INTRODUCTION

This book was put together due to popular demand by a bunch of pirates, with a lot of help from the Free the Airwaves campaign and the D.R. Communications technical group in Bristol. Its been a long time coming but well worth waiting for. This is the First Edition, January 1987, its still a bit rough but we hope to update it regularly.

Its intended as a 'Do-It-Yourself' Pirate's Handbook, aimed at promoting neighbourhood, political and open-access radio pirates...But obviously you can use it as you wish...You can build the transmitters and use them to jam out Aunty Beeb, you can play your favourite music, or you can set up local open-access stations as we suggest...Or you can set up a fascist station and we'll come and kick your heads in!

This is an action propaganda book. We're not trying to 'cover the subject' or write an 'objective history'. We do include a brief section on recent political pirates in Britain, another on radio pirates around the world. But the only purpose of this is to illustrate hard learned lessons and brilliant ideas to help and inspire the 'would-be' pirate of tomorrow.

The practical 'How To Be A Radio Pirate' section is a much longer and more detailed version of the pamphlet by Our Radio (the open-access pirate, 1981-1983) which has been long out of print. This should kill off finally any 'technical mystery' on the subject which might be holding you back. It practically tells you how to do up your shoelaces before venturing forth to put your message on the airwaves. Its mainly about FM piracy, though we include a shorter section and a transmitter design for the less popular Medium Wave.

The main aim of the large technical section is to spread the art of transmitter building from the few semi-professional technicians to the 1000's of eager electronics enthusiasts all over the world. Its just about possible for the complete beginner to build a transmitter from this book. And you can write to Free The Airwaves and D.R. Communications, who are more than happy to give you help and advice with problems as you go along. We also include projects for the more advanced, and contacts for obtaining still more advanced designs.

We also include a section on the legal situation in Britain, and a good range of contacts for current radio pirates and technical info sources. And 40 Elizabethan sonnets to round it all off.

Its quite logical really that this handbook was finally produced and printed by anarchists. No one else (least of all political parties) looks forward with glee to the undermining of the Institutions of The State, or to setting the radio media free for you and me and Joanna Spy to use as we wish!

Forward: LET 1000 AERIALS RADIATE

Welcome to 'Radio is my Bomb'. This is it, at last the manual of the guerrilla pirate, as complete as we can make it. Of course there have been radio pirates since radio was discovered. Marconi himself became the 1st pirate, when the authorities prevented him fully using his own discovery. But in the last 10 years, with the popularity of FM radio, becoming a pirate has become ever cheaper and more simple. You can't go and buy a transmitter at the corner shop, but you can buy all the components. Now at last using the information in this book, and for the price of a couple of dole cheques, you and your friends can come on air on the half empty FM band as a local station.

In other countries, (France, Belgium, Italy, Holland and now Spain), the State has tried to control and own the radio waves, and simply been flooded by an uncontrollable mob of largely commercial local FM pirates.

We want that to happen here too. That's why we made this book. But we're not too keen on the commercial pirates, who spend their time trying to hog the technology imitate the commercial trash stations, and even sabotage the competition, and all to make quick cash for the businessmen who run them. The 'Free Market' is only free for the rich and powerful. Repeating tracks and ads at intervals designed by computer to entrap the non existent average MAN into buying their crap, till every station sounds exactly the same.

Nor are we turned on anymore by the traditional pirate DJ's, who tend to be all the same white male morons, preening their egos and spewing forth inane chatter in the hope of getting a fat career in the media.

We'd like instead to put everyone on air! To reclaim the airwaves from the parasites who infest it.
We'd like to see ethnic radio, women's radio, tenants', unions', anarchists', community groups, old people, prisoners, pacifists, urban gorillas, info, gays, straight and of course every possible variety of musical entertainment.

This may all seem a bit idealistic, and what is wrong with that? Any new wave of pirates will come from people and popular culture. It will certainly NOT come from the 'broad left', divided as they are in 100 fragments competing for power, members and soft jobs in a Labour Party regime. Nor will the new pirates come from the 'Community Radio' movement, called into being by Nazi Norman himself, and when denied licences have proved incapable of putting a single pirate on air, for fear of breaking the law. Now the CR activists are waiting for grants and token controlled licenses under Labour. These SLUMPIES (Socialist Leaning Upwardly Mobile Persons) should beware. Anarchists look state control even more than Tories. Consider the Eastern Block with totally controlled media and pirates hunted down by police and army. The Labour Party has been the biggest pirate-buster of all (as well as bringing us Power, the Bomb, Internment etc) and even tried to jam Radio North Sea off the air (in 1970).

We are optimistic nevertheless, in fact we're quite sure the FM band will become the率先 move, simply because the technology is becoming so cheap and simple. The State knows this quite well, and seeks to postpone it with the carrot of controlled 'Community' Radio and the big stick of the latest anti-pirate laws. This is where the real battle lies, and why we devote so much of this book to 'How to get away with it'. In fact its a complete myth that 'political' pirates get busted more often than others and even a half dozen 'open access' stations could flourish in the present laws with a little organisation and imagination. But the State has more tricks to its bow than brute force, as the history of pirates in other countries shows. If they can't bust us off the air, they can do this for them: sue us off - legalise a few under their control, infiltrate them with middle class professionals who will spread their ideology (they don't have to arrange this, these people will descend like locusts), and crack down harder on the rest. If this tactic fails to work, for whatever reason, they might have to fall back on the 'Italian' solution. What happened there was there were suddenly so many pirates that the State just declared a free for all, in the knowledge that the big commercial, party-owned stations thus created would eventually swamp the autonomous pirates off the air.

Some people still naively think that radio is somehow unbiased. Think again. Apart from the authoritarian BBC and IRA control by rich people with upper class views, the kind of people employed can be relied on to spout the prejudices and preconceptions of their class (and this before thinking of the now proven infiltration by MI5 state agents!). Of course if you're a nationalist, sexist, fascist, little SUN lover you may notice nothing amiss. Its interesting the way we're conditioned and controlled by the media, you can look at it by listing the people, subjects, views, music, languages etc left out or barely represented. Or consider where the news on radio actually comes from and why its chosen as important.

When you say 'Free The Airwaves' you need to work out what you mean by Freedom. We know what we want, and its a lot more than a 2 minute phone-in slot caged in the 'media' box. This book is for people willing to think who know what they want, and are prepared to take simple practical steps towards making a new reality from their own dreams, and even if we have something in the process. The empty dial is tuned over to you!

If you have any more, or better information please send it in to us for the next edition to: RATS, c/o BM Hurricane, London WC1N3XX.
This is OUR RADIO, London's only open access community pirate, coming to you on 103.8 FM.

Our Radio was the most successful open access pirate so far, and what happened to it gives us some useful lessons for setting up non-commercial, political, or community based pirates in the future. So we go into its interesting history here in some detail.

Our Radio grew out of a campaign for open access radio called Com Com, in the late 70's. This campaign grew out of the Radio Broadcasting Education Group (RABEG), a voice group for alternative radio. Our Radio was born mowhere, but it was given some cash, and decided to go pirate instead.

Thus Our Radio was born, two of the real underground heroes were a couple of blokes who set about building transmitters (TX's). At that time TX designs were even more a guarded secret of commercial pirate engineers. The aim was to liberate such design, copy them, and develop a version which was easy to mass produce by non-experts. They failed in this last aim (they were also happy to train anyone interested) but left behind a lot of info which provides the groundwork for much of the technical section of this book.

In the long run of reference to all fronts after the last bus we had no TX left except a MM rig which turned out to be a dud) and no money, resources or energy to make more.

