Reverb is that it provides a convenient line input for easy patching of tape playbacks, etc.

Up the evolutionary scale

The next step up the evolutionary scale is the compact Instrument EQ. The allmetal DOD FX-40 is a six-band (plus gain control) unit equipped with quarterinch phone jacks. Its EO range from 100 Hz to 3200 Hz is ideal for the communications voice range. These units are activated by a foot switch built into the body.

The fact that the FX-40 is built to be

kicked around and literally stepped on by rockers means that the construction is tank-like. Maybe this accounts for wonderful resistance to RF.

providing that the internal 9 V battery source is used. A lithium battery is recommended. Hooking the FX-40 up to an external power source seems to compromise its shielding.

Configuring its sliders in a soft "V" configuration with the 400 Hz scale at 0.0 dB and the extremes (100 and 3200 Hz) at +18 dB has proven effective with several common tube rigs. With a typical condenser mic the highs and lows are truly impressive. The suppressed 400 Hz and tapered 200 and 800 bands practically erase background and fan noise without adversely effecting the vocal reproduction. This unique and economical type of mini-EQ is ideal for stations

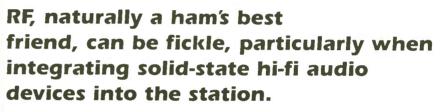
Even higher up on the list of desirable interface devices is a musician's four-, six- or eight-channel mixing board. Such a unit has all the required inputs and outputs, plus extensive EO to match about any mic to any rig. These massmarket mixers are usually not as well shielded as boards intended for broadcast environments.

where space is at a premium.

In the final analysis, the best way to keep RF out of your fancy audio input system is to efficiently radiate it away from your shack. Chances are that if stray RF isn't getting into your mixer, it's also keeping respectful distance from local consumer electronics devices. like telephones and televisions.

Carefully tuned rigs, amps, match-boxes, proper grounding, resonant antennas and high-quality feed lines are not only going to make your audio cleaner, they're also going to make you much more popular with your family and neighbors.

Al Parker writes about amateur radio and photography. He can be reached at (516) 681-6733.



The issue of the push-to-talk circuit must also be addressed. Depending on the type and vintage of the rig. the use of a noncommunications microphone can complicate mode switching. Using the VOX (Voice Operated X-Mit) mode is one easy solution. Simple transmitters, like the the transmit mode socket to accommodate

It's probably a good idea to standardize with this common plug. In most cases. image of the Captain Kirk chair. He has actually built the PTT switch into one of the arms of the big swivel chair. The only thing lacking is a bank of Photon Torpedoes to vanquish jammers and other evil doers. He occasionally kicks in the warp engines (a pair of 3-500zs) to keep those nasty Klingons (SSBers?) at bay.

Speaking of "nasties," it is possible that the audio shielding might be compromised by separating out the PTT wiring from the audio leads. In highpowered AM operation and even amplified sideband, this may result in RF getting into the audio circuit. The leads can act like small rods or clamshells can be effective in choking off any RF that might be creeping up and down long audio and PTT leads. It's as simple as wrapping several turns of the insulated wires around the choke of choice. The ferrite should be placed close to the point where the leads enter the rig. RF infiltration effects are more prevalent at higher frequencies. An audio hookup that behaves very well on 160 meters may be plagued with RF feedback on 40 meters.

RF. naturally a ham's best friend, can be fickle, particularly when integrating solid-state hi-fi audio devices into the station. As discussed in the previous installment, microphones intended for recording are generally not directly applicable to ham radio. It's often necessary to insert a matching/equalizing device between the mic and the rig's first audio stage to tone down any excessive midrange emphasis. A broadcast console is best from an ergonomic and shielding

For those unable to lay hands on such a treasure, it isn't necessary to dig very deep for a reasonable substitute. Even the humble Radio Shack Reverb unit with

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Circle (157) On Reader Service Card

Add More Space with New Drive

by Richard Mertz

FAIRFAX, Va. It wasn't so long ago when the state of the art personal computer was an IBM PC. This computer came equipped with two 5-1/4-inch floppy disk drives, 256KB of Random Access Memory, a monochrome monitor and, if you were lucky, a dot matrix or daisy wheel printer.

Ready for operation

You would place the DOS disk in the left hand drive (drive A), turn on the power or press Control, Alternate and Delete and the DOS operating system was copied into RAM ready for operation

Once the operating system was in place, you would remove the operating system "boot" disk and replace it with the program disk. (In those days, the programs left room on the floppy drives for a copy of the operating system.) Your data was stored on a dedicated disk located in drive B. Each disk, assuming it was double sided, would hold approximately 360KB of information. This is a far cry from the standard 1.44 MB 3-1/2-inch disks we use routinely today.

My first PC was an IBM PC clone manufactured by a company named Eagle. The Eagle sported the same basic configuration as the IBM PC except the maximum memory it could hold was 512KB and had a keyboard with many more keys than the IBM model.

I can recall having to swap the word processor program disk for a Spellcheck disk. Once Spellcheck was completed, its disk had to be removed and the program disk reinstalled in drive A to edit or print the document. Sometimes it seemed that the typewriter was easier.

As programs became more and more elaborate with more features, so did their storage requirements. The best way to execute these larger programs was from a fixed disk (or hard disk drive).

The first benefit of using a hard drive was the access speed, which was an order of magnitude faster than the floppies. My first encounter with a hard disk drive was a massive (humor) 10MB! At the time, 10 MB of storage space seemed tremendous. Sure, plenty of room for all those programs and data!

Disk housekeeping

Unfortunately, like most folks, I'm not good at disk housekeeping. Old, unused files live long, happy lives on my hard drive. Older programs have a home with their upgrade brethren. I learned disk housekeeping quickly, especially when I tried to save an important file and got the "insufficient disk space" message.

The moral to this story is that no matter how much storage space you have available you will surely fill it up.

Back to the present. Every Sunday, the newspaper advertising has announcements about sale after sale of hard disk drives with huge capacities. In previous articles, I described upgrading older computers to 486 or greater by replacing the motherboard and interface boards. Now it's time to add some additional disk space.

When I bought a 345MB hard drive several years ago, I thought I had all the room in the world. I paid about \$290 for the drive (several years ago) in bulk

packaging. Now you can purchase hard drives with over a gigabyte of storage for less than \$300. Not too shabby.

After shopping around, I found a 1.2GB drive manufacturer by Conner for around \$250. Western Digital also makes a drive for about the same price. The Conner drive comes well packaged with instructions, mounting hardware, cables and installation software.

Here are the steps I used to replace an existing IDE interface drive. (Replacing a SCSI, MFM, or RLL drive is another matter and the possible topic for future articles.)

Before replacing the main hard disk drive in a computer, you must first back up the old drive. Hopefully you have access to a tape backup system.

Once the backup is finished, make a boot disk. Remember, a new hard disk drive doesn't have any data on it and can't load anything until formatted. The boot disk should include the System files. These can be copied to the boot disk by the /s switch for the FORMAT.EXE program.

For example, "FORMAT A: /s" will format the floppy disk in drive A and automatically copy the system files. Once this is done, copy, from the DOS directory, FORMAT.EXE, FDISK.EXE, XCOPY.EXE, QBASIC.COM and its associated files, EDIT.COM and its associated

ciated files, and finally, copy the existing AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS files from the root directory.

The easy part

Now prepare a second diskette with the software needed to operate the tape back-up. OK, it is time. Turn off the power and unplug the old drive power and data cables. Mount the new drive and reattach the cables. That's the easy part. Turn on your computer. The computer BIOS will detect a change in the hard disk drive configuration and give you an error message to that effect. Press F1. You should now be in the BIOS setup.

Follow your computer directions for setting up the hard disk drive. The settings usually required are the number of heads, number of disk cylinders and the number

continued on page 42



Why is the 12,000 the most *Popular* console for Radio?



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Features

While the 12000 series console is available in 8, 18, & 28 input module mainframe sizes, the 18 channel mainframe with 12 input modules is by far the most popular configuration. The mainframe supports input modules, a variety of option modules such as input selectors and DA's, and even the 99 button Gemini control surface for Arrakis digital workstations. Input modules can be chosen as mic or stereo line input with three models of each to chose from. Also, the input modules may feature either 3 stereo output buses -or- 3 stereo output buses plus 3 mono output buses for a total of 6 assignable outputs. The six output version is perfect for talk studios with multiple telephone mix minus feeds. Input modules feature comprehensive logic control for sources and talk booth turrets. The monitor system supports a control room and two studios with complete talkback facilities. The mainframe even includes a 60 minute up timer standard. All of the features and capabilities are included in the 12000 to make it ideal for any size market.

Performance

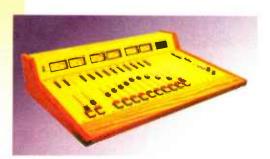
Designed for the radio station of the digital '90's, the 12000 series high performance console has a dynamic range of over 100dB which makes it ideal for use with digital audio sources such as CD players and digital audio workstations. Use of Analog Devices monolythic mic preamps assures you of the lowest noise and distortion that current technology can provide. Active balanced in and out, the 12000 is the high performance, professional solution to your studio's needs.

Rugged Reliability

The 12000 series console is a rugged and reliable broadcast product. The modular mainframe simplifies service and provides for future expansion. The use of VCA's and DC channel On-Off

switching increases fader life, reduces channel dropouts and noisy switches. The modules feature polycarbonate plastic overlays for scratch resistance. Penny and Giles faders, 5 million operation channel on-off switches, and ITT Schadow switches assure a long life. Use of heavy hardened aluminum panels, polycarbonate module overlays, and solid oak trim will provide a durable and attractive appearance through the years.

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Studi® Sessions

Line Out:

Eliminate Ground Loop Hum See page 22.

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TensorTech Keeps the Tempo Going

AKE LINDEN, Mich. TensorTech abs "Tempo Works: The Compander" oftware for Windows is based on a sime premise: Be more creative and proice spots with more impact if you do ot have to spend your time worrying out their length.

This article reviews one recent version I ied out and includes notes on the very test version issued by TensorTech.

Tempo Works will take your finished oot and make it any length you specify. lmost.

laking it work

Tempo Works is easy to use. Save your oot as a SND or WAV file using your vorite digital software. When you are nished, open Tempo Works.

Select your file. You will be given a eries of four menus. One will ask you to ame the finished file. The second and tird will ask if you want to trim the eginning or end of the file.

The last menu asks the biggie: How uch you want to expand or compress

Press Start, and Tempo Works does the st, expanding or companding the file cording to your specification.

Does it work? Sure, but there are several essing questions. How well does it ork? Do I need it? Is it worth the cost? ou do not have to work with compandg software long before you learn there e finite limits.

ut the squeeze on

To test Tempo Works, I took two 1974 nerican Cancer Society PSAs and digiily rerecorded them at 44.1 kHz in ereo. One ran 30 seconds, the other 54. oth had an announcer, a singer and guir accompaniment. If the software would iversely affect the sound, it would show o in the music first.

Compressing the longer spot to 48 secids took my 100 MHz Pentium slightly ore than a minute to process the file. ne same operation on a 486/100 took

When done, the file timed out right and unded very good with no noticeable anoying artifacts. Compression worked it to about 11 percent.

Next I expanded the 30 second spot to seconds. This worked out to about an percent increase in length and again, erything sounded fine.

So how far can you go? I reprocessed the 30 second spot down to a 25 second length. That was 17 percent compression, and still no noticeable artifacts. Everything was moving at a pretty good clip and the spot was still airable.

I then took the 54 second spot down to 40 seconds. This was about a 35 percent reduction in time. Now I could hear artifacts. The singer's voice was no longer

natural, but had an artificial tremolo.

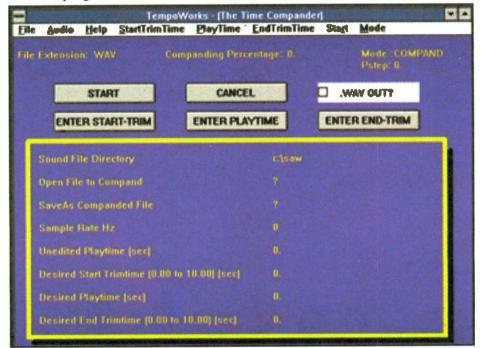
The 30 second spot was reprocessed two more times. First to 35 seconds, increasing its length by approximately 17 percent. Although pushing the envelope, the spot sounded fairly good.

I then took it to 40 seconds, an increase of 33 percent. As expected, it sounded like a tape recorder or phonograph with abnormally high flutter.

the original software, the new file had a grittier sound than the original. The latest version of Tempo Works seems to have solved this problem.

Conversion

The program also allows conversion of 48 or 44.1 kHz files to 16 or 32 kHz. Converting a 44.1 kHz, 54-second sound file to 32 kHz took my pentium 3:47.



Screenshot of Tempo Works from TensorTech

Like other companding software, Tempo Works does an excellent job if you limit your change to approximately 11 percent of the original length of the sound file. Depending on material, you may push that upwards of 17 percent. Beyond that, you are on thin ice.

The newest version of Tempo Works limits the percentage you can change the length of a file to 30 percent. This should not adversely affect its application, as attempting to compress or expand a file further than this will almost certainly result in undesirable artifacts.

In my testing I could discern no appreciable difference between the original and processed files sampled at a 44.1 KHz or 48 KHz sampling rate in stereo.

Here's the pitch

Tempo Works contains a feature that allows you to lower the pitch of a sound file down to three musical notes.

When I applied the process to a 22 kHz mono sound file, the program crashed before reaching completion. Reapplying the process to a 44.1 KHz stereo file, the sound file was truncated, cutting short the end of the spot.

The software manual suggested leaving blank space at the end of the file and reprocessing it. This time it worked fine. The resultant file sounded natural, except for being lower-pitched.

When processing a pitch change with

The resulting sound file was not as good as the original. It had some graininess and sibilance to it.

While the program works well in its basic function, it is not without problems. For a while I was tempted to dub this 'Not ready for prime time software.'

The most serious was system-wide

instability. Several times my computers became unstable and had to be rebooted after processing files on Tempo Works.

Attempts to start programs resulted in a notice of "insufficient memory, close out one or more programs." This despite the fact that each computer has 16MB RAM and I was running no program other than Windows itself.

The problem seemed to be random because it did not always occur and I could never predict when it would. When I reported this problem, software developer Dr. Monti Wilson was skeptical. The program was already in use at a number of sites and not one user had reported a similar problem.

His conclusion that the problem had to lie with my computers was troubling, because I was running the software on two machines and each had the same problem.

Logical snag

The only thing common to both computers was the recently-installed network linking them together.

Taking one computer off the network and retesting the software still left the computer unstable with the "insufficient memory" warning.

I noted all the network drivers and operating software were still resident in memory. So very reluctantly, I made notes on the network drivers and related settings so I could hopefully restore everything later, then uninstalled the network on one machine.

After rebooting the machine, the software still crashed. This time I was determined to pursue the beast back to its lair.

