

Free Radio Campaign, Ireland.

'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE'

THE ONLY IRISH FREE RADIO MAGAZINE.

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RADIO DUBLIN 253

We're the one that you want!

'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE' is a quarterly publication of
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+ FRC-IRELAND regrets the delay in distributing this edition of 'S.A.'; this was due to an industrial dispute in the Irish Post Office which halted all deliveries and collections.

SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE

ISSUE NUMBER 7)

DEAR MEMBERS

WELCOME TO EDITION NUMBER SEVEN OF 'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE' - IRELAND'S ONLY FREE RADIO MAGAZINE. MANY THANKS FOR ALL YOUR VERY INTERESTING LETTERS AND YOUR LOYAL SUPPORT FOR THE FRC! WE'VE A VERY 'NEWSEY' EDITION THIS TIME AND BEGINNING UNFORTUNATELY, WITH THE SAD NEWS OF THE BIG D FIRE. ALSO WE HAVE THE HISTORY OF DUBLIN FREE RADIO = PLUS LOTS MORE! JUST A QUICK WORD ABOUT OUR NEW SUBSCRIPTION REMINDERS. ON THE BACK PAGE OF THIS EDITION (AND FROM NOW ON) YOU WILL SEE A SMALL SQUARE ON THE BOTTOM RIGHT-HAND CORNER. IF AN 'X' IS WRITTEN IN THE SQUARE, THEN PLEASE RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IMMEDIATELY. MORE DETAILS ON THE BACK. FINALLY, HOPING FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Kieran Murray, Sec. FRC-IRELAND,
 Editor of 'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE'.

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BIG D RADIO BURNED IN BLAZE.....

In the early hours of Tuesday morning, January 2nd 1979, a fire destroyed the premises and studio of the BIG D Radio station. Garda J.P. McGuire, of Store Street station smelled smoke coming from the premises at Chapel Lane - and raised the alarm. According to Gardai, firemen were hampered in the early stages of fighting the blaze by frozen water pipes. The two-storey studio building of BIG D radio was completely gutted in the fire and all the radio equipment was damaged.

Three D.J.'s at the BIG D had a narrow escape from the fire. When late night rock show host Dave Fanning finished his show at 3.00am and handed over to John Paul, he was unable to get a taxi because of the freezing weather. Station boss James Dillon offered to give him a lift home, but before they started, the three men decided to look for an all-night coffee shop - leaving a taped show on air. When they returned later, the place was a mass of flames.

Despite the fire, the station returned to the air a few days later from new premises with equipment that had been taken in a Post Office raid some months ago, and returned to them after their court case had been heard (on the Wednesday before Christmas).

+Firemen believe that an electrical fire may have started the blaze.
 (For new studio and address of Big D Radio see 'Tune In' section.)

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THE HISTORY OF DUBLIN FREE RADIO.....(part one)

The first pirate broadcasts in Dublin were made during the 1940's when several small transmitters broadcast anti-British propaganda and relayed the speeches of William Joyce (Lord Haw Haw) a strange contrast with the present pirates who surprisingly have spawned no politically motivated stations.

TONY BOYLAN, who still presents a selection of 78's on ARD, can claim to be the longest serving pirate still on air. His career started with RADIO GALAXY, which broadcast regularly right up to the 1970's, presented a unique selection of records, mostly 78's, including recorded war speeches and many JOHN MCCORMACK records. Of the stations still broadcasting, RADIO DUBLIN is by far the oldest, started in 1966 by KEN SHEEHAN, an office worker, now loosely connected with the BIG D.

RADIO DUBLIN, or RADIO BAILE ATHA CLIATH as it was then called, could be heard for only a few miles around the Drimmagh area when it started but in September 1971 it moved location to Crumlin and increased power considerably and attracted a sizable audience. By this time other low-powered pirates had started broadcasting a mixture of of pop music and chatter. Among these stations were RADIO VANESSA, located in Santry, ANALY RADIO NORTHSIDE and RADIO EAMO. One of the more memorable stations was RADIO JACQUELINE, later known as CHANNEL '70, RADIO CLEO and various other names. DAVITT KELLY, one of the founders of ARD, was largely responsible for Jacqueline and Channel '70, which broadcast from 1970 to 1973 and received several hundred reception reports from Europe - the Scandinavia countries, Russia and Poland. RTE were aware of their existence, and letters addressed to Channel '70, Dublin, were re-addressed by RTE.

Another station in the early 1970's was RADIO CAROLINE DUBLIN, based in Dalkey and run by a U.C.D. engineering student. Caroline's programming was slick and professional; they used the old offshore gimmick of car-headlight flashing to the station, this time talking to cars parked on Howth Head. In 1977, Caroline's operators came out of retirement to build the present transmitting rig used by RADIO DUBLIN, BIG D and RADIO CAROUSEL in Dundalk.