Regular Our Radio broadcasts began in Feb 82. It was announced as an open access station, and people were invited to make programmes. But the response was not very good. We had chosen 103.8, at the top end of the waveband beyond the police, as our frequency as it was officially declared an unused channel (at that time a whole range of pirates followed us) but we had no ready made audience like the music pirates. We had to fight for our audience by putting out regular programmes. A big problem was that there was no support network, and no income but what we put in ourselves (but we were mostly on the dole) or raised from a few benefit gigs. We knew that at a certain point we'd gain publicity and a mass following, and so get the people and cash to expand and make us ever hard to stop. We chose Wednesday nights with the idea of getting quickly established at that time raids were no longer made at that time. For a long time this tactic worked, but listener support still didn't materialise. It seemed that passive consumption of the media was as ingrained in our audience as it is ever. Nor could we do one thing we didn't have a 'link' TX (though we were close to this when the final buses began).

One programme to join early and stay with us was Highjinx. A programme produced mainly by one bloke with amazing energy and extensive contacts. It included poetry and plays as well as music which featured the Murphy Institute, Danny and the Dressmakers, Charles Bukowski, etc.

Then there was Gaywaves, the first programme I did suffer at first by being made mainly by just one man, but others quickly joined in and it became highly informative and entertaining. Very soon it had to be extended to two hours. It was a good programme, with music, news, humour, jingles etc. It was also an open access programme for gay people, gaymen as it turned out. This is what we planned... "We wanted to involve other people to gather news and info, which would then go into the show.

This was known as the Gaywaves Network and we got a few things through that we published along with poetry, stories and reviews of non-commercial places...what we really wanted was a 6 hour show, with 4 hours of our TX, 2 of Lesbian programmes and 2 of mixed humour, with a lot of camp fun and music to balance it all out".

Gaywaves was attacked from all sides, not only by the press and the police, but by the straight gay media (papers) themselves, who were jealous and hated its left wing slant.

Of course Gaywaves wasn't restricted solely to gay issues. For example the first time Our Radio lost a transmitter we were playing a Gaywaves tape and Arthur Scargill was speaking at a CND rally, hardly a gay issue but an important one all the same. To this day Gaywaves remains a unique and brilliant example.

For Our Radio as a whole Gaywaves was a big plus, and to the kind of things we were advocating. Phil Cox, the presenter has since complained bitterly that we were slack, unreliable, unprofessional, not in stereo, and got up at 8.30 in the morning etc. etc.

For example, after a hard day of problems like locating and checking a new TX, borrowing equipment, recording gear, collecting tapes, waiting for buses, missing rendezvous, setting up the aerial, hiding from neighbours, doubling back because of suspicious bongs, rain, hail, wind and snow, we were finally ready to come on air and cover most of the London area, five minutes early! Then a lookout reports a police car parked by the next block, could be a bust; we start to dismantle everything but he soon drives off. We switch on at last, only 20 minutes late. A Victory! Then we get complaints about always being late, getting up at 8.30 pm, and not being in stereo! So it continues. In all we broadcast about 40 Gaywaves programmes, a lot of them 2 hour shows, and a lot of them under severe pressure. In fact when the police broke the door at 9.30 pm on 23rd March 83, in the bust that finally finished Our Radio, it was Gaywaves that they interrupted. The next programme would have been Women on the Waves.

WOMEN ON THE WAVES

Women on the Waves was a new and vitally necessary form of programme, catering for a tiny women's space on the airwaves, in opposition to all the other media which more or less openly pro-
nates sexism, exploitation, attacks on women and the erosion of women's rights. Women on the Waves began doing news, information and interviews of things like Greenham Women's Peace Camps, Women's Aid, prisoners. Unfortunately Our Radio was closed down before Women on the Waves could develop much further. There wasn't any division between Women on the Waves and the station as a whole.

which was a good thing, some of the same women worked on The Message and other programmes, and were involved in organising, fund raising, controlled the cash (what there was), publicity and were becoming involved in the broadcasting. Not that Our Radio was free of sexism, but it was being confronted on a daily basis.

The Message

'The time is 9 o'clock, then this is THE MESSAGE on Our Radio, 103.8 FM'. The Message programme was radical radio at its best, and really the heart and platform of Our Radio. Usually fantastic occasionally dia logue was put together by four to ten people, who all brought material, prepared tapes and records to the Our Radio studio and created the whole lot together onto a one hour tape. Most other pirates hated us for being 'political' and for disproving the pirate myth that one word out of line will get you busted immediately. In fact Our Radio was only successfully busted twice in over a year (compare this to London Green radio's recent record of 3 busts in one week).

One original purpose of The Message was to lobby for Community Radio licences, on the lines of Australia or Canada. Another was simply to entertain, with music, mock advertising, outrageous spoofs and wild humour. A third purpose was to air the views and news that you never hear on the highly restricted, class based and self censoring British media. One advantage of The Message was that people with no experience could easily join in and quickly learn the basics of sound recording. For instance in Sept. 82 people from Brixton Squatters Aid heard the open access invitation and came along to do a spot. At that time there were only two such local groups among London's 30,000 squatters and BSA were promoting (and still are!) such self organisation and resistance to evictions with their news sheet, 'Coward'. But BSA is based at 121 S Centre, and within weeks half the anarchists in South London were reading out items on The Message, and bringing some welcome new energy into Our Radio. Almost everybody involved in Our Radio had something on the show, including one Labour Party member! Here's a short list of some of the favourite items and topics I remember: Mock street interviews on The Nuclear Holocaust, Drug taking in the Falklands, Police Monitoring News, Greenham demo tapes, The Pope on Action, police death squads in Ireland, the Fallout Marching Band, the People of No Property, Shut of The Week Competitions, Rasta raps, Collin Roach demo tapes. The fake Queen's Speech, Hip Hop News, 'Millions of Dead Cops' interviews, Comiso Campaign, Community Policing by Morons, Crowbar news, Christy Moore, Free The Airwaves and Cambridge Community Radio News, Anti Fascist Songs, Angry Brigade Communicate. 'Look over your shoulder, Pig...'. Shoplifting Ad and Robin Hood rap, Prisoners News, Hippy take off... 'I feel like a used roach in the insect killer....all day long, but we only become active at the end when the crack down had already begun, and it was only broadcast once. Its hard to say how the programme would have gone on, but the tapes were full of take offs, impressions, satire, attacks on the police and punk and reggae music.

The Bag

'This is THE FREE SPACE, Anti Capital Radio on 103.8 FM'. After a while The Message was getting so full that music and interviews were being crowded out. The Free Space was planned as a pure anarchist show against all authority, but we only had a few songs. It was nothing at the end when the crack down had already begun, and it was only broadcast once. Its hard to say how the programme would have gone on, but the tapes were full of take offs, impressions, satire, attacks on the police and punk and reggae music.

'This is BBPC on 103'... but they never did. BBPC was the Black People's Action Centre's fight against state and police monitoring group in Croydon, who had begun preparing tapes for Our Radio through anarchic contacts just before the final bust. The BBPC was burnt down by local fascists, with blatant police collusion.