Running the compander function repeatedly on a single sound file until a crash occurred eventually revealed a repeating

If the compander was set to a high level like 30 percent, the computer would become unstable after processing the

continued on page 26



PRODUCT GUIDE

Companies with new product announcements for Studio Sessions Product Guide should send them to: Radio World, c/o Studio Sessions Editor, 5827 Columbia Pike, 3rd floor, Falls Church, Va. 22041

Fostex Upgrades DMT-8

Fostex announced a new lower price and software upgrade for the DMT-8 digital multitrack recorder/mixer

Suggested retail price of the DMT-8 is now \$1,995. The upgrade includes multiple Copy/Move pasting, pasting to different tracks, MIDI time code slaving via optical ports and digital I/O. Customers with earlier versions of DMT-8 software can upgrade with an EPROM change.

Fostex will soon offer factory retrofits of hard drives with larger capacities.

Users have the option of moving from 540MB to 850MB or 1.3GB.



Fostex DMT-8

The DMT-8 can be cascaded with the new Fostex D-80 rackmount eight-track hard disk recorder for 16 or 24 tracks of digital audio.

For more information, contact Fostex at (310) 921-1112 or circle Reader Service

New Rarefaction CD-ROM

A new company, Rarefaction, is introducing "Diffusion of Useful Noise" by Keith Hillebrandt.

This is a CD-ROM of license-free

sampler source material recorded in 16bit 44.1 kHz AIFF format. Sounds are looped end-to-end for use in digital workstations and in live audio applica-

Rarefaction is a new company started by two former OSC employees after Macromedia acquired OSC (makers of Deck II software). The company also handles the OSC sound library "A Poke in the Ear With a Sharp Stick.'

The Rarefaction Web site is www.rarefaction.com

For more information, contact Rarefaction at (415) 346-1840 or circle Reader Service 32.

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Audio-Technica 1100 Series

handheld dynamic mic and transmitte while the ATW-1129 combines a transmitter with a condenser mic element. All three feature true diversity reception

cy is stable to 0.005 percent. A ground-lift switch on the receiver

For more information, contact Audic Technica at (216) 686-2600 or circl

QSound Labs has developed a ne plug-in for Sound Forge, the Window based audio editor from Sonic Foundry.

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For information, contact Sonic Foundry at (608) 256-3133 or circle Reader Service 213.



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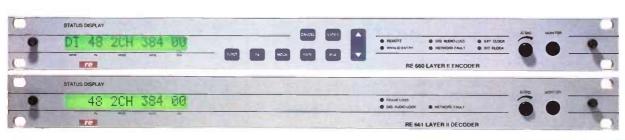
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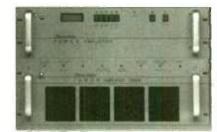


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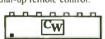
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STUDIO IMPPRESSIONS

Lexicon PCM-90 Is Radio-friendly

by Ed LaComb

SYRACUSE, N.Y. Lately, the more production rooms I see, the more I discover that radio stations are trending away from separate effects processors. The tendency is towards the big, fancy "do-it-all-in-one-box" units.

You know the kind: one twist of the dial and you have an overabundance of testosterone. Another click and you suddenly come up with a considerable lack of same. Push a button, turn the dial again and you are reporting traffic from inside a helicopter.

Don't get me wrong, these types of processors are great, but often lack really good reverb capability. Oh sure, they will give you several algorithms to tweak, but you can never precisley produce the exact effect that you want.

Recently, I took the Lexicon PCM-90 Reverb Processor for a spin in Studio A at NewCity Production Services.

A one word description? Ahhhhh! Now this is a reverb box that not only puts out great sound, but it is radio-friendly too!

Army knife

I know nobody has the physical or (especially) the budget-line space for another processor these days. But in a world of Swiss army knife processors, this is one "single-function" beauty that should be in everyone's studio.

Let me start with the programs themselves. A quick glance at some of the program titles will give you an idea of the user-friendliness of this machine.

NYC Clubs: Outdoor PA: Stadium:



Lexicon PCM-90

Sound Check; Tunnels; various kinds of rooms, plates and a whole lot more. These programs can lead you in creative directions that you might not have thought about before heading into the studio.

The descriptions are dead-on accurate of the type of sound that they deliver.

When you are busy in the studio, working on that last-minute, 60-second wonder for your sales department, it is a pleasure to be able to quickly dial up what you need, punch it in and go. The Lexicon PCM-90 gives you the ability to do just that.

Here are some of the basics that you will want to know about.

The PCM-90 conveniently gives you a choice of digital or analog inputs. Each program bank allows you to edit several

parameters to fine-tune your sound. A nice, soft-click dial allows for parameter adjustment and the amount of wet/dry.

The wet/dry adjustment stood out as exceptional to me. Have you noticed how

some wet/drys seem to "separate" the sound? In other words, some boxes sound as if they put out two separate signals, then try to combine them afterwards.

This sounds like trying to glue some reverb on top of dry material. Not

the PCM-90; the wet/dry mix of this box is seamless.

Compare function

Once you have loaded a program and perhaps have adjusted some parameters, there is a compare function that lets you A/B what you have created against the original program. You can then save your new program into the PCM-90 memory.

There is also a handy Bypass button that you can use, rather than yanking out patch cords when you are done.

Of course, the PCM-90 is MIDI-capable if your studio allows working in that domain.

One other neat feature is that an asterisk appears next to a program name indicating that the program is selected, but not loaded. By pushing the "*" button, your

selected program is instantly loaded and ready to go.

This is handy when you want to go surfing for other programs, while keeping your original program still on-line and functioning.

Lexicon has smartly built in an upgrade path to the PCM-90 in the form of a card slot on the front panel. As new programs and slicker sounds become available, you can simply slide the card in the front and dial up a new selection of reverbs.

I have worked in a number of studios; some with very nice equipment, some with the bare bones essentials. I think that over the years, I have grown to like having one "all-in-one" box teamed up with a great standalone reverb.

Like I said earlier, those fancy, all-in-one boxes are a blessing to our industry, but there is nothing like an effects processor that is dedicated to the most basic sound-shaping function: reverberation.

If you need killer reverb in a one-RU unit — a unit that will grow with you — I recommend you take a look at the Lexicon PCM-90.

You will discover as I did the PCM-90 gives you more reasons than ever to consider a reverb effect over some other effect to achieve the results that you (you) are (are) looking (looking) for (for).

Sorry, I couldn't resist.

Ed LaComb is director of production services for NewCity Production Services, Syracuse, N.Y. E-mail comments are welcome at edlacomb@aol.com

FIELD IMPRESSIONS

Laptop System Allows Closer, Quicker Work

by James Careless

DUBLIN, Ireland When "Definitely Not The Opera" (DNTO) wanted to produce four hours of programming from the Dublin International Film Festival, executive producer Bill Smith faced a problem.

How could DNTO, a CBC Radio Saturday network program, accomplish the job with minimum expense

and maximum quality? The solution was to go completely digital.

But instead of hauling a full analog production suite to Ireland, Smith a c c o m p l i s h e d everything he need-

ed — including recording and mixing — using a consumer-grade laptop computer.

Eddie does the job

At the heart of Smith's system is "Fast Eddie" from Digital Audio Labs. This off-the-shelf consumer digital editing program only cost the CBC \$189 in Canadian currency.

Although inexpensive, Smith describes Fast Eddie as "an absolutely amazing program." The system — which can run on a 386-based PC — is capable of recording audio as individual soundfiles, then organizing and overlaying

them to produce a multisource mix.

"You keep dragging and dropping the elements to the position you want," Smith said, until the show is finished.

Bytes across the water

For the Dublin trip, DNTO ran Fast Eddie on an IPC P75 Open Note laptop computer, equipped with 8MB of RAM and a 1.3GB hard drive.

Audio was fed directly to the computer

In the space of 10 minutes, we remixed the segment while sitting on the hotel steps.

—Bill Smith

from a Sennheiser 521 Blackfire or Audio Technica AT9350 microphone, or mixed through a Shure FP-32 portable audio mixer.

Smith, DNTO host Nora Young and associate producer/computer whiz Chris Boyce also brought along an IBM Thinkpad laptop computer for mixing short segments and writing scripts

"The Thinkpad has a PCMCIA fax/modem installed in it," Boyce said. This allowed the DNTO crew to access a CompuServe account in Ireland to transmit scripts and production plans continued on page 24

Grde (28) On Reader Service Card



World Radio History

Eliminating Ground Loop Hum

with Jenny Bartlett

ELKHART, Ind. You plug two audio devices into AC power, connect them together, and there it is: hum. Chances are you have created a ground loop cause of hum in audio systems.

How it starts

A ground loop is a circuit formed out of ground leads. It is the circuit loop that is formed when equipment is connected to ground through more than one path.

A ground loop occurs when two audio devices connect to each other through a cable shield and also through their power cord safety grounds.

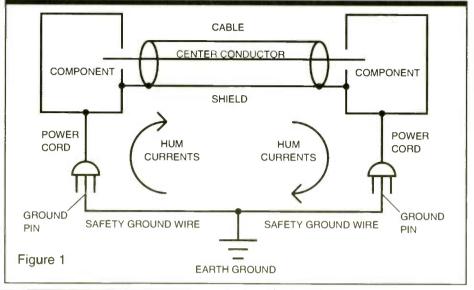
Figure 1 shows a ground loop. Two equipment chassis are connected to two separate safety grounds by their AC cords (via the round ground pin). Also, the equipment chassis are connected together by the shield of the audio cable. The

shield and safety-ground wires form a ground loon

A ground loop also can be created between two cable shields connected to

the same piece of equipment.

How does a ground loop create hum? In two ways. First. The ground loop acts like a big coil of wire or antenna sensitive to



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hum fields radiated by power wiring in the walls. The bigger the area of the loop, the more hum interference it picks up.

Second, if the voltage on each chassis is not the same (that is, if the safety grounds are different), a 60 Hz current flows between the two chassis, causing a hum signal.

Dealing with it

You can get rid of ground loops in several ways, and we will cover some of them here.

· Make the loop area small. If possible, keep your equipment close together and

use short audio cables. When running send/return cables to a signal processor. tape these cables together.

When running separate L and

R channel cables for a stereo hookup, tape these cables together. Better yet, use a stereo cable, which combines both channel pairs in a single cable.

· Connect each chassis separately to a single ground point. If you do this, all chassis are at the same ground voltage, so no hum current can flow between them when they are connected by cables.

Here is an example. Suppose you are doing a live broadcast of a concert. You want to connect an unbalanced recording mixer to your radio production mixer.

The recording mixer is plugged into a wall outlet in one room, and your production mixer is plugged into a wall outlet in another room. When you connect them with an unbalanced cable, you hear hum. What is going on?

Differential

The outlets are probably fed from different circuit breakers, so the outlets are at different ground voltages. When you plug both mixers into these separated outlets. and connect the equipment together with an unbalanced cable, the difference in ground voltages makes a 60 Hz hum current flow between the two mixers. That is a ground loop.

One solution is to plug all your equipment into one or more outlet strips fed from the same circuit breaker. That way, the ground voltage for all the equipment is

the same, except for small chassis voltages caused by leakage capacitances.

Run thick extension cords to distant equipment. Make sure the current requirement of the system — the sum of the equipment fuse ratings - does not exceed the amperage rating for that circuit.

Another solution: insert a 1:1 isolation transformer, or a transformer-isolated direct box between the two mixers. On the direct box, flip the ground-lift switch to the lowest hum position. Unlike a cable, a transformer passes the signal without connecting the two chassis together.

If you have a small audio system with twoprong power cords and short unbalanced cables, you should have no hum problems if you followed these suggestions.

When you connect to unbalanced equipment, use two-conductor shielded cable. Tie the hot conductor to signal hot, tie the other conductor to signal ground. Tie the shield to either chassis or to both chassis, whatever gives the least hum.

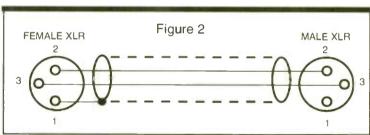
Floating a sheild

Suppose you interconnect two pieces of balanced equipment, and you hear hum. Maybe it is caused by a ground loop. Disconnect the cable shield at the receiving end, so that no hum current flows between equipment.

Remember: ground the driving end, float the receiving end.

Wire the cable shields as shown in Figure 2. In each line-level balanced cable, solder the shield to female XLR pin 1. Leave the shield unsoldered (and cut short and shrink-tubed) in the male XLR

The two conductors from pins 2 and 3 carry the audio signal. The shield still drains hum interference to ground through its single ground connection.



If the shield were connected at both ends. hum currents might flow between the two components. That is, a ground loop might be set up between the shield and the safety-ground wires, causing hum.

Ideally, the best practice is to tie the shield to chassis ground - not signal ground — at both ends of the cable.

The chassis ground should be at the point of cable entry, not inside the chassis at the PC board. Unfortunately, not all balanced equipment has chassis-grounded shields.

All mic cable shields should be tied to pin 1 on both ends, otherwise the microphone housing won't be grounded. Be sure to label your cables accordingly so you do not accidentally use an interconnect cable in place of a miic cable.

If you pick up RF interference (AM or FM radio. CB, etc.) with a floating shield, connect the unconnected end of each shield to pin 1 through a 0.01 µF capaci-

If you locally ground a mic-connector box that is installed in a wall, this will create a ground loop. Do not ground the connector box except through its cable shield.

Loops in racks

Try to put all unbalanced equipment in a single rack to shorten the interconnecting cables.

A ground loop can occur when two continued on page 30





CCVCIII Exicon

No longer side effects.

Laptop Gets You into the Action

continued from page 2

back and forth via e-mail with the crew in Winnipeg. As Boyce put it, this "saved considerably on long distance charges."

DNTO also took along two Sony TCD-D7 DAT Walkmans for audio backup, which "cost about one-fourth as much as professional portable DAT machines," Boyce said.

Two Sony Discman CD players also made the trip to load music into the computer.

Two full hours of programming, along with voice tracks for another two hours, was relayed back to Winnipeg from Dublin via ISDN.

Most remarkable was that all the equipment needed for the transatlantic broadcast was bundled into a single shoulder bag that the DNTO crew could take anywhere, and did.

"One of the best examples of the usefulness of the laptop system was when we had just finished recording a gathering of street performers on Grafton Street in Dublin," Smith said.

"The feed deadline was very near when we realized that our mix needed more color, something that better reflected the energy of the situation."

The crew quickly went to work. They opened a new file on the computer, connected a microphone to the hard

drive and recorded a little more of the

"In the space of 10 minutes, we remixed the segment while sitting on the hotel steps. This would have been impossible if we had been working in a broadcast facility on the edge of the city, far away from the scene."

Pickin' and drinkin'

Other Codecs CDQPrima"

NO

Then there was the time that Smith and his crew stopped by at a local pub for a pint after work.

"We had dropped in for a Guinness," he said, "and there were people sitting around playing instruments in the bar—just like in the movies."

"A little trio was beside us and we had brought the laptop along. We asked them 'would you mind if we set up the mic on your table?" The bar musicians did not mind, and Smith got his recording equipment in place.

The setup was relatively straightforward. Smith said, "We used a set of isolated headphones to move the mic around the table and to arrange the players a little bit to get the mix that we wanted."

Laptop recording is unobtrusive technology. Smith said, "It captured the event the way it was, in the spirit the music was being created in."