All the Dublin stations formed an organisation called the United Dublin Stations and provided each other with spare parts, records and Disc Dockets. They used an English mailing address in Brighton and were part of a network of pirates all over Europe. In November 1972 eight pirate stations were broadcasting more or less regularly in Dublin. RADIO MELINDA operated by young people in the Gloucester Diamond area of the city was the latest. Melinda, unlike the other stations, had some real community involvement; a local priest even used the station to broadcast Mass. Melinda broadcast for.../... (Continued on page 3).

3(continued from page 2) .../... long hours and had planned continuous Christmas service when the post office moved in. Most stations closed down to avoid raids but Melinda continued and was the only Irish station on the air when RTE went off the air due to a strike over Kevin O' Kelly's imprisonment after Sean MacStiofain's trial.

By 1973 a second wave of pirates had emerged. The RADIO DUBLIN transmitter had been given to Don Moore, alias Doctor Don who broadcast for two hours each Sunday - later aided by Dave Cunningham and Paul Downey, now on ARD. Moore, not happy with radio Dublin's power, met Eamonn Cooke, who ran a radio and television repair shop in Thomas Street. By 1976 Eamonn Cooke was closely involved with Radio Dublin. That September, Radio Dublin, located in Moore's home in Cabra, was raided by two Post Office officials and four Gardai. Moore successfully disposed of vital equipment by throwing it into the next door neighbours garden, and by the time the officials had made a forcible entry the transmitter had been dismantled. When the P.O. men attempted to recover the equipment from the neighbouring garden, they were repulsed by an alsation dog. After the raid Radio Dublin re-opened, but soon Moore was purged by Eamonn Cooke. Radio Dublin was already being used to plug Irish records and this was generating a certain amount of income. Arguments between Cooke and Moore were said to centre on this. Despite these differences, when Moore went into District Court No.2 in June 1977, Cooke appeared and gave evidence that equipment seized could be used for other purposes, namely as an amp. The Judge asked the Post Office if this was so; reluctantly they agreed and a loophole in the law was established.

(Part two of this article will appear in 'S.A.' No.8, May/June 1979)

+reproduced by kind permission from 'In Dublin' magazine, dated 23rd November 1978+++

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RADIO CILL DARA IS TOPS!!!!!!

Radio Cill Dara was the first station to broadcast from outside Dublin City. RCD celebrated its first birthday on the 18th of February 1979. As it's the only free radio station that has never been raided in its past year's history - the lads there really had something to celebrate about - FRC-IRELAND wishes RCD a Happy Birthday and may we all live to see many more in the future!!!

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THE CONTINUING SAGA OF RADIO CAROLINE.....

You may remember in our last edition we asked our members for some information regarding the situation on RADIO CAROLINE. We were very pleased with the response and in particular to FRC member JOE EARLY, of Drumcondra, Dublin 3 for his very informative letter. He writes: 'Radio Caroline has been silent since 20-10-'78. This is because the generator ~~pr~~ on board used for supplying power to the transmitter packed in. The people on board were aware of the generator problem so they started to close down early; and on the 19-10-'78 they were off the air altogether. Radio Mi Amigo did not want to loose advertising revenue and insisted on staying on the air. The generator couldn't take it and packed in altogether, hence the stations are silent while parts are being bought. There are rumours of a new ship. The fact that the Mi Amigo is to be replaced is known but when I'm not sure. Among the rumours are that one is being fitted out in Greenore and Spain and the Spanish Tourist Board is supplying the cash. As the ship is in very bad condition, Dutch D.J.'s Mark Jacobs, Frank van der Mast and Hugo Molenoff had to be paid danger money to return after shore leave. Following a trip to the USA, Ronan O'Rahilly and Peter Chicago decided to put Caroline on VHF/FM in Stereo as well as Medium Wave.' ++More reports suggest that Radio Caroline has been sold to American backers++++

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CONTINUING OUR SERIES ON 'INTERNATIONAL FREE RADIO ON THE 48 METRE BAND' +SPECIAL FEATURE!+

AND FEATURING IN THIS EDITION: "RADIO ZODIAC INTERNATIONAL".....

Radio Zodiac International was formed in June 1974 when work started in preparing for our first transmission. This was on 31/3/'75 on a frequency of 6225 kHz. However, these and other test transmissions were fruitless due to the fact that we were using broken co-axial cable to feed the aerial!

Our first successful transmission was on 15/6/'75 on 6225 with reports being received from the U.K., Ireland and N.W. Europe. Subsequent transmissions were rather spasmodic throughout 1975, 1976 and up to December 1977 when regular programmes every 4th Sunday of the month were inaugurated on Christmas and New Years Day (25/12/'77 & 1/1/'78 respectively).

Since we started we have received reception reports from: England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Holland, Belgium, West & East Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, France and Newfoundland!

Our present schedule looks like this: 09.00 Stuart Clarke punk show (part 1), 09.30 Mark Anthony Soul Show, 10.00 Dave Hunt Zodiac Top 10 Albums, 10.30 Zodiac DK with Roger Vosene, 11.00 Chris Patricks Oldies Show, 11.30 Andy Allen Request Show, 12.00 John Thomas Punk Show, 12.30 Guest D.J. Spot, 13.00 Closedown. (All times GMT).