Radio Solidarnosc

RADIO SOLIDARNOSC was a late addition to Our Radio's programmes and usually went out at night, Monday to Friday from 7-9 pm. Our Radio's final programme was a half-hour slot in English and half in Polish, and had a good audience among London's Polish minority. It was produced by one small group out of the large array of political Polish exiles, its purpose was to support the Solidarnosc Free Trade Union, and also provide news, contact and info. Its worth noting that Radio Solidarnosc was closed by State repress down well before Radio Solidarnosc (Poland) was finally crushed by General Jaruzelski and the KGB. The main producer of Radio Solidarnosc was a rather volatile character, who had little sympathy with our increasing problems of prior-

The Freespace

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'The Bag, Our Radio's late night show, was a programme of music and cut-ups without any nagging DJ to bother you. It was beautifully and skilfully mastered stuff, each programme had a theme. Religion, Money Society, etc. and a title eg. The Undercover BAG Operation, The Good The BAG and the Ugly, The Five Pound BAG, etc. Lots of clever dubbing and playing round with film and TV theme tunes. Sometimes if things were going well the Bag could stretch on for two or more hours, since it was the last show of the night. The person behind the Bag was one of the best and anonymous organisers of Our Radio, and was later involved in book publishing for the sound and music resources, as well as working with the broadcasting crew and promotion to the bitter end.

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DRC

DREAD BROADCASTING CORPORATION (DBC) started off with the help of Our Radio. In fact, for their first 6 months or so they were borrowing our transmitter. DBC was a unique and exciting first broadcstation that gained instant popularity. It's been said in print that DBC left Our Radio because they disliked our politics. This is lies. We were happy to help DBC start up by lending our TX, that was the arrangement, and they broadcast as a separate station on their own time, never declaring themselves part of Our Radio, much as we would have liked it, it wasn't their aim to be part of an open access station. They have their own unforgettable place in pirate radio history.

Mistakes and Failures

What went wrong with Our Radio, and what lessons are to be learnt. We were closed down by the State through the DTI and police, but they could only do this because we were already weak. By the start of 1983 the team of people around Our Radio were coming under heavy pressure. The main problem was lack of support. Each of the TXs was the backbone, and the division of the TXs was the wireman. The tape was lost by the police. We decided to seek publicity, the alternative was to go on TV, and we did a good interview with Thames, but the only part they screened was the shot of one of us putting up an aerial, the only bit we were worried about.

On the technical front we were building our own digital frequency counter, and also a 'link' TX and receiver so that we could go live. But we still didn't have a reliable portable TX. We finally decided to go on TV, but the police had already got the TX. We had no money to get a TX, but it was a case of borrowing the bus fare. In a place like London even keeping in touch with everyone can be a big hassle unless you have phones.

Another line of getting airtime at this period was through the GLC. This proved to be a blunder. Richard Barbrook, the sole Labour Party man in Our Radio, got up through his friend and big boy in the GLC, John McDonnell. We went along with it in the hope of some quiet quick cash for Our Radio. But it turned out that any cash would take much time and have to go through front groups like 'community studios'. Next thing the GLC started doing press conferences and publicity in support of Us. So the Tories were at the time trying to stifle and abolish the TX. Our Radio's place in the public eye, our own "bust warrant"? Barbrook's own aim, as he admitted in the book 'Rebel Radio' was to "hustle himself into a career as a Labour Party spokesman on community radio". He was in Our Radio, and trying to establish a political political. This was lies. We were happy to help DBC start up by lending their TX, that was the arrangement, and they broadcast as a separate station on their own time, never declaring themselves part of Our Radio, much as we would have liked it. We operated in a makeshift 'consensus' fashion, having no constitution or voting membership or anything like that. The consensus was "nothing racist, sexist or fascist", but unfortunately didn't exclude political party members (since Our Radio had evolved from LDR which had Labour party sympathies). We operated anti commercials, though we weren't about to impose this preference on anyone else. In fact nothing was ever censored on Our Radio, though it could have been. For instance if Richard Barbrook had succeeded in getting any Labour Party groups to make the TXs, they would've been the next TX on the tape or 'lost' the tape (a bad solution) or called a general meeting and had a split. Open access can only go so far. In this instance we'd be daft, even if we agreed with Particles, to support one which has been the biggest pirate buster of all. Emily's a tree, and even if they try and shut our Radio off the air (back in 1970) in true anti-commercial style, not to mention other initiatives (like the Bomb, Intemperate, Nuclear Power Radio etc).

So the reasons for the end of Our Radio weren't just the TX. The main reason has been that they have called us 'our turn came up'. When they finally decided to get us on the TX and make 'cat and mouse' with them for about six weeks, since we could not afford to lose our TX and gear. This enraged them and they turned all their resources against us. For this broadcasting team it all got quite exciting, though our schmooze was decimated. Here's a brief countdown to closure:

The End of Our Radio

Wed. Dec 15th 82. The police and Home Office (now DTI) slip past our lookout and raid us on top of a Tower Block in Kilburn. One person was nickel and later fined £80 plus costs ('the quarter gets fined for admitting listening to pirate radio'). We were off the air for weeks building a new TX.

February 1983. We notice the Home Office are shadowing us, by monitoring their radio channel, lookouts, stations to keep clear of them and broadcast normally.

Wed 23nd Feb 83. They stage a full scale raid on us while broadcasting from a Tower block in Bermondsey. Our security works and we move ourselves and all the gear into a friendly flat, with good grounds to escape. Fuck you police. Then we put out the story that we ran down 15 stories and hid all night in a cupboard.

Wed 2nd March 83. We broadcast a full show from Edystone Tower in Deptford. Though the Home Office are about, watching us with night sights from a neigbouring tower block, a police helicopter buzzes us while putting up an aerial. We find out they can't get enough police support to bust us (there were only 3 of us). Good sport.
Andromeda
Andromeda Independent Radio began on Jan 23rd 1979, broadcasting from the Pennines to the Manchester, Sth East Lancashire area. Andromeda didn’t belong to any organisation, or rent its gear from anyone. They were non-profit making and decided everything at collective meetings. “We believe that community radio CANNOT be commercial radio... We broadcast: Greenpeace info, tapes of local bands, details of anti-nuclear/CND activities in our reception area and details of times/frequencies of land based pirates”. They also carried "inverted advertising" which they called the "Instant Rip Off!" show, publicising goods making excess profits or just being shit.

Andromeda were an excellent advertisement for low-power local piracy. They claimed their transmitter had only ½ watt power, yet could be heard 35 miles away from their broadcast site in the hills, and they produced reception reports to prove it. The TX cost them a mere £6, and they were able to transmit so far due to their height and by using a directional aerial with 'gain'. Andromeda were partly inspired by the earlier station, Radio Aquarius, which broadcast in the same area every weekend from April 1971 to May 1975. Aquarius finally gave up after repeated busts, one which followed a programme condemning the treatment of Black workers in South Africa. Andromeda too went for a long time and were busted several times before closing down around 1982.

Radio Active
Radio Active was another small anarchist pirate, who broadcast in the Totton area of North London in 1980. The collective put out a series of excellent programmes, concentrating on anti nuclear and anarcha-feminist issues. Before closing due to other commitments, they weren't busted. People inspired by Radio Active later went into our Radio.

Radio Avalon
Radio Avalon was a ‘Festival Pirate’ a precursor of Sheffield Peace Radio, which took to the airwaves to entertain and inform the 30,000 crowd at the 1983 Glastonbury CND Festival, broadcasting 72 hours of programmes. It was very well received, and broadcast with a tiny 1 watt transmitter, which covered the whole site and nearby Pilton village.

Cambridge Community Radio
We're sorry not to have a full report on CCR (see next edition!). Cambridge Community Radio began as an access station broadcasting music and local community services, an area of development, until it was put off the air with a series of heavy busts in 1983. People from CCR then took responsibility for pioneering the Free The Airways Network and Campaign over the next couple of years, and produced a series of well researched technical, legal and news bulletins, before passing the job on to a London based group.

SHEFFIELD PEACE RADIO

The idea of SPR came from Radio Avalon in 1983. At the time some CND supporters were flitting with the idea of setting up their own media in response to the almost total blackout by the press, TV and radio of their activities.