Laptop production is also supremely convenient. Smith could edit material literally anywhere, like a hotel room or even a taxi.

In addition, not using conventional radio production techniques — recording audio in the field on tape, then mixing and tweaking it at a rented studio — saved DNTO a considerable amount of money.

Very accurate

Finally, the laptop system resulted in a show that sounded much closer to the material being covered, according to Smith.

"I felt that we were meeting more people, doing more interesting things and getting more of the sense of the city than we would have had we been tied to a traditional studio, where you just spend so much of your time mixing



"Monty Python" alumni Terry Gilliam on a recent DTNO broadcast.

and cutting and editing in a little room with a glass wall," he said.

"You go to an event to experience the sights and the sounds and the culture." and using a compact laptop computer and a digital editing program meant that "we were able to be much more in and of it."

By all accounts, the combination of Fast Eddie and a laptop computer was a complete success for the DNTO trip to Dublin.

Although time pressure meant the crew was "literally editing on the laptop as we headed to a feed time," Smith said, the production process itself went without a hitch.

Of course, the real question is whether Bill Smith would every use laptop editing in the field again.

His response? "Absolutely."

Audio producer James Careless covers the industry in Canada for Radio World International. Contact him at careless@magi.com

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H A Harman International Company

TensorTech Keeps up the Tempo

continued from page 17

second file. But if the compander function was set relatively low, like 9 percent, you could process half a dozen files or more before the computer became unstable.

Now we know

This explained why TensorTech Labs had received no complaints from current users. The program was being used at relatively low levels of compression and probably only processing one or two files at a time. Once I reported these findings to Wilson, he was able to replicate them on his own computer.

As it turns out, Tempo Works uses only

conventional lower memory; not extended or expanded. The software was locking up a block of memory and not releasing it when finished.

Processing only one or two files consecutively meant there would still be enough memory to run other programs. Only when the program was pushed — as I did in testing — would the problem become glaringly apparent.

Wilson has changed the software three times since I first reported the problem. TensorTech Labs has now released an upgrade to Tempo Works software version 1.6, solving the problems that plagued the original version.

My testing also reveals the program

does not run under Windows 95.

The pitch change feature only worked on stereo files. Tempo Works was designed to work with Innovative Quality Software's SAW (Software Audio Workshop), which only handles stereo files.

Save space

When doing basic news or book-reading type programs, you can save a lot of hard drive space by recording monaurally at 22 kHz. And there are a lot of other digital software programs that handle monaural files.

Wilson has tackled this and came up with a version that successfully lowers

the pitch on a monaural file. However, when processing either a stereo or a mono file, the resulting file has a graininess or raspiness not present in the original

The pitch conversion feature only works in one direction: down. Unfortunate; There are certainly as many reasons for raising pitch as for lowering it.

This one item is somewhat picky, but Tempo Works assumes you will be recording your files to the same drive where your programming software is located.

Some software companies recommend keeping your sound files on a separate drive devoted solely to that purpose. It can reduce fragmentation and speed up access to files by not parceling them out all over the drive.

Set the file menu to a drive other than the one Tempo Works resides on and the program will reset the file menu to the original drive the next time you reopen the program. I found this a nuisance.

Of course I could simply copy Tempo Works to the drive containing the sound files, but why should I have to?

The trim beginning/end feature seems extraneous, as the same function is available on your regular editing software.

In order to use this function, you have to first ascertain the amount of time you want to trim using your regular digital audio software.

By that time, you might just as well have used your original software to do the trimming.

Because Tempo Works is copy-protected, it can be difficult to install. It took me at least two tries to successfully install the software on each computer. Most software manufacturers dropped copy protection years ago.

A more important question relates to the need for a program like this. Again, the program was specifically designed as an adjunct to the IQS SAW which does not have companding options. But more and more digital audio software are adding companding and pitch change options.

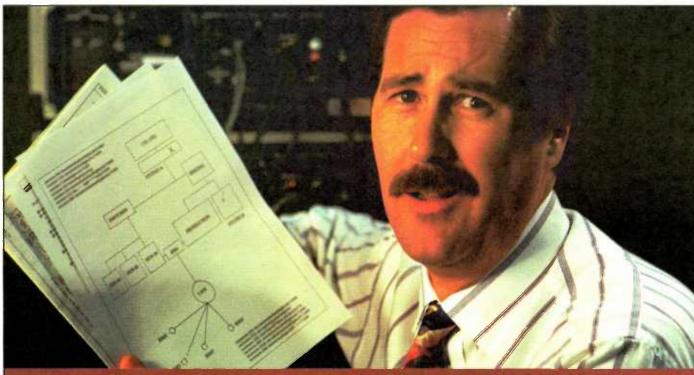
I ran the same sound files on Sonic Foundry's Sound Forge, and got basically the same results with better-sounding files and slightly faster processing times. Because my basic editing is done in Sound Forge, it would be superfluous for me to use Tempo Works for this function.

When I began reviewing Tempo Works, it had a suggested retail price of \$200. The price has dropped to \$75. I think this is a step in the right direction. It can be purchased only direct from TensorTech Labs.

If you want to let your creative juices flow unhindered by time constraints, this may be just the product for you. But remember, you will still have to keep those spots within 11 percent of their final time. That is about three seconds leeway for a 30 second spot and five seconds for a 60 second spot. How much are those extra seconds worth to you?

For further information or to upgrade an existing version of Tempo Works, contact TensorTech Labs at (913) 383-2725; Email: GNSTensor@aol.com or circle Reader Service 59.

Read Burgan is a free-lance writer and a former public radio station manager who can be reached at (906) 296-0652 or through e-mail at rgb@up.net



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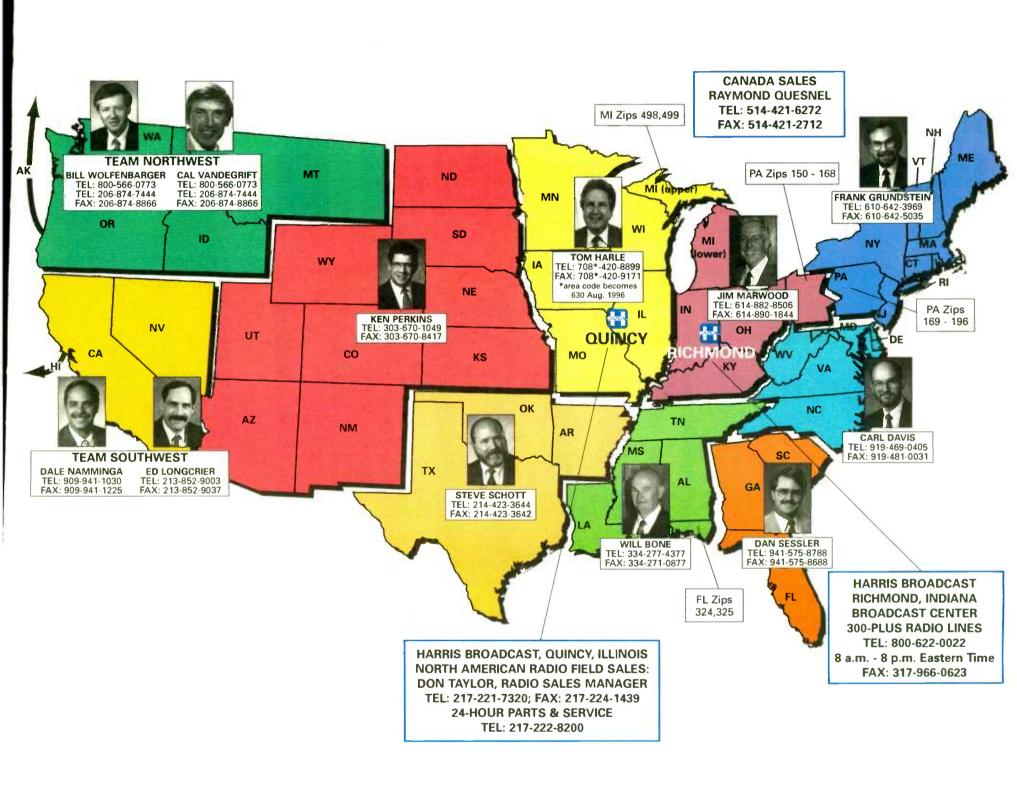
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Spellcheckers Offer Odd Alternatives

by Alan R. Peterson

WASHINGTON Most of you know my previous RW column, From the Trenches. It began in July 1989, on an electric Smith-Corona, blotchy from six years of White-Out dripped all over it.

The old days

Plain old paper was sent through the plain old mail service every deadline. If I was running late, the local office supply superstore would fax it for two bucks.

While working at WSBS(AM) in Great Barrington, Mass., I used their fax machine to send Trench each month, but I had to reimburse them for

delay time. This true

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the connect time.

Then I was given a free XT computer and some inexpensive word-processor software. Then came a 386-40 PC and semi-pro word-processing program. Faxes gave way to mailed diskettes, then to transmissions over the Internet.

Finally, I just moved myself right into the RW office to claim my own desk and computer. At least I knew my material would get here on time.

One thing I did not expect to encounter was the spellchecker I inherited at my new

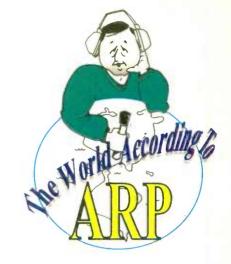
The philosophy behind a spellchecker is to avoid losing valuable company time flipping through a silly dictionary.

To their credit, spellcheckers have saved my can dozens of times. They have rescued me when I wrote commercials, assembled weekend newscasts and outlined my show prep.

But these checkers only catch simple everyday words. When a conventional spellchecker encounters an unfamiliar technical term, things turn silly very quickly.

Substitooshuns

I recently did an RW review on a mixer built by Mackie Designs. It was only moderately technical, as I chose to concentrate mostly on new features and uses for it. But a few words were in there that my



spellchecker had never seen before, which made it offer up some creative substitu-

For one, the name "Mackie." My spellchecker suggested replacing it with macho ... much to the delight of Greg Mackie, I am sure.

But his delight will be short-lived; spellchecker also suggested mice, among the other alternatives. In fact, take a passage such as this:

Like earlier Yamaha and Teac mixers, the new Mackie comes with linear faders. Each fader is sealed and the unit does not use a wallwart. Greg Mackie borrowed EQs from his old Tapco mixer to make it compatible with PC-based DAWs. When using a codec at remotes, Mackie makes a great mixer for mics.

The above statement is by no means accurate but certainly sounds plausible. Now read it again after I cut my spellchecker loose on it:

Like earlier Omaha and Tweak mixers. the new Mucky comes with linear fedoras. Each footwear is sealed and the unit does not use a Woolworth. Greg Macho borrowed yolks from his old Taco mixer to make it compatible with PC-based doghouse. When using a chaotic at rhomboids, Milk makes a great mixer for mucous.

Starting a soy diet

I am not making this up. My spellchecker actually suggested these as alternatives. It also compelled me to swear off dairy products for awhile.

Try this one. Again, the passage is fabricated but the reaction from the spellchecker certainly makes the story a great deal more interesting:

When doing a mixdown of promos, avoid making the audio too boomy. Putting dubs on a Sony DAT requires only a few milliwatts from your Arrakis console.

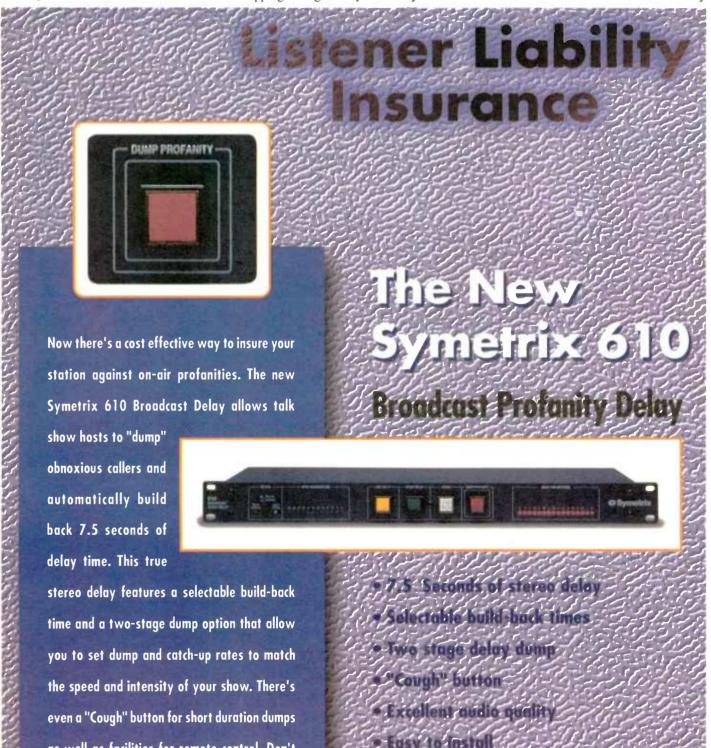
Now, press CTRL+F2 on the keyboard, and what happens to the story? Take a

When doing a moisten of preemies, avoid making the audio too boozy. Putting dubs on a Soy Diet requires only a few melodies from your earaches console.

Should I be worried about this? Not at all. Because spellcheckers only suggest substitutions, the decision to replace or ignore an alternative is ultimately mine. The real time to worry is when the PC at the station decides to make the changes by itself

This can certainly have disastrous effects if an automatic spellchecker "proofreads" your newscast for you and changes the copy before you hit the air. Take this bogus news brief:

Saddam Hussein's movements were continued on page 30



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DIGITAL DOMAIN

Expanding Digital beyond Analog

by Mel Lambert

LOS ANGELES Recently, I was asked to organize and participate in a focus group for a leading manufacturer of recording hardware.

The brand is very well known in the analog recorder and console industry and has gained something of a reputation for digital recorders and related systems.

What the firm needed to know — and had asked me to help verify —were the types of features a digital replacement for an analog two-track might offer.

Such a difference

Being of an eminently sensible persuasion, the company quickly realized that, by their very natures, analog and digital design technologies are very different.

Simply mimicking in silicon the types of functionality we have come to expect in analog systems makes very little sense. Why not, as our discussions would turn during our numerous planning sessions, take advantage of the benefits of digital without saddling the proposed design with old-generation thinking? Sounds like a good idea, no? The client thought so and I agreed.

What we really wanted to know was, what did our panel of broadcast engineers understand of the design options and functionality that digital brought to the party, and how might these enhanced capabilities be used to best effect?

At the same time, we asked them to consider ways in which the system might be made as easy and familiar to use in its current analog version.

The way it turned out, it should not have come as too much of a surprise to us. With rare exception, users of technology are not normally that familiar with the way current-generation broadcast systems were fabricated.

Reminiscing

In the not-too-dim and distant days of radio past, many of us actually built mixing panels and control systems from scratch.

Sadly, few of us these days have time to master the complex intricacies of microprocessor design and implementation and are forced to leave it to the experts. So it goes. This being the case, what the discussion group returned to time and again was the thorny subject of extending the functionality of digital replacements for analog recorders, and the format that such a system might take.