RADIO ZODIAC INTERNATIONAL broadcasts every 4th Sunday of the month on 6240 kHz (47.8 metres) Our address: RZI, 13 The Chase, Crawley, Sussex, England.

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Tune in

BY
K. MURRAY.

STATION NAME	WAVELENGTH	DAYS & TIMES OF BROADCASTING
RADIO DUBLIN	253 metres	07.00 to 03.15 hours (Mon-Thurs) non-stop weekends.
ALTERNATIVE RADIO DUBLIN	257 metres	07.00 to 02.00 hours daily
CAPITOL RADIO (Dublin)	220 metres	08.00 to 01.30 hours daily
BIG D RADIO	273 metres	24 hours per day, every day.
EAST COAST RADIO (Dublin)	262 metres	07.00 to 01.00 hours daily
RADIO BRAY (Wicklow)	300 metres	12.00 to 18.00 hours daily
INDEPENDENT RADIO DUNDALK	220 metres	08.00 to 19.00 hours daily
RADIO CAROUSEL (Dundalk)	265 metres	07.00 to 21.00 hours daily
RADIO CILL DARA (Kildare)	270 metres	10.00 to 18.00 hours Sundays.
WATERFORD LOCAL RADIO	252 metres	09.00 to 18.00 hours daily
CORK BROADCASTING COMPANY	230 metres	08.00 to 18.00 hours daily
ALTERNATIVE B'CASTING CORK	235 metres	08.00 to 20.00 hours (Mon-Thurs) non-stop weekends.
CORK CITY RADIO	199 metres	07.00 to 17.00 hours daily
INDEPENDENT RADIO LIMERICK	256 metres	01.00 to 05.00 hours daily
INDEPENDENT RADIO GALWAY	199 metres	08.00 to 18.30 (Mon-Sat.,) 10.00 to 18.00 Sunday.
ATLANTIC RADIO	300 metres	13.00 to 18.00 hours Saturdays and Sundays.
MIDLAND RADIO (Athlone)	265 metres	08.00 to 20.00 hours daily
RADIO VALLERI	6202 KHz	10.00 to 13.00 hours Sundays.
RADIO CONDOR	6243 KHz	09.00 to 13.00 hours Sundays. +Carries FRC Show)
RADIO WESTSIDE	6280 KHz	10.00 to 13.00 hours Sundays. +Carries FRC Show
RADIO TRALEE COMMUNITY	96 MHz (FM)	08.00 to 17.30; 23.00 to 01.00 hours daily.

STATION ADDRESSES:

Radio Dublin, 3 Sarsfield Road, Dublin 10. ARD, Belvedere House, 42 Belvedere Place, Dublin 2. Capitol Radio, 394 South Circular Road, Dublin 8. Big D Radio, 118 St. Stephens Green West, Dublin 1. IRD, Fairways Hotel, Dublin Road, Dundalk, Co Louth. Radio Carousel, Dundalk Shopping Centre, Dundalk, Co Louth. RCD, 9 John Street, Newbridge, Co Kildare. CBC, 52 Wilton Gardens, Wilton, Cork. ABC, 1 Enpriss Place, Summerhill, Cork. CCR, Annelly, Fairgrove Crescent, Bishopstown, Cork. WLR, Waterford Shopping Centre, Waterford. IRL,+ IRL, Hotel Greenhills, Caherdavin, Limerick. IRG, Arch Shopping Arcade, Williamsgate Street, Galway. Atlantic Radio, 92 Kenmore Park, Kenmore, Galway, Midland Radio, Athlone Shopping Centre, Athlone, Co Westmeath. Radio Valleri, Radio Condor & Westside Radio, c/o FRC-IRELAND, 53 Charleston Road, Dublin 6, Ireland. Radio Tralee Community, 20 Saint John's Park, Tralee, Co Kerry.

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RADIO DUNDALK SAY THEY WERE JAMMED.....

"The first of Dundalk's pirate radio stations, Radio Dundalk, has gone off the air indefinitely. They claim that their frequency was being jammed possibly by another station, but a spokesman for Radio Carousel, Dundalk's other pirate yesterday (Wednesday) denied they were responsible for the jamming and expressed regret at the closure. Independent Radio Dundalk, which operated from the Fairways Hotel, had been broadcasting since last May. After months of technical difficulties they went off the air on Sunday evening. A statement by Mr. Adrian St James disclosed that the station was closing indefinitely due to technical difficulties that could not be resolved. "We believe we were being jammed" he said "It could be by another station" he explained. However, a spokesman for Carousel said that "It has nothing to do with us" "We are a long way from Radio Dundalk on the medium wave band" he pointed out, saying that perhaps it was some foreign or neighbouring station that was causing the interference. The spokesman added that he was "dumbfounded" by the news, "and I am terribly sorry to hear it". Mr James said it was becoming pointless operating the station. "Disc Jockeys were doing their shows but the public could not hear them". The statement revealed that they will try to keep faith with the public who had supported them. " (= Reprinted from 'The Argus', Friday March 2nd 1979 =)

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