SPR broadcast in Sheffield during the CND conference on 2nd to 4th Dec. 1983 with a range of well programmes on peace issues and actions. Burt the CND hierarchy were hostile, refusing to endorse or advertise SPR (this was the last and last pirate at a CND Conference). However the broadcast itself was a great success, partly because of a co-op-up by the DTI and police, who persuaded Sheffield's commercial station Radio Hallam to close down temporarily to aid them in targeting SPR frequencies. In the end they didn't catch SPR, and when Radio Hallam closed everyone returned to SPR. Lots of good publicity.

to be continued by this a new, non-party collective began broadcasting as SPR, on CND conference opening in Feb 84. It consisted of music, news features and interviews on themes like the Miners Strike, the anarchist Stop the War demo, the Campaign against the Police Bill, Legalise Cannabis, anti nuclear and peace stuff, and not forgetting animal rights. The group developed quickly into a genuine radical local alternative, and had lots of encouraging interest and feedback. They also produced the booklet ‘Sound Advice’, advocating THAT MORE PEOPLE DO MORE THING. SPR was also active in the Free the Airways campaign and friends with Rebel Radio in Bristol. Radio Pleb and our Radio in London, and the short lived anarchist radio Revenue in Leeds.

However on 20th May 84 the police and DTI followed the bus they took to their transmission site (a field) and nicked all four of the SPR team and all the
Rebel Radio

Later in 1984 another local anarchist station came on the air in the Bristol area. Also on Sunday evening Rebel Radio broadcast anti nuclear, squatters, STC, and miners resistance news and apparently excellent music. While claiming to broadcast from 'top secret hideaway' Rebel Radio actually went out from the Avon tideway in a location Diner. The famous squat café and shop in Cheltenham Road. Although the police made a few failed attempts Rebel Radio was never busted and closed down due to 'transmitter and group problems'.

The Jackie Conspiracy

Radio Jackie began way back in 1969, and gradually built itself up into a 24 hour per day station, becoming Britain's biggest and only tolerated pirate broadcasting non stop pop and advertising to all SE England. Having built up a sizeable audience the station was bought by Tory controlled Sutton Council. Radio Jackie is a company, though it illegally fails to submit Accounts or Annual Returns (Jackie Ltd No 1928150). It was wholly controlled by Peter Strems and Michael Collis, who raked in at least £13,000 from advertising, while using volunteers to run the station. Jackie was no different from the Tories in '72 except it had more fees, restrictions and costs. As a pirate it was unique. It never got busted!

Jackie put out popular 'Community Image' with free ads for local classes, festivals, social events that they were MORE secure than the BBC. and all other pirates should be blighted. 'We broadcast nothing but morals, morals, CHD, animal liberation, politics or anything that might be considered controversial...'' Michael Collis... 'We have no links with other pirates. the ones who break into newspaper blocks and steal other peoples' electricity are criminals. and should be dealt with severely...'' With attitudes like this Jackie got the support of Tory Sutton Council and even 2 DC's, no wonder they weren't busted. (A labour amendment in the Council calling for a token amount of 'community input' was heavily defeated).

As for Peter Strems (CO-owner, Director and Secretary of Jackie and editor of the 'Experiment In Community Radio'. He stands firmly in the fascist extreme right of the Tory party. He's also a spokesman and writer for the Adam Smith Institute and a Director of the Centre for Atlantic Education in economics Ltd (No 1691243) - a bunch of which are fronts for the CIA! He also ran his own paper organisation called The Campaign for Successful Radio, which advocated US style commercial radio. Quite a bastard.

Community Radio Experiment After the Axe

The recent programme for experimental Community Radio in this country began, not because of campaigning by the liberal left Community Radio Association, nor due to pressure from pirates, but because Peter Strems and the Adam Smith Institute put together a report to the Government on 'Community Air'. The idea was to get Radio Jackie an open licence. People were then invited to apply for 21 local licences (for the whole country ) and a Home Office Panel was set up to assess applications. But the panel included members of the Community Radio Ass (CRA). All kinds of problems arose, and the decision was delayed for a number of times. And several hundreds of groups applied. Radio Jackie was left broadcasting (along with some others) to aid their application for a symbolic bust. There were more problems than expected. How many out lefty infiltrators etc. With this CR carrot the new 1984 anti-pirate laws were brought in. But the main problem was that the Home Office panel obviously EXCLUDED commercial stations like Jackie and Horizon. When Peter Strems and co realised this (they'd put in an extravagant bid reckoning they'd make £72,000 a week) they determined to wreck the whole scheme. It was 2 years too late to stop the scheme, but they did it, probably by getting their contacts in the CRA and the Home Office to make false allegations to the Home Office that their applicants were all lefty infiltrators trying to subvert the Tory controlled media. But more than that they persuaded the government that the whole idea of CR (open access and non commercial, if tightly controlled) was the opposite of Tory philosophy. Among the hundreds of applicants were a couple of Labour candidates. The government declared war on these 'communists' stations, JBC, supported by 'loony left' Brent Council, and an open access station 'Spectrum, supported by 'The Peoples Republic of Islington'.

Eventually (1986) Tebbit stepped in and announced that the whole CR experiment was being scrapped before it ever began. As Clement Freud of the Left commented... 'Could it be that Mrs Thatcher is afraid of the voices of ordinary citizens: that her government is so fond of the Murdoch media, but too dangerous to allow 21 community stations to experiment... We know that all along of course, and the scrapping of CR is no surprise to us.

ings Rebel Radio broadcast anti nuclear, squatters, STC, and miners resistance news and apparently excellent music. While claiming to broadcast from 'top secret hideaway' Rebel Radio actually went out from the Avon tideway in a location Diner. The famous squat café and shop in Cheltenham Road. Although the police made a few failed attempts Rebel Radio was never busted and closed down due to 'transmitter and group problems'.

As for Peter Strems (CO-owner, Director and Secretary of Jackie and editor of the 'Experiment In Community Radio'. He stands firmly in the fascist extreme right of the Tory party. He's also a spokesman and writer for the Adam Smith Institute and a Director of the Centre for Atlantic Education in economics Ltd (No 1691243) - a bunch of which are fronts for the CIA! He also ran his own paper organisation called The Campaign for Successful Radio, which advocated US style commercial radio. Quite a bastard.

Our first reaction to the axing of CR was joy and hope. Maybe the 100's of applicants would now get transmitters and go on air, giving the DTI and police an impossible job. The answer to this was a loud NO. Few of the applicants had any real interest or commitment and were pacified when the Home Office agreed to compensate them for their wasted time and money. The CRA, as the only recognised lobby group threatened its members that if they went pirate they would NEVER get a licence (the old 'wait till Labour gets in' trick). There were a few token protests and one ad on LBC both of which were amo of which are fronts for the CIA! He also ran his own paper organisation called The Campaign for Successful Radio, which advocated US style commercial radio. Quite a bastard.

Meanwhile Peter Strems and his mates set about rectifying their blunder. In Oct 86, at a meeting of the pissed off CR applicants, a new pressure group was set up, the Assoc. for Broadcasting Development, to represent the lobby for legalising commercial right wing pirates, on the US model, with a token 'community' input. If the CR experiment is ever revived by a Tory Government it will be the likes of this ABF (and NOT the CRA) who will be vetting the applications. If set up by a Labour Government the original scheme will certainly go ahead. The same old shit with different coloured box paper!
Free The Airwaves is still going strong, as an infor exchange and promotion group for radical local pirates. In this book we reprint their 5w transmitter design and add their new amplifier which takes it up to 25watts. (This amp. can be tuned for less power and used to feed the amp. design taking you up to 80watts.) Any technical queries, write direct to Free The Airwaves and join the network. 'Radio Crimes' is the name of the FTA bulletin, and will carry full technical updates on these designs, and much more. To join FTA and receive the bulletin send £2 (for organisations: £10) to the address above.