As many of us are aware, the functions we can perform on reel-to-reel recorders are very much dominated by the physical nature of the medium.

To edit a recording, we need to cut the tape and then join together the pieces; A physical act involving a familiar splicing block and tape.

With a digital recorder, the medium is not accessible. How do we best envision the process taking place within an effectively closed system, via front-panel LCD displays and/or a CRT?

The real feel

Also, how about the loss of what I often refer to as the "Token Factor?"

With analog recorders, we lace a physical piece of something onto a machine or insert into a cart slot ... having first checked the label to be sure the item is indeed the desired newscast, song or 30-

second cat food commercial, of course.

Aside from some of the newer floppy disk, magneto-optical (MO) and Jaz-based systems, the confidence of confirming that

the handheld lump of media is indeed what we plan to broadcast is diluted by trusting a screen display with what we hope is

How can we extend the functionality of digital recorders?

an accurately named digital sound file. And that when we press the Go button, or click the mouse, we won't be unpleasantly surprised by the result. But with more advanced systems we also gain the possible benefit of being able to network together various replay stations with a large central store of master sound

files. The additional benefit: we do not need to duplicate these files throughout a multiroom station.

This can dramatically reduce the

possibility of, say, an out-of-date commercial escaping the recycling clutches of the traffic department.

What I would like to do with this

month's column is ask for some feedback from RW readers.

Could I ask that you let me have your thoughts, via e-mail to either mediapr@aol.com or mediapr@earthlink.net, on the following subjects.

I promise to return in a later column with a summary of your answers, and my reactions to these responses.

- Question No. 1: Will the increased use of digital recording and/or editing technologies impact the way in which routine tasks are achieved at your station? If so, in what ways?
- Question No. 2: Given a choice of removable or fixed media, which do you prefer for what specific applications, and why? What about any problems using data reduction on

continued on page 30



Getting Rid of Ground Loop Hum

continued from page 22

chassis of unbalanced equipment contact each other through a rack. To prevent this, put unbalanced equipment in a wooden rack with wooden rack channels, and keep the chassis separated (insulated) from each other with electrical tape.

If you must use a rack with metal rails, isolate all the unbalanced rack equipment from the rack (and each other) by using electrical tape, nylon mounting bolts and nylon washers.

Ground loops can occur when you use a grounded patch panel to connect one piece of equipment to another. At the patch bay, do not locally ground the jack sleeves. Do

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not float the cable shields at the patch bay between connected components.

Each audio cable should have an insulating rubber or plastic jacket to prevent ground loops. If the shield is exposed, it can contact grounded metallic surfaces at more than one point, creating a ground loop.

Inside an XLR-type cable connector is a ground lug that contacts the metallic connector shell. If the ground lug is soldered to pin 1 (the shield pin), the shell is connected to the shield through the ground lug and pin 1.

Ground loops or shocks may occur if the shell touches a metallic surface. So do not connect the ground lug to pin 1.

An exception might be in the controlled

environment of a studio. When grounded through pin 1, the shell acts as a shield to reduce pickup of hum and radio-frequency interference by the conductors inside the shell.

Some phantom-power supplies will hum if the mic cable connector shell is grounded to pin 1. Keep this in mind.

There are many more ways to stop hum, and we will cover them in future articles.

Bruce Bartlett is a mic engineer, writer and recording engineer, and the author of Practical Recording Techniques published by Howard Sams. Jenny Bartlett is a technical writer. Bruce can be reached at (219) 294-8388.



continued from page 29

MiniDisc, for example, or APT aptx100 on Fidelipac systems?

- Question No. 3: Is the ability to network these recorder/editor systems of primary importance? Do you prefer any specific protocol?
- Question No. 4: Should the recorder unit be separate from a companion editing system? Should the ability to capture audio on location or in the studio be a separate function from the subsequent editing of material? How should they share data?
- Question No. 5: Similarly, for hard-disk systems intended as replacements for NAB cartridge, should the record/edit station be separate from the playback interface?

Thank you in advance for your responses. Watch for the results in a future installment of Digital Domain.

Mel Lambert has been involved with production and broadcasting on both sides of the Atlantic for almost 20 years. Now principal of Media&Marketing, a Los Angelesbased consulting service for the professional audio industry, he can be reached via mediapr@earthlink.com or (818) 753-9510.

Check Your Spelling

continued from page 28

tracked by allied forces using GPS satellites, Satcom 1R, the Hubble Telescope and Mir Space Station.

You don't buy this story for a minute, do you? But let the station computer get a hold of it seconds before airtime and you will treat your listeners to:

Sodium Houston's movements were tracked by allied forces using gas satellites, Sitcom 1R, the Humble Telescope and Mayor Space Station.

Hmm ... Sodium Houston ... loved her last album.

When machines talk

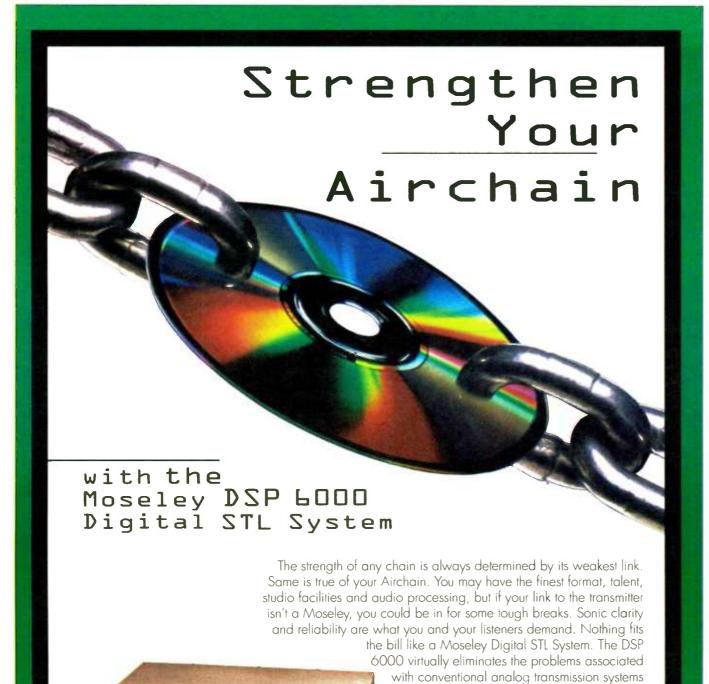
Given the momentum of computerized station automation, we may yet see the day when we can type copy into a machine and a digitized human voice will read it back as a live spot. I for one am not looking forward to that day, but imagine the fun when the following tag is entered into the computer:

Test-drive the all-new 1996 Mazda Miata with optional ABS brakes at your nearby Mazda dealer today!

Er, did somebody say "spellcheck?"

Test-drive the all-new 1996 Musty Meaty with optional obese brakes at your nearby Misty dealer today!

When you are done explaining to the screaming manager at the dealership why the tag aired like that, come on back to the station. I'll have the hard disk system play Musty for you.



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World Radio History

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Regardless

if you're

a group owner, LMA, a large station or a single broadcaster, this system is prepared for any contingency. Need anywhere from 6 to 120 lines? No problem, just network multiple systems together. Want crystal clear audio for conferencing calls? That's what the dual superhybrids are for. Have a bunch of stations operating from the same facility? You can maintain each station's identity (even those with shared lines) with hold audio, dedicated lines and call screening. Go on or off air at the same time, expand to a second studio with just an additional control surface, have it calculate your taxes (well, OK, we're still working on that one). The point is, if you're looking for a system that's changing and adapting as fast as you are, you've found it. For more information, give us a call.



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Running Radis

Selecting the right syndication.

See page 36.

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OFFBEAT RADIO

IASCAR Taps Gentner for Races

by Dee McVicker

PHOENIX The folks at Gentner are getting on track with the '90s trend of outsourcing

On April 28, for example, while NASCAR racer Sterling Marlin circled the Talladega Superspeedway and overtook racer Terry Labonte, Gentner personnel were at their conference call center in Salt Lake City, getting ready to queue calls for a live broadcast, "This Week In NASCAR With Allen Bestwick.'

NASCAR fans

Over the course of the hour-long television show, which is produced by Sunbelt Video of Charlotte, N.C., the Gentner folks fielded calls by NASCAR fans from

all over the country.

Many of the callers who called in to a toll-free line bridged to the 144-line Gentner call center asked questions of the show guest panel of NASCAR crew chiefs. Others called to inquire about a car pile-up on the track that day involving at least 14 cars and causing one driver to go airborne, clear five cars, and then crash violently onto the track

Meanwhile, at the Gentner call center. telephone attendants handed off one call after another to the show remote vehicle parked outside the Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala.

All in all, it was a typical Sunday at the NASCAR races, which are held weekly at various tracks around the country as car racers compete to ultimately win the NASCAR Winston Cup race in November.

And as usual, the show production crew had pulled into town not long before the race began, acquired two telephone lines one to bring in the call feed from Gentner's call conference center and another to backhaul instructions between show and Gentner technicians - and set

Next week, and the weeks after, the show crew would again make the trip cross-country to any number of race tracks, and Gentner call attendants will again man their posts, becoming the audio link between this on-the-road production show and its 52 million household viewers.

Months prior, the broadcast equipment manufacturer had been given the green light by Sunbelt Video to provide this segment of the audio for the show, an honor that left three NASCAR fans at Gentner cheering.

In addition to acquiring an appreciation for NASCAR racing, Richard Finlinson, Gentner marketing manager, said he has definitely learned to appreciate the sport

Gentner meeting attendant handles conference call logistics.



of outsourcing.

This really ties into the trend of outsourcing in the '90s because they basically said by their decision, 'We want to worry about what's on the air ... not the capacity to handle a nationwide calling audience," Finlinson said.

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Ivy League Broadcaster Bills Big Bucks in JSA

by Lee Harris

NEW YORK While some college radio stations are struggling for survival and others are ignoring the enormous changes transforming the industry. Yale University WYBC(FM) has embraced many of the new realities and is making some serious money as a result.

Commercial license

WYBC has a definitive advantage in its quest for financial self sufficiency. Like most Ivy League broadcasters (Harvard, Princeton, Dartmouth, Brown and Cornell) and unlike most other college stations, it has a commercial license. But for many years, that authorization was merely a license to lose money.

WYBC took to the airwaves in 1959. and for years served New Haven, Conn., with the eclectic mix of programming common to college stations everywhere, with a few commercials thrown in to help cover expenses. By the early '90s, it was clear that those sporadic spots were not enough to pay for the continued existence of WYBC. After years of borrowing operating money from Yale, the station had run up a deficit in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The university convened a panel of experts to decide the future course of WYBC. Following the example of lessereducated broadcasters across the nation, they transformed the Voice of Yale into an urban formatted, satellite-fed, digitally automated partner in a joint sales agreement with WPLR-FM, New Haven's album rock powerhouse.

WPLR-FM General Manager Manuel Rodriguez said his staff sells all the advertising on WYBC and provides limited operational support. From 2 a.m. to 5 p.m. most days, the WYBC transmitter and automation system are overseen by WPLR staffers. The downlink for the Satellite Music Network "The Touch" and the WYBC "Smartcaster" digital automation system are actually located at the WPLR studios. AM drive news and traffic segments are dropped into the automation by an announcer working out of WPLR. It's completely hands-off back at the Yale studios of WYBC.

At 5 p.m., WPLR switches off its STL to the WYBC transmitter, as staffers at WYBC fire up their STL to take technical control of the station. For the next nine hours, WYBC programs a combination urban and new rock format, handled by a mix of Yale students and "townies."

Community services

Relations between richly endowed Yale and New Haven's largely black and relatively poor population have been strained at times. The new WYBC is helping to bridge that gap in a number of important ways.

As the only urban FM in the market, WYBC provides the community with its preferred format. By allowing nonstudents to pull airshifts, WYBC provides

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PERSONNEL LEVEL

by Sue Jones

BURKE, Va. Work environment romances may be thrilling at the beginning, but could, and often do, become career-busting activities, as my previous article pointed out. As tempting as they may be, avoiding them can be crucial to your career survival and success.

There are several ways to prevent sensitive situations from turning into full blown problems.

Dress appropriately

Short skirts, low cut blouses, clinging clothing, see-through blouses, tank tops and cut offs are advertisements that say, "Look at me, I'm desirable." These types of clothing reveal a lot of skin and contours. Strappy sling-back open-toed high heels are sexy. Mid- to low-heeled shoes are professional and practical.

Revealing and suggestive clothing invite trouble because of the signals they send. A woman wearing these types of clothes chooses to attract attention to her physical attributes rather than her professional work. If women wear provocative clothing, they are partly responsible for the male responses they may receive.

Women need to keep in mind, these signals go out to all men and are not selective of the one or two desired targets. They often attract unwanted attention. Men can create the same problems by wearing tight jeans, open shirts or tight muscle shirts.

Clothing does not have to cover all skin to be professional. There is no need to hide female curves with high necked blouses and bulky clothes. However, there is a difference between being feminine and flaunting sexuality. Professional minded people dress in a way that minimizes their physical attributes so they, and their colleagues, can concentrate on the work to be done.

Verbal cues

Swearing and sexual jokes in mixed groups or within earshot of co-workers are often misunderstood and offensive to women. What might seem like a normal way to vent frustrations with a string of sexually related profane language may cause some women to file a complaint. They may feel threatened by such comments or think they are directed toward them personally. Women are more sensitive to verbal cues than men, especially sexual expressions. Sexual jokes and comments that are even slightly suggestive should be avoided.

Women can be just as insensitive to their male colleagues by making degrading comments such as: "Men are all a bunch of jerks and only have one thing on their minds." Telling a man that you have noticed his biceps or that he has sexy bedroom eyes will definitely get his sexual attention.

It is okay for a man to politely say to a female co-worker, "You look nice today," without looking up and down her body. He starts to cross over the trouble line when he says: "You really look dynamite in that red dress that you fill out just right," while ogling her from all angles.

Before you tell a risque joke or compliment a co-worker, ask yourself how your mother/wife or father/husband might react to your comments. A good rule for

eventing Sensitive Situations

everyone is to use language that is professional and respectful of both sexes, ethnic backgrounds and position at the station

We constantly give off nonverbal messages in physical gestures and many may be considered provocative by the opposite sex. Men generally interpret almost any behavior as more charged with sexual meaning than women do. A woman tossing her hair, staring directly into a man's eyes, smiling, crossing and uncrossing her legs or touching a man are often interpreted as definite "go" signals by men. Women are often attracted to well-dressed men in positions of authority, especially if they are kind and considerate.

There are several other things you can do to prevent problems. Be aware of the signals you may be sending and how they may be misinterpreted. Save the slinky blouse, sexy shoes, short skirts, muscle shirt and tight jeans for your free time, that hot date or time with your spouse. Talk about the fun and enjoyable times you have with your spouse and family. Place photos of them in your work area, if possible. Work and socialize in groups rather than one-on-one

If a co-worker makes his or her desires known to you, it may be necessary to politely explain that you are involved with someone else or deeply committed to your spouse, and you are not interested in another personal relationship. If you do unwittingly say or do something that is offensive to a co-worker, apologize right away and say that it will not happen again. Then make sure it does not reoccur.