YOU AND THE HIT SQUADS

The idea of a community/neighbourhood Radio Station as part of a countrywide network has never been properly explored. In purely practical terms the viability of Free Radio has always been hampered by the activities of the ‘Hit Squad’ of the Dept. of Trade and Industry (The Radio Investigation Service). Stations able to afford highly sophisticated gear like a studio to transmitter microwave link have found themselves with court cases to be proud of and been put off the air with the confiscation of their gear. Few involved in 'propagandist' radio can afford such losses.

Low powered radio transmitters are cheap to replace (around £35 for a 4 watt one) but the most important factor for such stations to survive is to have the protection of the community they serve safe houses and flats to disappear into, guaranteed escape routes and refusal to co-operate with the R.I.S. which make such a station hard to put off the air. London could support 480 such stations operating over 1½ square miles, which would in itself make enforcement impossible. In Japan the manufacture of small FM transmitters (just a third of a mile range) has produced over 700 stations in Tokyo alone. Normal, 'big' radio has produced only one way communication to a false community invented simply by the act of broadcasting.

A small number of high powered transmitters means a greater filtering of input into the station as pressure on airtime grows and necessarily makes it more remote from the people who are supposed to be providing the programming. The only people who benefit from this are already organised pressure groups. Anyone with any pretensions to breaking down the mystification round transmitter and programme construction and providing a medium open to all is deluding themselves if they see high powered transmitters actually providing an 'alternative' voice, unless its the spurious 'alternative' of hip capitalism... no matter how good the intentions, accounting inevitably becomes more important than content.

This is not to say that the use of high powered transmitters should be ruled out. Radio communication has the advantage of being nearly instantaneous, virtually tamper free and best of all, its possible to broadcast into areas the state would never allow left propaganda to go. In situations like strikes, occupations and evictions radio is unique in its ability to pull people together in mutual aid and defence. Pirate radio in the service of left wing causes has still enough novelty value to attract an audience, and unlike other forms of 'propaganda by deed' its more likely to win the sympathy and even the involvement of the unaligned.

The main contention is that this kind of broadcasting has to be on a 'hit and run' basis if its to have any chance of survival.

The only way of producing an open access, de-mystified democratically controlled revolutionary radio out of the hands of the state is for it to be organised on a small scale neighbourhood basis.

ANTI AUTHORITARIAN RADIO

Every establishment radio station wants us to conform to its cosy image of the listener. They assume what we are and tell us what we should be, just to make sure. We're condescended to, given our xmas turkey recipe (we all eat turkey, don't we?) a dose of God (we all believe in him/her?) train delays in Surrey (where we live of course), the shares in the city (that we all have) flight arrivals from rich paradises (where we spend the winter). And then there's the token bit of 'community' charity as porky middle aged middle class males read out a few low paid jobs for the rest of us. Then its time for the news values straight from the Daily Mail, with anything not favourable to the state and its chiclets (the Nuke industry, the police etc.) laundered, suppressed and moved to some tiny 30 second slot after the latest on some royal.

When we're told we have 'Free Speech' its in a controlled way. In London we have Brian Hayes, an irritating pompous man who may give us one minute to 'air our views'. Well, Big Deal. In phone-ins, people are caged in the radio zoo for entertainment...listen to the proles 'getting it off their chest'.

The broadcasting system in the UK reflects all the embracing State, Monolithic, Patriarchal and Inaccessible. The existing system is designed to maintain and reinforce Law, Family, God, Men, Meat, Military, Might and Money and its not about to be voluntarily dismantled by the British Government. By handing out a few licenses (or not, as it happens) the State hopes to buy off and neutralise dissent, complaint, protest and investigative news because these are harmful to its interests. The monster will not bite off its own head.

Some believe its possible to use the existing legal framework for back door radicalisation but the machinery of the IBA can easily pressurise or close down any of the stations (if they ever start up!).

Campaigning for change isn't easy but its best done by establishing alternative low tech stations of whatever types (specialist music,political, anarchist, everything). This would give broadcasting a volatile dangerous edge and create a climate for flushing the Brian Hayes and the Steve Wright's away forever, and with this, a climate for more general political change. If we can reclaim the airwaves that will be a start.
Pirate Radio Scripts

PROGRAMME EXAMPLES

There follows two examples of programme scripts, which may inspire or at least amuse you. The first is from the anarchist/squatters news section of a programme called The Message, which used to go out across London on the open access pirate Our Radio back in 1983. The second is from the Miners' pirate, known by the media as Radio Arthur. Both scripts were produced and broadcast by people with very little experience.

We have to print them small so that they can fit...

SQUATTERS NEWS FROM LAMBETH

Intro and backing music 'Dirty Squatter' (punk song) - Louder between items.

VICTORY

The right wing alliance in Lambeth Council collapsed this week with the defection of Councillor Gordon Ley...for the 2nd time! Mr Ley has left the SDP and will now vote with the Labour group, giving them a one vote majority and bringing down the Thatcherite council. He claimed high motives for his defection, denying he has broken down under heavy pressure from local squatters.

MUSIC

In June when mass evictions of squatters became certain in Lambeth, Gordon Ley was one of the councillors who had his home graffitied with squatters' slogans and got a fake Notice to Quit his home. Then his lorry was vandalised and then his shop windows were smashed several times, and finally his beautiful car was stolen, graffitied and burnt out... No wonder the poor man broke!

MUSIC

JOY UNCONFINED

The news of the Council's fall (especially of the corrupt Thatcher imitation, Mary Leigh) was greeted with joy in the big squatted communities in Lambeth. It will mean at least a delay in the mass evictions and the demolition of the squatted streets in Heath Rd and Gypsy Hill, until the equally corrupt Labour Party get their act together.

MUSIC

BARRICADE FEVER

But down in Brixton town the squatters are showing no faith at all in Ted Knight and his new Labour Council. After all it's only a fortnight since Labour agreed to and signed the order to evict and demolish the squatted black clubs at the Front Line in Railton Road.

MUSIC

Latest news is that at least five houses are being barricaded against the police and bailiffs, all face imminent eviction after losing their court cases. The collapse of the Tory-led council seems to have spurred on the squatters to defend their homes, and they are relying on strong doors and their own Alarm Network, rather than the whims of corrupt politicians.

MUSIC FADEOUT...CRACK OF THUNDER...

Back to music from Ital Dub or other suitable

And now for a COMMERCIAL BREAK. (women's voice)

Are you homeless, sleeping out on cold winter streets?

Or are you just fed up with rents or mortgages?

Do you resent the Rat Race. Or are you lonely and just bored with life?

(new voice)

Well... TRY NEW SQUATTING TODAY!!

Yes today, we can offer you a choice of 100's of fine homes, abandoned by their owners, for ABSOLUTELY FREE. So why not come along to your friendly squatters meetings every Sunday at 121 Railton Road in Brixton. Or phone 2746655 for more information.

SO TRY NEW SQUATTING TODAY...

THUNDER and FADEOUT

Intro (Freedom/prison music) Louder between items

RIOT CASES (with 'Brixton Incident' starting in middle)

Last Tuesday people nicked in the previous Mondays riot in Brixton came to court at last in Camberwell. Police had used severe brutality in at least one case, tried to get another remanded in custody and tried to stop another getting Legal Aid.

In another case they were forced to suspend a ban on entering the Railton area. All cases were remanded to Dec. 16th in Camberwell Court.