Remember that work intimacy is not the same as sexual intimacy. Strong feelings that develop over time while working with a peer are not necessarily romantic or love. Relationships born out of intense work situations often do not last past the artificial stimulant.

It is up to you to be aware of the signals that you send. You are also responsible for managing your own adrenalin, emotions and sexuality on the job with

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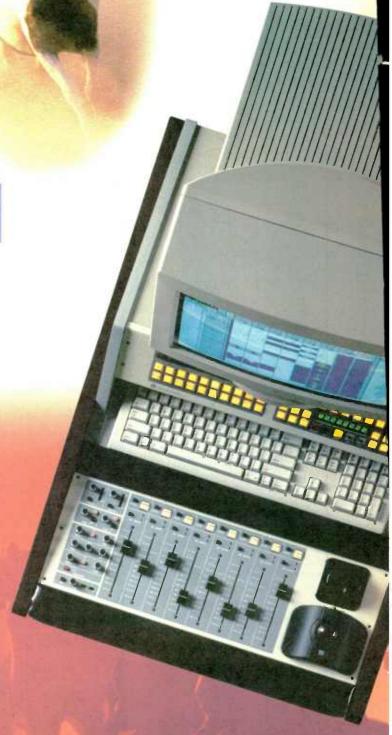
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Sensitive Situations in Workplace

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hosses, peers and employees. Remind yourself of the career risks of failed relationships with co-workers that involve negative emotions and sometimes hostile reactions that can be damaging in the workplace. These types of relationships can also lead to sexual harassment charges that can be harmful to the station

NASCAR Calls on Gentner

continued from page 32

There are others, apparently, who mirror this sentiment. Several years ago, Gentner decided to open up the call center at its Salt Lake City plant in order to cater to broadcasters and organizations wanting calls conferenced or screened, but not necessarily from their own facility.

"We couldn't provide that service. We had to outsource that to AT&T and MCI." recalled Diane Klung. Gentner conference call director. "And then we thought, 'We know what they need, we understand what hurdles they face, and we can give them the technical support right on the line."

The idea took form when Gentner started building a facility based on its TS612 multiline, on-air telephone system. Several TS612 Mainframes were networked to handle 144 callers, and Gentner enlisted the help of other conference call centers for overflow situations. PC systems were set up to help answer and screen calls, with headsets for call attendants, who could view the names, comments, city of origin and other information relevant to a show.

Plenty of takers

In 1993, the facility was completed and Gentner waited for the phone to ring with interested parties. They got plenty of takers, some of whom used the service for IFB and many of whom were radio broadcasters needing a centralized telephone service bureau to monitor incoming talk show calls. Surprisingly, a number of television production houses, like Sunbelt Video, were also interested in the center for talk-show calls.

"I think these television talk shows involving telephones basically evolved from radio," said Finlinson. "They borrowed the format from radio."

Regardless of the venue, most takers are either producing remotes on the go that require enormous set-up costs and have limited manpower, or wanting to bypass the up-front cost of teleconferencing and telephone systems.

Overall, it appears that outsourcing this task is becoming an acceptable and soughtout way of handling talk show demands, and the only way some broadcasters can plug into listeners on a large scale.

At one point, for example, the Gentner call center linked 2,500 people together in one call.

Dee McVicker is a free-lance writer and regular contributor to Radio World. She can be reached at (602) 545-7363 or via e-mail at roots@primenet.com

Revealing and suggestive clothing invite trouble because of the signals they send.

and become a manager's nightmare.

Failed personal relationships also fuel the gossip grapevine at the very least. Working with a former girlfriend or boyfriend who can no longer stand the sight of you can demoralize and reduce you to a nonproductive mode.

If management has to be involved to resolve smoldering conflicts, your judg-

ment and upward career advancement may be in jeopardy.

None of these situations will add to your creditability and consideration for higher levels of responsibility. If sexual harassment litigation is involved, this type of liaison could be the reason for your dismissal from the station. It could seriously curtail your

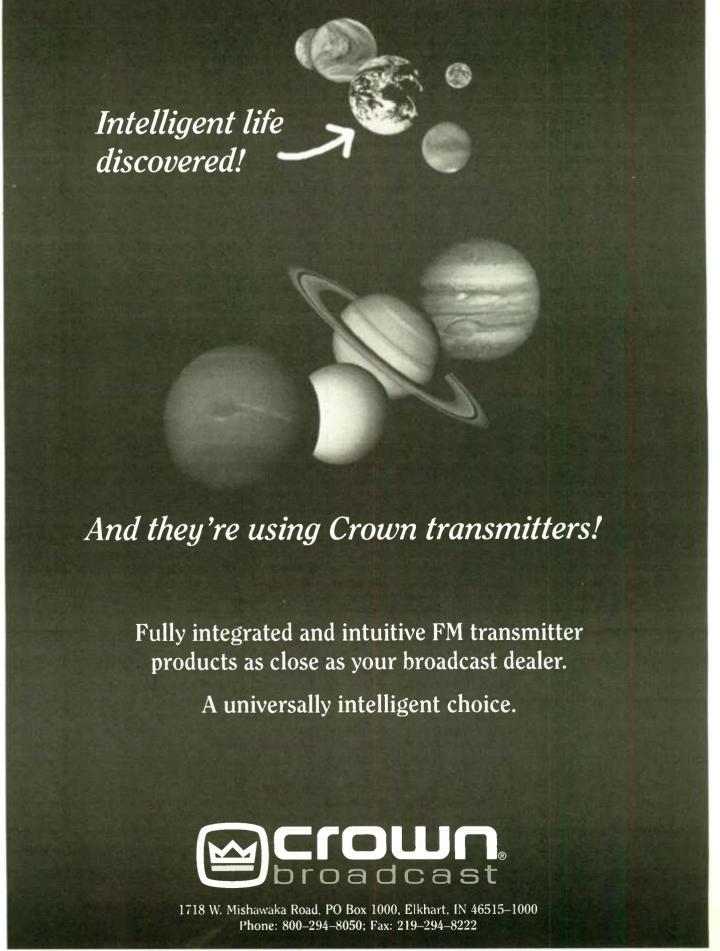
radio career and possibly your career in another industry.

Before you solicit attention with your clothing, verbal and non-verbal communications at the station, think about the potential consequences to your career, loved ones and co-workers.

If you are single, finding someone outside the station or someone involved in a different industry can be more mentally and personally stimulating because you have broadened your interests and horizons

The best part is that you have reduced the risk to your career.

Sue Jones is a principal in Bisset Communications, a communications management firm located in the Washington area. She can be reached at (703) 503-4999.



Stations Assess Syndication Needs

by Bob Rusk

LOS ANGELES Ratings and revenue. Is there a way for radio stations to grab more of each? Many broadcasters say "yes" after switching to syndicated programming, which offers top-notch air talent and lower operating costs. Virtually every format imaginable — including news, talk, music, and sports — is available from syndicators. Stations in large and small markets alike are profiting from the selection.

A case in point is "The Mark & Brian Show," featuring Mark Thompson and Brian Phelps. Their program is broadcast live from 6-10 weekday mornings at Disney-owned KLOS-FM in Los Angeles. It is fed simultaneously via satellite to 17 other markets, including KRQR-FM, San Francisco; WWUC-FM, Union City, Tenn.; and KGON-FM, Portland, Ore.

KGON-FM, which has been airing the show for three years and was Mark and Brian's first affiliate, consistently ranks No. 1 in morning drive (Arbitron, adults 25-54) in the Portland market. This disproves the theory some programmers hold that morning drive must be locally originated.

"We have created an opportunity for stations to localize the program," said Pam Baker, director of affiliate relations, KLOS Syndications Inc., "It's like taking the Jay Leno or David Letterman show. It doesn't matter that they are in Los Angeles or New York. Humor is humor. What we give stations is an opportunity to localize the show with enough news and traffic breaks. And if a station gets a good local personality to interface with The Mark & Brian Show, it begins to sound local.

According to Baker, affiliates have raised ad rates based on their success with Mark and Brian. While stations pay cash for that show, other syndicators, such as ESPN, offer barter programming.

"If you have a hot show, you get good programming and can make money off of it through local advertising, without the cost of hiring local talent," said Bob Stevens, manager, ESPN Radio Network.

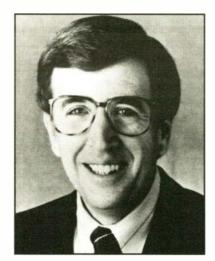
ESPN's offerings include the "Fabulous Sports Babe"; each hour of the show includes two minutes of network spots and 15 minutes of local availability.

KAST-AM in small market Astoria, Ore., relies heavily on ESPN for weekend programming, in addition to a weekday schedule that includes Rush Limbaugh and Dr. Laura Schlessinger. The station, which previously had an adult contemporary music format, switched to news and talk about three years ago. As a result, station manager Jim Servino says the size of his audience has "increased dramatically."

Running syndicated talk "gives us the capability of selling specific programs," said Servino. "We have clients who want to be on Rush's show and other who want to be on Dr. Laura's show, in addition to advertisers who want to be on the station in general. That was something we didn't have as much of in the old days when we played music."

KSTE, Talk 650 in Sacramento, Calif., airs syndicated fare including Westwood One's "Tom Leykis Show." General Manager David Burke said having a talent of Leykis' caliber on his station is money in the bank. Leykis, who is based in Los Angeles, has brought his show to Sacramento. When in town, he appears at listener parties.

KSTE, which signed on in 1991, has been talk since November 1992. "Ratings have been good," Burke said of the syndicated programming. "It's a tough thing to estab-



ESPN Team Member Brent Musburger

lish a brand new talk station. You have to take time and keep at it. This is a style of talk radio that the market had never heard and is gaining in popularity every day."

Burke said that, depending on the daypart and the demographic, his station fluctuates between number five and 12 in the Arbitron rankings. He feels KSTE could score just as well in the rating with locally produced programming — if the station could afford it.

"Leykis and Dr. Laura are top talent. To attract people like that locally would take a lot of money," he pointed out.

All of the syndicated programming that KSTE airs is barter. "That helps a young station like ours," Burke said. "We get terrific programming without having to lay out enormous amounts of cash. That's

the primary financial benefit of syndicated programming."

Country music, radio's most popular format, is also well represented in syndication. One highly rated program, the "Crook and Chase Country Countdown," is offered on a barter basis from Jones Satellite Network. Produced in Nashville, the show is heard on more than 250 stations.

Airing syndicated programming does not automatically guarantee success. The general sales manager of a major market station lamented that "my programmers bury the syndicated programs. Consequently, I don't make a lot of money on it or spend a lot of time developing revenue for those areas."

But when stations use syndicated programming correctly they "will be able to sell a franchise personality," stressed Charlie Colombo, executive vice president, United Stations Radio Networks.

United Station's franchises include "Dick Clark's U.S. Music Survey" (a weekly countdown of adult contemporary songs). To assist local account executives, the company also makes sales kits available to affiliates.

Once the spots are sold, the challenge is to get them into the ears of the audience. "Seems Like Old Times," a nostalgia program featuring pop music standards, does that with contests and prizes.

"That helps to keep listeners alert," says Ed Z. Pell, show host and general manager of Vintage Production. "We slip in a commercial before the contest."

A syndicated format will be for naught, though, if a station loses touch with the community it serves. Consultant Ed Shane of Shane Media Services agreed that local news, weather and features must continue to play a major role in every daypart. "You still have to sound like your town," he said, "and let people know that you're looking out for their interests."

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INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

Austrian Station Beamed from Afar

by Susan Ladika

VIENNA, Austria Radio CD, the only private radio station operating in Vienna, is forced to broadcast from the Slovak Republic.

No private radio licenses were issued in this capital city and plans to grant them stalled last year, so Radio CD continues to carry on, as usual, transmitting from Bratislava, 60 miles to the east of Vienna.

To launch Radio CD, which began in 1990, the entire crew had to transfer to Bratislava, then part of Czechoslovakia, lodging first in a hotel, then in a house that was provided for on-air personalities and editors of the station. Gerhard Weber, who made his on-air debut during the first week of station operation, said that it felt like a ski trip.

Novice staff

Station staff was made up of amateurs. No one had previous radio experience, but all were intrigued by the idea of being involved in a new venture. "We were inexperienced, we did not know how to create a radio station. I think we were kind of charming because we made a lot of mistakes."

Initially, the station broadcast from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily. The following year, it expanded to a 24-hour format.

Since the beginning, Radio CD staff, and its parent company, CD International Holdings, struggled with the impulses of the Czechoslovak and Slovak governments.

"When negotiating for permission to use broadcast facilities in Bratislava.



Radio CD officials had to bring 'gifts' for the Communist bureaucrats," Weber said.

"Then in October 1993, the station was shut down for 12 days, with no explanation and, on Jan. 1, 1994, the Slovak government took the station off the air for six months.

Radio CD employees believe the operation is successful because Austrians are tired of the limited selection offered by state-owned radio stations.

Besides Radio CD, only six state-owned stations reach listeners in Vienna. Two operate in other provinces and broadcast Austrian music. The

remaining four, which respectively offer classical music. English-language programming, local music and events, and music for teen-agers and young adults, broadcast from Vienna, and can be heard nationwide.

I think we were kind of charming because we made a lot of mistakes.

Gerhard Weber

again without explanation," he added.

Station staff was concerned that, with the six-month pause, the station would not survive. But it endured, and on July 15, 1994, Radio CD was back on the air with a new frequency, 96.6 MHz. Furthermore, by autumn of that same year, it had relocated into a new studio in the midst of a small Vienna shopping mall, where shoppers could look through the glass windows and see the disc jockeys or step inside the studio to watch the broadcast.

Georg Peter, Radio CD editor, points out that despite the competition from the state-owned stations, Radio CD manages to hold about 13 percent of market share, or 300,000 listeners.

Radio CD targets 20- to 30-year-olds, and considers close contact with the audience crucial. Every Friday night, for example, the station offers CD Partyline, where listeners can stop by the station and party with the employees.

"It is a way for station staff and listeners to communicate." Peter said.

Thanks to the open-door policy at the station, there is no mystery about the "stars" at the station. At the state-owned stations, however, "everybody is a star, and nobody knows why," said Weber.

The state-owned stations offer more news and information, while Radio CD focuses on music, with segments of news, weather and traffic. Employees find difficulty in defining the musical focus of the station. "It is not top 40, it is not hot AC, there is a lot of rhythm and blues music. Basically, it is a combination of megasellers spiced with music you do not hear normally," Weber said.

Rigid competition

Today, with 15 employees, and an operating cost of \$3 million, Radio CD receives no state funding. Therefore, advertising sales must pay the bills.

The station produces programming in Vienna and beams it via satellite to Bratislava. The signal is then transmitted back to Vienna, resulting in a 1.5 second delay between the time the DJs speak and their voices are retransmitted to Vienna.

Signal clarity is also a problem, some Viennese cannot tune into the station because it is broadcast from Slovakia. Others lose it when they turn a corner in their car.

"Many listeners would like to hear Radio CD, but cannot stand the interference." Weber said.

In addition, the first Monday morning of every month, the Slovaks take the station off the air for three to four hours to clean the antenna.

CD International was among the companies that applied for a private radio station license in Vienna last year. Although the awards were delayed, a decision is expected in the near future.

But, despite more than six years as a private operation, Radio CD staff is skeptical that CD International will receive a broadcast license due to stiff competition from the owners of some of the largest newspapers in Austria.

"There are many, many big media concerns with a lot of money." Peter said.

That money could also be used to hire editors and disc jockeys away from Radio CD because their private radio experience is unmatched in Vienna.

Anyway, if Radio CD fails to receive an Austrian license, it will continue to operate, as it always has, broadcasting from Bratislava.

Susan Ladika is a free-lance writer based in Vienna, Austria.

Yale Station Makes Money

continued from page 32

career training in a community where it is badly needed. By targeting the urban audience, WYBC provides a cost-effective advertising vehicle for minorityowned and operated businesses.

While they won't reveal specific figures, both WYBC Operations Manager Wayne Schmidt and WPLR's Rodriguez hint that they expect WYBC to bill somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1 million this year.

Great for WYBC and not bad for Multi-Market Radio, owner of WPLR. Of course, Rodriguez has had to adjust to some unusual arrangements.

"I answer to a general manager who is a student. Going into the JSA you had to understand what the programming was, and that it wasn't going to change. Then it was a question of what kind of sales operation could be developed selling that product."

Rodriguez said the decision-making process also took some getting used to.

"WYBC is a democratic society, things are decided in committee. Different groups get together to discuss how to approach different programming situations or promotions. Decisions tend to be a little bit slower." To date, Rodriguez says WYBC management has not rejected any commercial matter his sales staff has wanted to place on the station.

Rodriguez expects WYBC billings and standing in the community to continue to grow as a result of the JSA.

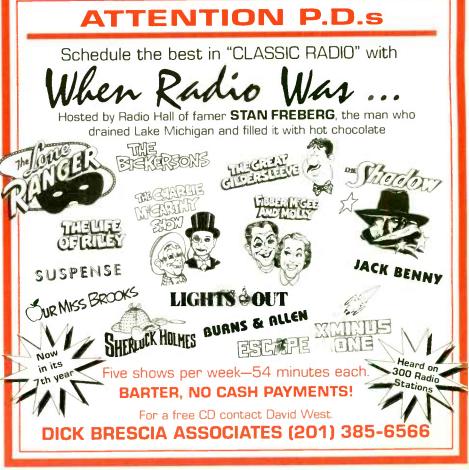
"It's an education process for both sides, and without compromising what WYBC is, there's still tremendous growth in this market, because we are the only FM servicing the urban audience. We've been involved in health fairs, we're doing a major get out the vote campaign, and there's a real effort being made to get out into the community and service the community, just like a real radio station.

Rodriguez says the JSA has also made it easier for WYBC-trained broadcasters to get in the door at WPLR. "We hired a number of people from WYBC to handle production and sales, and we even hired someone in promotion. Our doors are open to them if they want to come aboard. We even have a scholarship program for The Connecticut School of Broadcasting for certain WYBC volunteers who want to get more formal training."

Obviously, noncommercial college stations aren't in a position to duplicate this arrangement, but there are many lessons that could be applied at noncoms that attempt to train their broadcasters for the real world.

Yale students who volunteer at WYBC (the student-townie mix is about 70-30) get positive contact with the local population and real world lessons about flexible engineering, satellite programming, automation and sales. This is an education that students working at noncommercial "educational" stations generally don't receive.

Lee Harris, former station owner/manager, is currently morning anchor at allnews WINS(AM) in New York.



Random House Offers Literary Radio

by Frank Beacham

NEW YORK In radio's golden age, the great storytellers — larger-than-life personalities like Orson Welles — drew their best material from the classics of literature.

It was as if the printed words of books had a symbiotic relationship with the spoken words of broadcasting from the very beginning.

Bold experiment

Random House, the New York-based publishing house founded in 1925 by Bennett Cerf, has launched a bold, new experiment to see how modern radio listeners take to hearing writers and artists discuss the literary subjects that are important to their lives. Maggots in post-World War II Paris. Since October 1994, Random House has revived the tradition of the witty round-

Random House has revived the tradition of the witty roundtable discussion.

Called "Breakfast at Random House," the new public radio series is reminiscent of another other legendary literary meals, such as the Algonquin Roundtable in 1920s New York or cafés like Aux Deux

table discussions with a series of literary breakfasts at Barney's restaurant in Manhattan. Well-known authors, artists, media types and assorted experts come together to discuss such topics as political satire, war reporting and espionage. They have also tackled the works of authors ranging from Mark Twain and Louisa May Alcott to Raymond Chandler, Oscar Wilde and Dorothy Parker.

Recent guests at the roundtable have included authors Mickey Spillane, Kurt Vonnegut, George Plimpton, Wendy Wasserstein, John Gregory Dunne, Bret Easton Ellis and Tama Janowitz. Other guests have included Lauren Hutton, Helen Gurley Brown, Eartha Kitt, Morley Safer, John Kenneth Galbraith and Sister Souliah.

Power of radio

The fast-paced, often funny repartee, is moderated by Harold Evans, the president and publisher of Random House. Though his career is one of a publishing executive, editor and author, the quick-witted Evans seems at home behind the microphone.

An enthusiastic believer in the power of radio to convey the "richness of books," Evans thinks the absence of the television camera is key to the success of his guests' free-wheeling exchanges.

"Television cameras often make people behave differently," said Evans. "But with radio, the panelists begin to think and really talk. We usually get more than we could possibly expect."

Evans said that before they go before the microphones, many panelists seem to have memory blockages about the subject being discussed. "Yet when we go on the air without those intrusive cameras, they become truer, more fluent and more relaxed," he said.

Sales of classic works of literature on audio tape continue to rise, said Evans, who sees a bright future for spoken-word programming.

"I think people are fascinated by the sound of voices," said Evans. "On radio listeners are not distracted by the face and by the gestures of the person speaking. It's focused. You can really get it going in your mind."

"Breakfast at Random House" is produced by Lars Hoel, former senior producer of "Morning Edition" on National Public Radio.

"A program like this will be successful because people will feel like they are eavesdropping on a conversation," Hoel said. "That's the best way to get an audience to listen to anything."

Hoel said the audience must be allowed to discover the wit and charm of the panelists for themselves.

"The worst thing you could do is say we are going to have a literary discussion," said Hoel. "Eyes would glaze over and radio switches will snap off all over the country."

One of the reasons the audience is won over, said Hoel, is the quality of the guests. "These are really, really good guests," he said. "Brilliant people, articulate, well-spoken, lettered ... all with something interesting to say."

Curiosity about life

Yet, said Hoel, the series is not targeted to book lovers. "I don't limit myself to the audience I'm going after," he said. "I don't care who they are. They don't even have to read books. They just have to have some basic level of curiosity about life and they will like this show."

Panel discussions are recorded by an audio crew from WNYC-AM-FM, New York, on an eight-channel Tascam DA-88 multitrack digital tape recorder. The voice of each guest is put on a separate channel, said Hoel, which makes riding levels easier. The eight-track master tapes

continued on page 49

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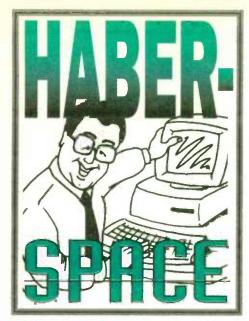
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Find International Stations on Web

by Alan Haber

ALEXANDRIA, Va. Hey, it's summer up here in Haberspace! I know, I know — not where you are. Not yet, at least. But up here, where trees bloom bright 11 months out of the year, and the secrets of the TV show "The X-Files" aren't so secret, it's shorts and T-shirts for one and all!

Which, of course, means air-conditioned comfort here in the ever-seasonal, ever-busy Haberspace global headquarters. Yup, we've got AC 24 glorious not-at-all-sweaty hours a day for my dedicated 'Space staff. As you know, each and every one of these groovy guys 'n' gals is

dedicated to surfing the cyber-waves round the clock for the latest and greatest and, perhaps most importantly during these hot summer months, coolest radiooriented Web sites.

Speaking of cool ...

lcon-da like it!

A great time will be had by all who venture into Radio Korea's gorgeous site at http://www.radiokorea.com. You'll first be greeted with a smart-looking jump page, on which you are asked to choose either English or Korean text for your visit

Next, you're transported to Radio Korea's homepage — a magical creation

featuring wonderfully realized colorful icons presented against a white background. (White is fast becoming the background color of choice on the Web.) From here, you can choose to view a wide variety of different types of information — you can even make a song request on line! You can also listen to the station (if you're Real Audio enabled). And you can view the local time as it scrolls across the nifty LED-type sign!

A quick click on the "About Radio Korea" icon uncovers an overview of the station (the 50 kW KBLA(AM) in Los Angeles), and an informative breakdown of station listeners by gender, age group and other important factors. Advertising rates are also presented here. (I've said it before, and I'll say it again — this is great for prospective advertisers who might be checking out a station site with an eye toward shelling out some bucks for some spots.)

There's some nice work being done here. Take the time to see what the folks at Radio Korea have done.

Neat-O and Net-O sites

Well, they said it couldn't be done, and — ha ha — they were wrong! This month, I'm presenting both of my coveted awards to the same station. Yes, it's the second historic month in a row this unprecedented event has occurred! Yes — Virgin Radio, which broadcasts throughout the United Kingdom, hereby joins WEBX-FM in Haberspace's extremely select group of cyber-radio achievers.

Virgin's eye-popping home page allows you to jump to a number of neat-o areas — all with colorful, groovy graphics — like the Helicopter Pad, where you can find out all about the station traffic copter and check out some of the places it hovers over

There is plenty here for listeners and potential advertisers. For listeners, there's a most enjoyable station tour, Virgin's on-line newspaper "The Virgin Voice" and the station playlist, in addition to other goodies. For advertisers, there's an extensive area featuring targeted information about Virgin listeners and a selection of advertising success stories. Virgin Radio Sales' telephone number is listed, where, of course, more details can be obtained.

If all this wasn't enough, Virgin Radio pumps its signal onto the Web 24 hours a day and sounds great with the RealAudio 2.0 player!

Stations looking to see how to put together a great Web site that caters to listeners and advertisers should URL on over to http://www.virginradio.co.uk/home.html

Yes, Virgin Radio is pushing all the right cyber-buttons and is this month's winner of both the Neat-O and Net-O Live Broadcaster Site of the Month awards. From this side of the pond to the other side, here's a jolly good "site well done!"

The cyber-envelope, please ...

This month's mailbag brought an e-mail from Thomas Speicher about WWAS-FM, the Pennsylvania College of Technology (a.k.a., Penn College) radio station. Speicher writes that he designed the site and students in one of the college





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ROOTS OF RADIO

Breakfast Show Started Day Right

Radio Show Brought Listeners Together with Spontaneity and Delight for Airing Listener Letters

by Read G. Burgan

Rural roots

McNeill was born in Galena, III., on Dec. 23, 1907, raised in Sheboygan, Wisc., and never forgot his rural roots. He grew up

with radio and began his long career in broadcasting as a singer on the West

Coast in the late 1920s. New York was

LAKE LINDEN, Mich. How do you start your day? Do you leap out of bed with unbridled enthusiasm? Or do you pull the covers back over your head to shut out unwelcome reality?

During the 1940s and '50s, millions of Americans began their day with Don McNeill's "Breakfast Club" on the NBC (and later ABC) radio network. McNeill died on May 7 at the age of 88.

audience that was in effect a surrogate for the millions of unseen listeners who held sway over the program through their cards and letters.

From the very first year, McNeill read bits and pieces he gleaned from listeners' letters. He was fond of saying that the people who wrote in could do a better job of writing the show than he could. Once a year McNeill brought the program even closer to his listeners by taking it on the road for a month.

croser to his listeners by taking it on the road for a month.

Action on the Set of Don McNeill's "Breakfast Club"

where radio careers were made and he and his new bride Kay Bennet set out for the Big Apple in 1931.

When New York proved less than hospitable to his career, McNeill returned to Chicago. In the early '30s, networks considered the early morning slot as commercially worthless as the Sunday morning "ghetto." The NBC Blue network hired McNeill for \$50 a week to host an early morning weekday show called "The Pepper Pot." No one at the network expected much, so McNeill had carte blanche. The first show aired from Chicago on June 23, 1933.

For a while it looked as if the pundits were correct. Six years passed before the network was able to attract consistent commercial sponsors.

But McNeill had a vision of his own. First he changed the name to the Breakfast Club. In the beginning, he The program was loosely divided into four parts that were each punctuated by his "call to breakfast." One of his regular sponsors was Kellogg's cereals — a natural tie-in.

Eager to appear

The program had an orchestra, guest stars and a regular cast that gradually changed over the years. Once the program hit its stride, young entertainers were eager to appear, knowing that a successful guest spot could launch them into an entertainment career of their own. A young Jim and Marion Jordan honed their dialectal skills on his show in the '30s and went on to their own "Fibber McGee and Molly" program. Bill Thompson, who later joined the Fibber McGee and Molly program as Wallace Wimple and the Old Timer, also devel-

McNeill pushed the envelope to the limit by asking for permission to run the program with no script at all.

wrote the scripts for the program himself. Soon he started reading comments submitted by listeners.

Then McNeill pushed the envelope to the limit by asking for permission to run the program with no script at all. In a time of network censors and exaggerated FCC programming oversight, that was a bold idea. Fortunately, network officials had so little expectations for the program that they scarcely batted an eye as they granted McNeill permission for this change.

It's a bit hard to describe what made Breakfast Club such a success. A lot of it had do to McNeill himself. The program was very much a family affair with his wife featured regularly and his three sons Tom, Don and Bobby appearing frequently. Both spontaneity and nostalgia characterized the program.

It was performed before a live studio

oped his skills on the Breakfast Club.

So did Lawrence Welk's Alice Lon. Johnny Desmond and Homer and Jethro. Fran Allison, who later achieved fame with her "Kukla, Fran and Ollie Show" on television, played the role of the spinster Aunt Fanny who delighted in sharing the secrets of her country neighbors.

War-time comfort

During World War II, McNeill added a "Prayer Time" to the format as a means of comforting those with family members affected by the war. It was so well received that he continued the feature long after the war had ended.

He also had a segment entitled "The Sunshine Shower." during which he solicited listener letters for those confined in hospitals and nursing homes. One can only imagine how many lives were brightened by the letters generated by his program.

During its peak period, the program that originally couldn't attract a commercial sponsor generated \$1 million a year from each of its four sponsors. McNeill, who first earned \$50 a week (\$2,600 a year), received \$200,000 during the program's peak years.

In 1954, the program had the distinction of being one of the first to be simulcast on television.

The format didn't translate well to the TV of that era and the television portion was soon dropped.