MUSIC

BIG BROTHER (with clip of 'Left, Right, You're nicked')

This week we have more news of new security measure being tried in the Brixton area and Notting Hill. From now on the police will be using listening devices and 'other surveillance techniques'. This was in the Daily Express on Nov 15th. A new instant printout exchange, 1st of its type in Britain, which can 'monitor' 200 phone calls at once, will also be installed in, guess where, Brixton.

MUSIC

MORE BIG BROTHER

It has been announced that the new Brixton police chief will be Alex 'headbanger' Marquez, former head of the notorious SPG. An extra 28 officers have been permanently assigned to Railton Road (half of which is now demolished) under some pig called Inspector Bob Bligh.

MUSIC... 'Dancing in the Streets'

POLICE MADE FOOLS OF

On Wed 18th a local black youth was stopped in Railton he refused to be arrested, broke away, and led the police a long and merry chase. Even when a vanload of SPG joined in he managed to elude them all with a classic sprint.

End of Music......LAUGHTER.

And now...back to our regular spot... Its this weeks TOP OF THE SHITS

(new voice)

Well hello there... And this week we have a clearcut winner, in fact today is his birthday, yes its the Duke of Westminster, howdy baby, who owns 15,000 acres in Cheshire, 11,000 in Wales, 100,000 in Scotland 900 in Shropshire and 9000 just for starters. He has an estate in Fernanagh, shopping centres in Vancouver, a land development in Hawaii, a 10,000 acre sheep farm in Australia and 300 acres of Mayfair and Belgravia back home. This last little plot alone is worth a cool billion quid, so making it probably the biggest
stash in Europe. He's in his twenties and terribly camera shy. We're sorry we can't find his phone number, but he's definitely our TOP OF THE SHITS.

LAUGHTER

NOTRE DAME OCCUPIED (Hymn music)
Supporters of the Radio Libertaire, the Paris based anarchist radio pirate occupied the Notre Dame Cathedral on Saturday 5th November to protest at continued State Harassment

BREAK

STRAIGHT IN ANGRY...I'm Angry (poem with backing) cue tape ready)

TRUMPETS

(womens voice)

LADIES AGAINST WOMEN ('Gismo My way' fade in)
Yes, girls you too can be a real lady. just listen carefully to our MANifesto
1) Make England a MAN again...Invade abroad.
2) Protect the rights of the unconceptual..sperms are people too, yet millions are murdered daily.
3) Restore Virginity immediately as an O level requirement.
4) Suffering not Suffrage .. Let's get women out of the pollin booth and into the maternity ward.
5) £1.50 and hour is TOO MUCH for women. Its quite unadlylike to accept money for working.
6) Burn homosexuals. What was good enough for the dark ages is good enough for the Thatcher years.
7) Procreation not recreation recriminalise sex..close your eyes girls and do your duty for Britain.
That's it girls, so hurry up and join us now...yes we Ladies against Women have seen and not heard..join NOW and be seen at urgent unadlylike events in proper polyester attire, defending Ladies against Women.

(Mans voice)

To find out more..send your name, address and husbands permission to Ladies Against Women, The Thatcher for Ayatollah Committee, 4 Whitehall St, London ECI.

Donations, including Krugerand or cheques from your hubble or father are ALWAYS welcome. Motherhood is powerful! Why not ask them to join our mens club?..Ladies against Women supports the Monst MANopoly. We have the monopoly on Morality and God Incorporated is on our side!

TRUMPETS fadeout to Poison Girls I'm not your fucking mother.

Intro...INTERNATIONALE

And now listen for some bad and serious news that has come to us form VOLYA, the bulletin for Solidarity with the Soviet Working Class.

We are sorry to report the arrest last summer of the mathematician Valery Senderov, a member of the Soviet Free Trade Union, SMOT, on a serious charge of preparing and distributing SMOT'S underground info bulletin. He is still in prison. Also arrested was Natalia Lazaeva, for her activities in the unofficial womens movement. She has been charged with anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda.

Still in the Soviet Union, and Big Brother is here too. We report that the Soviet Press has recently been honouring the 50th anniversary of the death of a Young Communist informer, Pavlik Morozov, who effectively killed his own father by denouncing him in the purges of 1932. Pavlik was then killed by his grandfather and cousin in revenge and then they were shot. Pavlik was then built up as a Stalinist hero, lauded everywhere by the State, with a statue and a Museum in his home village. Now the Morozov story is kept alive to revive the purge atmosphere. Most Russians assume that at least one in ten people work part time as State spies. The CP Central Committee for instance gets on average 1500 letters of Denunciation every day.

INTERNATIONALE fade up and down

And now a word from Hungary, where there is conscription to join the army, and a growing number of conscientious objection. One of these Tobor Park, was arrested in the University church for staging a hunger strike to protest the confiscation of his passport. He was transferred to a psychiatric clinic where he had 6 teeth broken by wardens while being force fed. The institutions 'experts' stated that he was suffering from 'nagivation of food' and 'erroneous belief'. Happily he was eventually set free after protests by Hungarian intellectuals and Amnesty International. This comes from the Austrian Journal, Profil.

INTERNATIONALE

You can get a copy of the latest VOLYA, bulletin for solidarity with the Soviet Working Class, from 83 Gregory Crescent, Eitham, London SE3.

And now for another poetry spot..this one was written on May 22nd this year by the 18 year old Jimmy Heather Hayes in Ashford Remand Centre, the notorious youth prison, where he was being held for petrol bombing Taddington police Station on 3rd March at the height of the Falklands War. On 7th July Jimmy was found mysteriously dead, hanged in his prison cell, alone...These are his words.

(St London voice)

"I don't want no part Of your death and glory Don't want to rot Under wooden crosses I ain't going to die For your fat rich bosses I don't want a letter Saying I died a hero I don't want a wreath Its just a colourful zero I don't want no tales Of patriotic deeds Cos its off our deaths That your system feeds".

MUSIC....For J.H.H...CRISIS...P94.

We hope to have more of Jimmy Heather Hayes' poems for you next week. Meanwhile, to round off this part of The Message on a lighter note, we go over in a minute to our regular agony column with Auntie Annie.

OUR RADIO..JINGLE...AD...

Dear Auntie,...(middle class man's voice)....

I am a young go ahead business exec. in a consultancy firm. I have my own house and a sleek car and a nice little wife. All appears well, but still I'm dissatisfied. I'd really like to get to the TOP, or get involved in a really exciting hobby. Whats your advice....Yours...Alienated.

Dear Alienated....(womens voice)

Yes I quite understand your terrible problem. My advice is to go down today to the Centre Point building in London. Take a lift to the very top. Open a window, break it if it won't open. Consider the panoramic view, and throw yourself out!....with love....Auntie Annie.

Sound Effects FALLING CRASH LAUGHTER

Dear Auntie... (womens voice)

I have a problem. This man keeps following me home from the tube at night. Sometimes he follows me right up the stairs. Today I yelled at him to F**k Off, but he just stood there leering at me in the shadows. What can I do?....yours....desperate.

Dear Desperate

You're quite right to be worried. My advice is to get a gang of women together, wait for him in a quiet spot. Then beat the shit out of the bastard. Can I come?.....Auntie.

Backling Pink Panther theme fade in and out.
And here is a quick word from our sponsors

ARE YOU...running a prosperous business? Wealthy but would like to get richer? Pompous? Self seeking? Open to corruption??

IF YOU answered YES to all these questions then YOU are the sort of chap we want in THE FREE MASONs!!!

AND HERE IS WHAT YOU GET! (fade in and out)
A super set of handshakes to try out on strangers.
A super pliny to keep your pants clean when making Dirty Deals...
...The knowledge that you’re part of an elite group helping to keep Britain where it is...