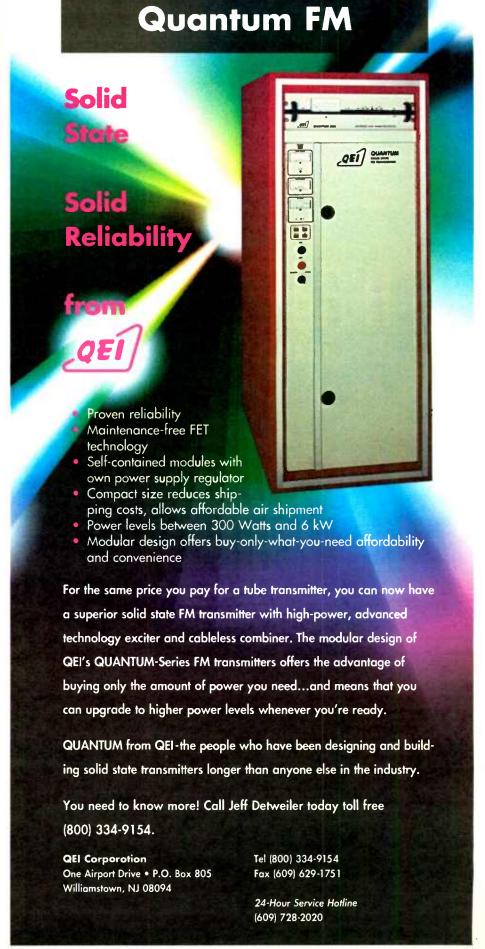
But McNeill himself had staying power. While there is some debate over when the Golden Age of radio ended, few will argue that it was in the final stages of rigor mortis in the late 1950s. McNeill's Breakfast Club continued on until Dec. 27, 1968, long after his contemporary radio artists had fallen by the wayside.

Nearly 30 years later, many of us still drag ourselves from the sack — some later than others — but it's not nearly as much fun as when we knew that Don McNeill was waiting to entertain and delight us.

How nice it would be to hear him say just one more time, "Good morning, Breakfast Club-bers."

Maybe that's why I yawn so much now. Come to think of it, I yawned a lot then, too. \Box \Box

Read Burgan is a free-lance writer and a former public radio station manager who can be reached at (906) 296-0652 or through e-mail at rgb@up.net



New Disk Drive Adds Space

continued from page 15

number of sectors of the disk drive you are installing. If your BIOS is only a few years old, the BIOS will indicate the correct size of the drive.

In my case, the BIOS responded with 1224MB. This is a good thing. If the BIOS indicated the size of the drive to be 512MB this would indicate that I have an older BIOS that requires the interfacing program supplied with the new drive. Because the BIOS responded with the correct disk drive size, on to the next step.

With the boot disk in drive A, complete the BIOS setup and the computer will boot. Run, from the drive A, FDISK.EXE. This program is needed to set up the partitions on the hard disk drive. I partitioned the new hard disk drive to make the entire drive a DOS drive.

When the formatting is completed, remove the boot disk from Drive A and reboot the computer. The computer should now load DOS directly from the

Now you can purchase hard drives with over a gigabyte of storage for less than \$300. Not too shabby.

Once finished with FDISK, the computer will again reboot. Now run FORMAT using the /s switch. This will format the entire drive and install the DOS operating system.

new hard disk drive. Make a directory on the new drive for the tape backup software and copy the files from the backup disk made earlier. Using the backup tape, restore your old files. Having a large disk drive is great, however, it is time for some housekeeping, I only have about 300MB left.

Richard Mertz is a principal engineer for the firm of Suffa & Cavell, Inc., in Fairfax, Va. He can be reached at (703) 591-0110; or on the Internet at rmertz@s-and-c.commbiz.com

International Web Sites And the Mail

continued from page 40

business classes put it together. On line since the beginning of May, the WWAS cyber-home offers an extensive guide to its varied programming mix, which includes sports, all kinds of music and public affairs. Station personality pix are on offer.

On the way is the station's playlist and a screen saver.

Check out this nicely done site at http://www.pct.edu/wwas

Also doing the e-mail thing was Chris Carey, operations director at KADV-FM, located on the high school campus of the Modesto Adventist Academy in California's central San Joaquin Valley. KADV's low-key but nicely constructed and well-worth-a-look site (http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/KADV) was put together by Michael Hendricks, a 15-year-

Let me know if your station is going to be broadcasting on the Web.

old freshman at the Academy. Hendricks also maintains the site, which features station information and a selection of audio clips for downloading (including promos, PSAs and jingles).

I also heard from Kirk Trummel at The Free Radio Network, which was mentioned in last month's Haberspace. Kirk asked that I point RW and Haberspace readers (that means you!) to the FRN homepage, rather than the Pirate Links page. Glad to do it. Shuttle on over to http://www.clandjop.com/~jcruzan/frn.html — from which you can jump to a matey's worth of pirate radio info.

Keep cool

Well, that'll do it for another visit to Haberspace. Next month, I'll dip into the e-mail bag once again and bring you another generous dollop of radio Web sites and Net happenings. Until then, keep sending me your station URLs, and don't forget to let me know if your station is going to be broadcasting on the Web!

I'm still hangin' my cyber-hat at zoogang@earthlink.net. And I'm enjoyin' my AC!



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MORKBENCH

Troubleshooting EBS Encoders

by John Bisset

springfield, Va. Went to replace the on/off toggle switch on the front of a Symetrix A-220 amplifier recently, only to find that Symetrix no longer stocks the part. Walt Lowery to the rescue!

appropriate stereo plug installed.

In addition to cutting up your new DAT recorder, the cable assembly can be swapped from machine to machine as needed. Location Sound performs a variety of modifications to broadcast equipment. The Service Department can be

determine the length of the tones sent.

If you study the original schematic, you will see that the length of the tones are determined by the charging of the 47 (F tantalum capacitor to about 6 V, through a voltage divider from the 12 V supply. Due to the original, a simple pull to ground will not work.

The remote start must be a "dry" contact closure.

If the switch is held too long, the tones can be longer than required. If the switch is held for too short a duration, the tones could also be too short.

Robin's solution was not only to change the 47 μF to 22 μF , but also to build a pulse generation circuit that always sends the correct-length closure to the encoder.

An external circuit was used in order to guarantee that the encoder still meets FCC type acceptance. See Figure 1.

The circuit can be installed in and powered by the encoder.

The circuit includes a relay that starts the encoder to insure that it is started by the dry contact closure.

If you are familiar with 555 timers, you will recognize the circuit as a dual timer. The second half of the timer was used also to send the proper duration closure to the Burk remote control for logging.

Because the Burk uses polling of the inputs, the actual status of each input is only checked at the polling rate, or once every few seconds.

The other half of the 556 gives a pull to ground long enough for the Burk to record that the EBS tones were sent at the studio site.

If you mount the board external to the EBS encoder, as Robin has, a wallwart can be used to power the circuit.

* * *

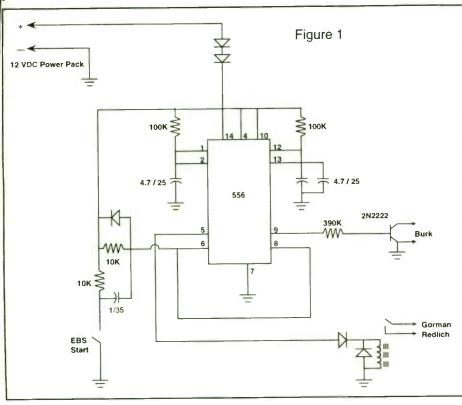
Joe Stack with ABC in New York sent us a note via e-mail regarding the static cling prevention discussed awhile back. If you don't want the "spring-like" smell associated with Bounce or Downey products, Joe has been using a can of Static-Guard on studio carpeting in the Big Apple.

He has also applied it to studio chairs that have vinyl covering, as it seems vinyl + blue jeans = static, for some reason.

If you have a tip or a comment to share, give us a yell at wrwbench@aol.com

Remember that published tips qualify for SBE recertification credit, not to mention the tank of gas that **RW** will buy you for taking the time to write.

John Bisset is a principal in Multiphase, a national broadcast engineering services company. He can be reached at (703) 323-7180, or on line at wrwbench@aol.com



Walt is the customer service manager at Symetrix, and a frequent contributor to this column.

This time, Walt let me in on a little secret: The Radio Shack part number 275-612 is a great replacement — and it's cheaper, too. Actually, any SPST miniature switch rated at 3 amps will work just fine. Walt Lowery can be reached at (206) 787-3222.

* * *

Owners of DAT recorders will appreciate this tip from Edwin Somers, the service manager at Location Sound Corp. in North Hollywood, Calif.

Seems their shop has gotten a lot of requests to break out left monaural, right monaural and stereo outputs from the headphone output of DAT machines.

This feature is only found on the more

reached at (800) 228-4429; or in California, call (818) 980-9891.



I came across a really neat product the other day that I want to share with you. It's called the GELSEAL Re-enterable. It is a compact splice kit for RG58/RG59 type cable.

The kit consists of two plastic halfmoon shaped shells that snap together. Inside the upper and lower halves is a waterproofing compound that forms around the spliced connector.

The GELSEAL protects splices over a temperature range of -40 to 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

Typically used by the cable industry, the GELSEAL comes in three sizes, and may be just what you need to seal that rooftop antenna splice.

The GELSEAL is manufactured by Multilink in Elyria.

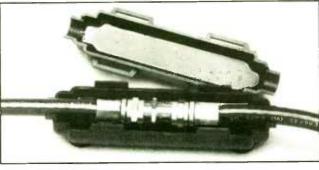
For more information, call (216) 366-6966, or circle **Reader Service** 84

 $\star\star\star$

After modifying the Gorman-Redlich Model CE EBS encoder for the short

duration tones and connecting it to his Burk Technology Remote Control System for logging when the EBS tests were being sent, Robin Cross, chief engineer at WNIU, experienced problems with the duration of the tones.

It turns out that with the shorter duration tones, the length of the switch closure to start the EBS tones can



The GELSEAL

expensive DAT units. When Ed and his crew looked into adding this feature, it became very apparent that there was no room to add even a sub-miniature toggle switch.

The solution was to construct a small box that contains the switch and the phone jacks (1/8-inch and 1/4-inch) along with an 18-inch cable with the



Circle (56) On Reader Service Card

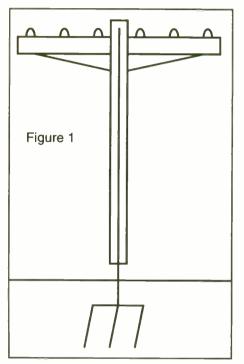
STATION SKETCHES

Protect Signal from Reradiation

by Tom Vernon

HARRISBURG, Pa. Sometimes the results of monthly directional proofs of an AM pattern can look really strange. While many factors affect the field strength on a given radial, extreme high or low readings in the null region often suggest a reradiation problem.

The erection of power lines, water tanks or even bridges in the main lobe of a station array can wreck havoc with the pattern you have worked so hard to maintain.



The mechanism of reradiation is fairly simple. A large metallic object, or objects, in the main lobe will reflect RF energy into the null areas. In many cases, the amount of reflected energy is not insignificant. Up to 10 percent of the incident signal may be reradiated in some circumstances. The main lobe is often also deformed by the presence of reradiating structures. The reflected energy can be additive on some radial

points and subtractive on others.

While the causes of reradiation are simple, the solutions usually are not. Exorcising such problems is usually a combination of black magic and engineering practiced by consultants using various methods and devices. This article presents the fundamentals of reradiation and methods for detuning offending

The first step is to determine the source of the trouble. This isn't always easy and usually entails extensive work with a field strength meter. It is important that the source be positively identified, as the installation of detuning hardware is costly, and the cooperation of the owner of the structure(s) in question must be secured. The best indication of reradiation is the presence of a standing wave pattern in measurements taken in a line between the transmitter and structure in

The simplest problem is a wooden pole with a ground wire, as shown in Figure 1. One common solution is to attach a wire

Figure 2

and run it down the opposite side from the ground wire. It is then connected to a variable capacitor or capacitor decade in series with an RF ammeter to ground. Adjustments are made for minimum RF current in the ground wire. A current reduction of 10 to 1 should be possible. Once the null has been reached,

to the ground wire at the top of the pole

the variable capacitor may be replaced with a fixed cap of the closest standard value. Usually these are installed in a weatherproof box. A typical installation is shown in Figure 2.

The size of capacitor to be used is determined by the circulating current to ground. Typically "G" series caps are used. In situations where very large currents are involved, G2 caps would be nec-

There are several circuit variations used to detune poles or other objects. A fixed cap may be paralleled with the variable cap in

circumstances where an oddball value is required. Some engineers feel that a variable cap is prone to shorting and opt instead for a variable coil in series with a fixed cap. A variable coil may be used on top of the pole, although this may be difficult to adjust in the field. Inserting an RF ammeter of the right range

in series with the ground wire can become cumbersome; most engineers use other methods.

One idea is to build a torroid pickup loop and connect it to the Aux Input of an FIM-21 field strength meter. Some folks have also tried to use the amp clamp accessory that is used to measure current with a DVM. This is a bad choice. The ferrite material in these devices is optimized for good

results at power line frequencies, and will not work well with RF.

Some consultants have specially constructed boxes with a tuned pickup loop, diode and RF ammeter. This box is placed next to the pole's ground wire and the detuning mechanism is adjusted for maximum circulating current as indicated on the RF ammeter.

In metro areas, where there may be sev-

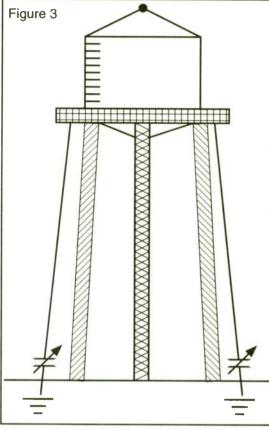
eral strong signals in a given area, it is important to be sure that it's your signal that is being nulled out, and not someone else's. In circumthese stances, a field strength meter

would be advisable to determine the true

Things become interesting when it is necessary to detune water towers or the with each leg being detuned individually. measurements until satisfactory readings are obtained. Such an arrangement is illustrated in Figure 3.

Whenever there is a series of power company poles to be detuned, they must be treated as a system. This is because all of the ground wires are connected via the neutral cable. Figure 4 shows the equivalent circuit of power company ground

Once a group of poles or towers has been detuned, it needs periodic maintenance. This takes the form of extra monthly field strength measurements, noting any abnormally high readings. Such problems are



often the result of fixed caps that have been destroyed by lightning.

Another problem is variable inductors, which need occasional cleaning to ensure reliable operation. Of course, the effects of insects in junction boxes and vandals with rifles or wire cutters should not be overlooked.

In all cases, permission of the owners of the structures in question must be obtained before work begins. You will often have to play the role of educator when talking to power company engineers and utility personnel, as these people probably won't be familiar with RF reradiation issues.

Owners of water towers have a somewhat justifiable fear of corrosion through electrolysis if your mounting hardware is of a different metal than their tower. It may be necessary to fabricate mounting brackets from the same type of metal as



identity of signals being reradiated. four-legged steel towers used by the power company. Typically, detuning wires are placed on all four legs, Each leg will interact with the others, so it's necessary to repeat the the tower before approval can be obtained.

Figure 4

Restoring an antenna pattern by detuning reradiating structures is a costly and complex undertaking, requiring diligent, ongoing maintenance after the project is completed. It's a good idea to work with a consultant on this type of endeavor.

Tom Vernon divides his time between consulting and completion of a Ph.D. He can be e-mailed at TLVernon@AOL.com; or by calling (717) 367-5595.

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World Radio History

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CIRCUIT THEORY

Analyzing Circuits with Norton

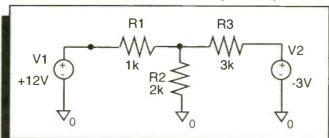
by Harold Hallikainen

san Luis Obispo, Calif. Last month, we used Thevenin equivalents to analyze a Wheatstone Bridge circuit, which, as you may recall, was first described by Samuel Hunter Christie in 1833.

Let's convert the voltage sources in the Thevenin equivalent to current sources and move the Thevenin resistance from in series with the voltage source to across the current source. This is the Norton Equivalent, a technique described by E. L. Norton of Bell Telephone Laboratories

in 1926. Next month we'll generalize this a little and get Millman's Theorem

I recently received a fax from George



Pfisterer, Jr., of Huntingdon Valley. Penn.

Pfisterer recalls working in the Data Communications Department of Bell Telephone Laboratories in Murray Hill,

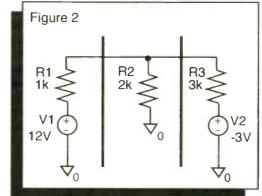
> N.J. A few doors down the hall in the building known as "Bitsburgh" was the office of Ed Norton, the originator of the theorem we all studied.

Pfisterer recalls walking past the office and "seeing this elderly white-haired gentleman

operating a giant 24-inch slide rule." I guess a large slide rule gives a digit or two more resolution? Anyway, Norton first described one of the fundamental theorems of circuit analysis and 40 years later was section head in data communications.

The progress in electronics in one person's lifetime is truly phenomenal. I'm truly impressed by the bit of the history of our field I've lived through. How about you?

Let's go back to the simple three-resistor circuit we've analyzed many times in this series. I hope that in using a variety of techniques to analyze the same circuit,



we'll get the same answer each time (it would be nice!), and thus develop a toolbox of analysis techniques.

Figure 1 shows the circuit to be analyzed. In Figure 2, the circuit is broken into three parts. In Figure 3, the left and right portions of the circuit are replaced with their Norton equivalents (while the center resistor remains unchanged).

The equivalent circuit

Recall that in the Thevenin equivalent, a complex circuit is replaced

with a single voltage source and a series resistance. Further, the Thevenin voltage was the open circuit voltage of the original circuit. We determined this by placing an "imaginary voltmeter" across the two termi-

nals we were modeling and measuring the voltage.

Finally, we determined the Thevenin resistance by replacing the imaginary voltmeter with an imaginary ohmmeter, replacing all voltage sources with shorts and replacing all current sources with opens. The imaginary ohmmeter then read the Thevenin resistance.

Similarly, in the Norton equivalent, a complex circuit is replaced by a single current source (a source that maintains a specified current, independent of the load resistance) and a parallel Norton resistance. The Norton current is the short circuit current of the original circuit.

Whereas we placed an imaginary voltmeter across the two terminals to find the Thevenin voltage, we place an imaginary ammeter across the two terminals for the Norton current. We determine the Norton resistance the same way we found the Thevenin resistance (which, incidentally, makes them the same!).

If we place an ammeter between the top of R1 and ground in Figure 2 (disconnecting the top of R1 from the remainder of the circuit), we'll get the Norton current for the left side of the circuit. Using Ohm's law, we easily see that this is 12 mA (12V/1k(). The right side gives us a Norton current of 1 mA (3V/3k(). Further, note that on the left side, conventional current would flow out of R1 (up). while on the right side, current flows into R3 (down) due to the polarities of the voltage sources. This difference of polarity can be represented either as shown in Figure 3 (all current sources positive) or Figure 4 (all current sources pointing the same direction). For now, let's stick with Figure 4.

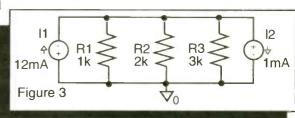
Current sources in parallel

Current sources in parallel act exactly the same as voltage sources in series. Similarly, just as it is meaningless to put two voltage sources with different voltages in parallel (you'll get an infinite current around the loop as each source insists on setting the voltage), you cannot place different current sources in series

(you'll get infinite voltage out of each as it tries to force the other to have the specified current). Just as voltage sources in series add algebraically, current sources in parallel add algebraically. Putting this all together, we get the circuit of Figure 5, where the two current sources (12 mA and -1 mA) have added to yield 11 mA.

In Figure 5, we combine the three parallel resistors to find a single 11 mA current source driving a single 545.5 (resistor. The voltage across that resistor is 11 mA * 545.5 (, or 6 V.

Further, because the conventional current is going into the top end of the resistor, the top end of the resistor is positive with respect to the bottom (as shown). Finally, we can determine the voltage at VN by starting at ground and "winding our way around the circuit" to VN. In this case, we don't have far to go. Starting at ground, we go up the 545.5 (resistor, going up 6 volts (because we came out the positive end of the resistor). The voltage at VN is +6 V. Luckily, this agrees



with all our previous solutions to this problem.

The problem of several voltage sources driving a single point through series resistors is a common one. Millman's theorem, which we'll discuss next month, generalizes the approach we just took to cover any number of voltage sources and series resistances.

As we look at such a general solution, what do we do with a resistor that doesn't have a voltage source in series with it (such as R2 in this circuit)? We say it has a zero volt source in series with it! This a very useful concept! A short (or a piece

continued on page 49

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Norton Equivalents

continued from page 48

of wire) can be considered a zero volt voltage source. No matter how much current goes through the short, the

Random House Radio Show

▶ continued from page 38

are then mixed down to DAT and sent to Hoel for editing of the final 30-minute program on his Digidesign Pro Tools III editing system.

"First, I listen along and edit grossly for time," he said. "I break up the conversations into two parts. Mainly because people listen to radio differently these days than they used to. I think they tend to listen in shorter bursts. They may have only 10 to 15 minutes to spend on any given program. I don't want them to feel like they missed something if they come in late.

"Each short segment is pretty much self-contained and is introduced by Harold Evans, who records his narration in a studio later after we've written the script," Hoel said.

"The idea is to easily help listeners get into the flow of the program and let them know they haven't missed a thing."

Though Hoel edits tightly—
removing extraneous content— he
does not cut laughs or background
clatter. "People say I can hear
phones ringing in the background.
Well fine, it's in a restaurant and you
are going to hear phones ringing and
people clinking their spoons and
cups. That's part of the liveness of
it"

Random House has produced 13 original shows so far in the series, which began airing this summer on public radio stations.

"If we get an audience and people like the show, we'll keep it going forever," said Evans. voltage remains zero (ideally).

This is exactly the same as an ideal 12 V battery. No matter how much current goes through the battery, the voltage remains 12 V. But, a 12 V battery seems useful, while a zero volt one does not. The Spice circuit analysis program (available on our Web pages and our BBS) does not have an ammeter element. If you want to measure current through some particular point in a circuit, you insert a zero volt voltage source. The current through that voltage source is calculated by Spice.

Coming up

Next month we'll finish up DC circuit

analysis with Millman's theorem, then move into AC circuit analysis.

With AC, we'll use the same techniques we've developed so far, but use "funny numbers" to do the math.

Eventually we'll move into active circuits, amplifiers, oscillators, modulation

and ideas about information theory. (Is FM the original spread spectrum system?)

I look forward to your ideas on the route we should take on our trip.

Harold Hallikainen designs transmitter control and lighting control equipment for Dove Systems, a manufacturer

V

6V

R1

545.5

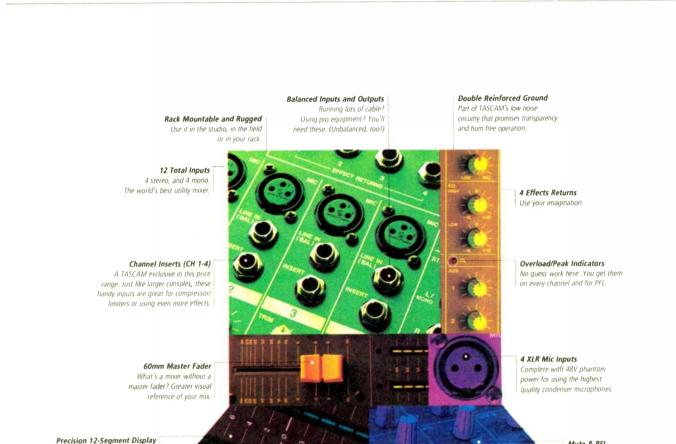
11mA

Figure 5

serving the broadcast and entertainment industries. He also teaches electronics at

Cuesta College and is an avid contra dancer.

He can be reached at (805) 541-0200 (voice); (805) 541-0201 (fax); hhallika@slonet.org (email); and http: //slonet.org/~hhallika/ (World Wide Web).



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Radio World

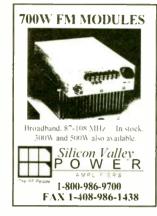
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Rohn 65 G tower, 180', gd cond, on ground, some cables, \$5000. R Carlson, 801-268-8181.

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ARP Quadra synthesizer, works great, \$700. W Whitney, Whitney Creative, 2232 Wengler, Overland MO 63114. 314-428-6430.

Collins 26W limiter, \$200; Audiomax III ALC, \$100; Volumax APC, \$100; UREI 527-A EQ, \$250; Micro-Trak PM5-MX mixer, \$250; LPB S-2 compressor/limiter, \$100; EV 605 Hi Z mic, \$100, u-ship. H Mills, W3HM, Rt 3 Box 712, Harpers Ferry WV 25425. 304-876-6483 aft 6pm EDST.

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ADC patch bays, 1/4" 52 points, \$169; ADC TT bays, \$129 up; Furman 1/4" to 1/4", \$95 ea; Rane ME15 graphic EQ, \$150; Digitec 3.6 sec delay, \$150. W Gunn, 619-320-0728.

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IGM E.C. system & Sentry FS 12B system, (5) Insta-Carts, stereo, (3) Go-Cart 24's, stereo, (4) 42 Go-Carts, stereo, will sell as system or individually. C Mandel, KAMP, 619-352-2277.

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SMC DP2 control head, \$50; SMC DP2 spare parts kit, \$50; SMC 350 Carousel spare parts, \$50; SMC DS20A switcher, \$50; Gates motor fader, \$50. D Rose, KDUC, POB 250, Barstow CA 92312. 619-256-2068.

Systemation Satfire II system w/CPU, color VGA monitor, Epson printer, software, tape backup & wiring harness, set up for Jones GTO format, \$2000B0 +shpg. B Toole, 19 Makowski Ln, Whitehall MT 59759. 406-287-5286.

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Soundcraft 400B 24x4x2 in flight case, excel cond, \$2900/BO +shpg. P Thompson, Moonlight Snd. 4763 WCR Longmont CO 80504. 970-535-

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EICO 955 capacitor checker, \$25; B&K 1240 color bar gen w/manual, \$25; Jetronic 058C/U oscilloscope, \$50. P Beckman, WTVK, 3451 Bonita Bay Blvd #101, Bonita Springs FL 33923. 941-498-4600.

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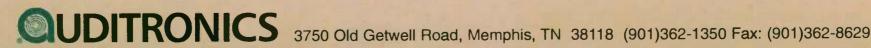
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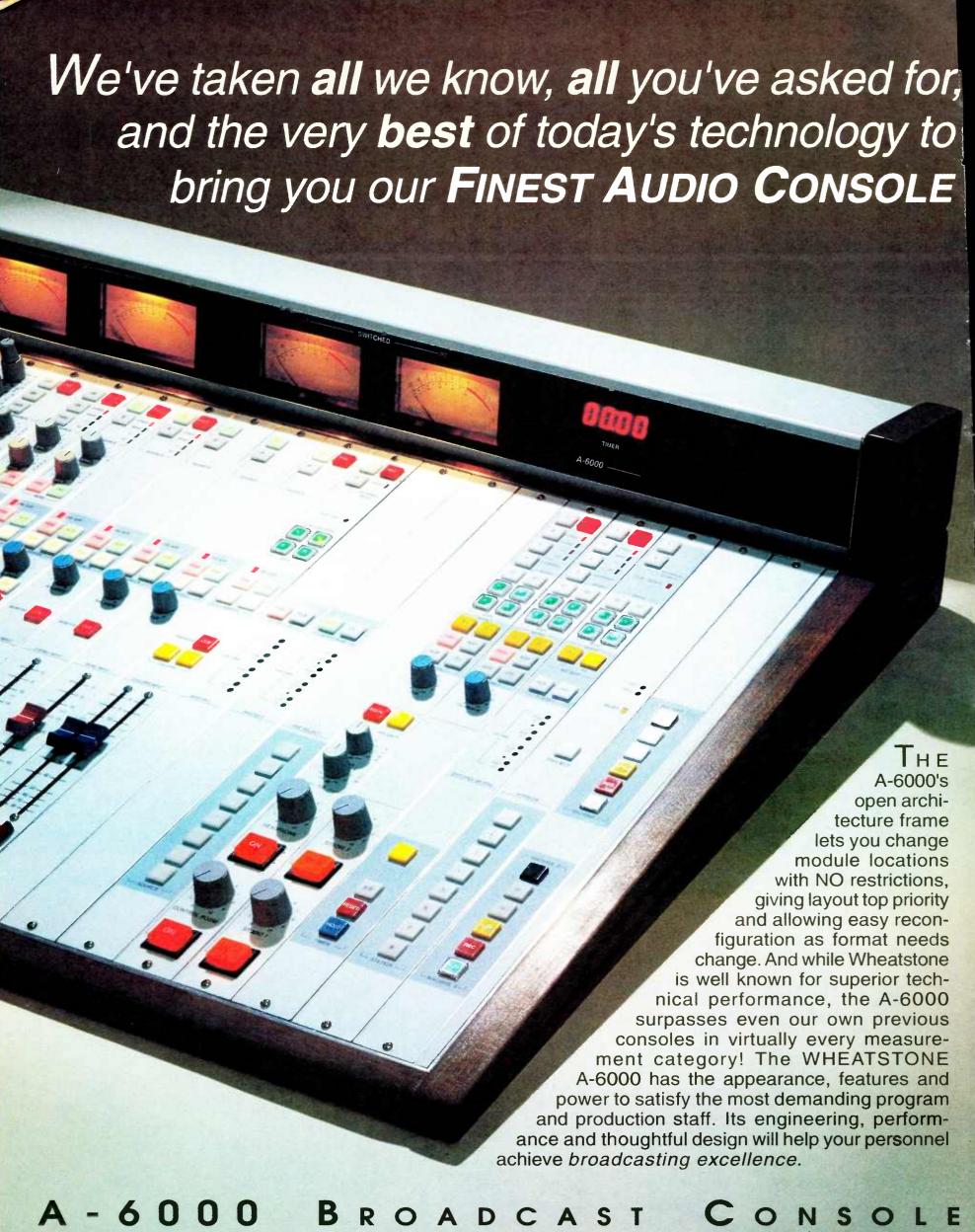


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