A super clip to keep your trouser leg hoisted! (fade in and out)

SOUNDS GOOD?? but there’s a little catch. We have to approve you (we can’t have any old riff raff). A big car and wage packet are a definite PLUS.

Contact us now. If you’re a suitable candidate you’ll be fully trained in the art of Corruption and finally pass through a silly and embarrassing CEREMONY, full of mystical gibberish and hoisted trouser legs!

Note...Sorry ladies, this isn’t for you...But if you ask hubby nicely he might bring you along to an overpriced and exclusive dinner!

MUSIC fadeout

If time, Barrier Block + Berlin Evictions

Well we’re sorry that all we have time for this week. After a very short crackle and click we’ll pass you on to an hour of Women on the Waves, then Gaywaves, Radio Solidarnosc and finally late night music from the good, the BAG and the ugly.

...fade in The Message theme. ‘Don’t push me cos I’m close to the edge’

Radio Arthur

(JULY 1984. Breaking in on top of news bulletin of Radio Trent, ILR station)

A: Coal Grandad...what coal?
B: Coal’s what made this country the workshop of the world.

From coal we’ve built an empire. We’ve fought two world wars and won. We exported coal all over the world. We had the finest coal industry in the world, and the finest miners.

A: But Grandad...what happened?
B: I’ll tell thee, lad. Now, as I recall, a Tory government got into power and then the greedy fool closed down the pits that destroyed the mining villages and sold off best pits to highest bidder. In the end there was now, left to the mining industry. It was a terrible and shameful waste to the nation’s best assets. It was an absolutely terrible, terrible shame.

C: Mr Oppenshaw! Wake up Mr Oppenshaw, you’ve been dreaming.

B: Dreaming? That were no bloody dream, that were a nightmare. Commodores, don’t let your cola industry become a thing of the past...join the strike now, and never forget that todays blacklegs are tomorrow’s dole queues.

(Note: The start of this script is take-off of a Unigate Milk AD, and not a piece of rightwing nationalism! Ed.)

(Choir music, followed by the epitomised Northern tune ‘You’re a Lady’ by Peter Skellern. Fade to..)

B: It is not the normal practice of this radio station to read extracts from the newspapers, but this particular article has a special significance and highlights the real dangers of privatisation, which are to smash the trade union power, to make the workforce totally subservient, and to close down and asset strip any section of the industry that does not show enough short term profits. The article is from the TIMES newspaper.

(Reading of a newspaper clip relating to a cabinet sub-committee discussing ‘private investment’ possibilities for the NBC)

B: So there you are...And that from the TIMES newspaper. This could well be the fate of the Nottinghamshire coal pits...wholesale destruction of the industry. You have been warned. Join the strike now and help to fight against privatisation.

(More music...)

B: This government is committed to destroying the NUM at any cost and, according to the City Of London analyst Phillips Andrew, has spent £15 million a week so far. Truly amazing. Millions of pounds spent on smashing a trade union, while doctors turn away sick people from hospitals, and in some cases, send them home to die in misery for lack of money for the health service. I wouldn’t trust these Tories to run a public lavatory.

(Choir music, followed by the epitomised Northern tune ‘You’re a Lady’ by Peter Skellern. Fade to..)

B: ...We were very pleased to see our brothers from Cortonwood in Nottingham on Thursday August 23rd. The men from Cortonwood are marching to the TUC Conference in Brighton. We wish them well and Godspeed.

(Welsh Choir...)

B: ...To the Nottingham working miners I say this. If you want to save the pits, don’t believe the lies that the Coal Board tells you. Don’t believe the line about the high cost of breaking the strike. Don’t be fooled by what you see or hear on the media. Listen to what your union tells you. We care about the mining industry...jobs, the future...And now its the time for you to join the strike!

(GLORY, GLORY HALLELUJAH, again, building to ‘His truth is marching on NNKN!’)

Voice of Arthur blights the air

GUARDIAN 22/8/84

POLITICAL pirate radio, a rarity in Britain, is nearing its head again. It has nudged its way into the coalminers’ strike on the side of Arthur Scargill.

It is the first recorded instance of a pirate radio station broadcasting political material since Radio Enosh started its pirate broadcasts when British Telecom investigators got close. That was at the beginning of last year.

The pro-Scargill pirate radio is causing the Department of Trade and Industry (which has now absorbed the investigative side of British Telecom prior to its privatisation) even more trouble, because it is probably being operated from a series of private houses or a car boot.

The communications of “scabs” and the “pigeon carrier Ian MacGregor” have been going out in the Nottingham area on the same medium wave frequency (1057) as Radio Trent in Nottingham. Earlier this week the transmissions were heard near Radio Trent even more by also going out on VHF frequencies.

“IT is a sinister development, because it may mean the pirates have found some loophole in the Independent Local Radio System,” said Mr Tom Cole, managing director of Radio Trent.

For the past six weeks pro-Scargill Pirate Radio has been on air only spasmodically, exactly at the same time as Radio Trent news bulletins. Mr Cole said that he was not suggesting that Mr Scargill personally was broadcasting, but that extracts from pro-Scargill literature had been taped from radio, television or live meetings.

Mr Cole has been involved with Radio Trent for some years and has now been broadcasting the expressions of Mr Scargill against a background of martial music or Patti’s Jerusalem.

“Either they think it is us and are angry, or they know it is not us, but they are doing nothing to stop it,” said Mr Cole. “But it is difficult to trace the stations because they are so sparsely transmitted and seem to be made from different places.”

Radio Trent has complained to the Independent Broadcasting Authority, the Home Office and the DIT. Unfortunately the DIT is full of so much in the Nottingham area which has cut down investigations.

Mr Cole would not say how the pirates might have penetrated the system of the IBA, but said: “We are going to help people to understand that it is us.”
The Italian Explosion

It all happened in Italy after 1975, when hundreds of FM political pirates (left wing) took to the air. "The idealism of that first hour, when we thought we had found THE medium of communication...by and for the masses". Round the clock discussions were the order of the day, as literally everyone seemed to be on the airwaves! There were 'autonomists', housewives, anarchists, squatters, workers, women's groups, intellectuals, Marxists, etc., all clamouring to get their views across. Everyone spoke and sang and put out an incredible range of programmes. It was a revolution on the airwaves. "We did it for contra-information, against the media and the monopoly of the RAI...what went wrong in the end? Or was it just the 'live fast die young syndrome' at work?"

In 1975 there were suddenly hundreds of such stations in Italy. But by 1980 there were only 10's, and by 1985 probably not one.

The first repression of '76 to '77 was quite severe, but the pirates just kept coming back on air and had plenty of support. Then in 1977 a new tactic by the state...the law was suddenly changed in our favour, or so it seemed, as the RAI (State media body) was declared to be 'without authority'.

But this soon proved to be a curse in disguise, as swarms of commercial pirates began taking to the air. A long losing battle took place, as their money and high powered transmitters literally blotted us off the airwaves, one by one. A prime example of "free" capitalism destroying the creativity and collectivity of the people. By the end of 1977, as their numbers increased above 2000, commercial and party bosses began putting stations of up to 40 w on the air.

The big commercials brought back uniformity of programming and less and less spoken word. To raise their advertising profits they formed into chains, buying each other out and standardising their reactionary 'formula' programming.

As all this was happening the political pirates were themselves being divided, reflecting and reproducing the arguments then tearing apart the Movimiento (Movement) itself, before stupid and elitist acts of marxist terrorist resistance gave the State
Netherlands

Pirate radio here began back in 1974, with popular sea pirates like Radio Veronica, followed by a wave of successful land based Medium Wave pirates. In 1979 the police were Prevented from seizing the transmitter of Radio Paloma by 100's of outraged listeners.

The first FM pirates appeared around 1980, and the growth of the autonomous squatters movement after 1979 led to the first wave of Action Stations. The Vrij (Free) Keizer Radio was named after the huge squatted complex in the Keizersgracht in Amsterdam centre, where it broadcast from, and which proved impossible to evict. Others of the Action Stations still broadcasting today are Radio Rataplan and Radio Vrij Den Bosch. These stations broadcast mainly squatters and resistance news and music, and went live during big demos and riots. The police mainly tolerated them, except during demos etc when there were some heavy confrontations.

The Vrije Keizer was the main alternative pirate, dividing up its wavelength to allow womens groups, local squat groups, anarchists, ethnic groups etc to do their own radio, but many other stations followed in other cities and towns (eg. Stads Radio, Oranje, Zwarte @ , etc.) Many of these no longer exist, partly due to the relative decline of the movement after 1983, and partly due to police raids. Also the format of such stations has changed, with more stress on sub- and anti- culture, and less on direct action (but this may change again). Nevertheless some excellent pirates, including the Vrije Keizer, and also Radio Rataplan and Vrij Den Bosch survive as brilliant examples to the rest of the world.

The number of commercial FM pirates exploded after 1980, with estimates of 6 to 10 thousand (Insiders say 10 to 20 thousand) pirates totally overwhelming the authorities. But this does not seem to have 'blotted out' any of the Action Stations, as happened in Italy (perhaps this has some relation to the flat ground?). Each year about 3500 pirates are raided, and there has been heavier repression since the start of 1985, but it still fails to stop them. There is a State plan to open up Cable Radio, in 86/87 as a means to divide and rule the pirates.

At the end of 1985 there was a youth conference in Amsterdam for pirates from around Europe. At the same time a new station, Factum FM had opened up, and also the 'Radio Cafe Marconi' which was a development of 'open Microphone programmes, with the aim of direct participation.

By 1986 times were changing, though the squatters were being slowly defeated the struggle had broadened a lot, with a whole range of Direct Action groups attacking sexism, racism, militarism, nuclear power, apartheid, pollution etc, giving the pirates plenty to report. In 1984 Radio Got had developed a new wild style, starting from the Vrij Keizer 'stable' it soon distanced itself from the Movement to take in a wider audience. Activists saw Got as a trendy sellout, while the producers claimed they included all the action news, while adding their own music programmes. And they did broadcast live from mass squat centre of Wyers, during the struggle to evict and demolish it for a Holiday Inn. Got died soon after, and some of her crew went into legal stations, as predicted, while others joined Factum FM, to make radical news and documentaries, as well
as drama, experimental music and open access programmes.

**Vrije Keizer Radio**

The Vrije Keizer Radio (V KR) was born of the Amsterdam squatters movement, and has stayed a part of it ever since, reflecting the breadth and creativity, as well as the internal contradictions of that movement. It began at the end of 1979, broadcasting from six heavily barricaded squats, known as the Grote Keizer, in central Amsterdam. After the victory of the Vondelstraat Riots in Feb 1980 the Grote Keizer became a symbol of freedom and a big problem for the State. VKR began as a small local FM station at the beginning of the FM pirate boom, and broadcast on 101.1mhz throughout the gigantic ‘Queens Day Uprising’ of April 30th, 1980.

The Grote Keizer could not be evicted, instead the Council bought the houses, and allowed the occupiers to stay there...on the condition that the Vrije Keizer Radio should MOVE OUT! But this divide and rule tactic turned out to be a blessing. VKR got itself a bigger transmitter and started broadcasting for 2 hours each day from a squat in a different neighbourhood (moving each day). This brought much wider support and interest, and many different groups came and went. For a long time the line-up was Womens Radio (Vrouwenradio) on Tuesdays, Anarchist Radio on Wednesdays, the Fip area on Thursdays, weekend from the Central area, etc. The radio went on like this for years, basically different groups sharing a transmitter and moving it about, but it wasn’t strong enough (or high enough) to cover the whole city, and interest wasn’t that high, except during actions or evictions.

**RIOT RADIO.**

Whenever there were actions, riots or evictions on a big scale everyone was suddenly tuning in to the Vrije Keizer for the real news. For instance during the Oct 82 ‘Lucky Lyuk’ evictions and resistance the VKR went live throughout, with on the spot interviews and instant information on police movements. This could be done through reporters and phone-ins, as well as a direct phone line we had with the ‘Scanner Group’. This Scanner group are basically radio ‘biffs’ who tune in to the police radio (which is not on a public wave band as it is in the UK) and follow them with computer scanners. Important police communications are now ‘scrambled’ but it wasn’t long till the Scanner Group had their own de-scrambler. Activists carried small radios with them, often with earphones under their hoods, tuned to VKR, they often knew in advance the exact movements of the mass of riot police, and could decide their own response in instant street meetings. In fact it got to the stage that, with all our resources and people, we had a better picture of the battle than the police themselves, and they too were tuning in to VKR to find out what was going on.

During that particular ‘Lucky Lyuk’ eviction riot the police made a major attack on the Tetterode squatted buildings from where we were broadcasting, but when our listeners heard it reinforcements rushed to the area, and the police had to fight their way out, only to find they had seized two transformers instead of the transmitter! Within an hour VKR was back on the air, playing a crucial role in the struggle. There have been several other police attacks on VKR when broadcasting ‘riot radio’ but up to now they have never captured a transmitter.

By 1983 the weekend ‘Central Amsterdam’ group (mainly music) wanted to split off, with the reason that VKR was ‘too unprofessional’. The solution was to build 2 new transmitters, and keep the present one as backup. These were paid for by donations, gigs, and the new ‘Flux’ squatters disco which had begun in the Tetterode. The weekend group became ‘Radio Got’ (God) with a big new 200watt transmitter, which they shared for a time with the Vrouwenradio (women’s), while the Anarchists and the Pip groups shared a 100watt rig. All the groups still used the same 95.5mhz wavelength, and co-operated for evictions, but otherwise not with Radio Got, who the others considered too trendy and becoming. The new transmitters covered the whole city, and better aerials and broadcast sites were also used. More volunteers came forward and things got better, with lots of brilliant programmes, especially on squatting, anti-militarism, anti-nuclear anti-sexist and third world struggles, as well as many discussions, open microphone sessions and lots of recordings of live bands. VKR also occasionally broadcast gigs or conferences live from squatted buildings. By this time programmes had become more structured, with regular news times, and background programmes and features.

**VRIJE KEIZER TELEVISION 1982 - 83.**

In late ’82 a gang of TV pirates suddenly appeared, broadcasting through the cable television networks. (Amsterdam is all cable) They did it after the regular channels had closed down, there was a legal hitch in stopping them because the Cable company’s constitution said the cable had to be left switched on. The TV pirates put out crappie music, advertising, music videos and lots of pretty gruesome porn. That is except for Vrije Keizer TV (VKTV) which began transmitting excellent unshown videos on the squat movement, the German movement, the Womens Strike, the 3rd World, and ads for squatters bars etc. This was the first ever anachro-squatters pirate TV, and of course it was superb. Making and editing videos is however 10 times the work of making a cassette tape (at least) for radio. Before the VKTV really got itself well the Cable company got around their legal hitch and switched off the pirates. The VKTV group kept going for a while, making their own videos and
trying to get a regular TV transmitter together. This latter proved too hard and expensive (since everyone was on cable) but the videos still come out.

RECENT HISTORY

1984 brought new problems and challenges, with the decline of the squatters movement. The Spuigroep (anarchists) finally stopped broadcasting on VKR, and 'non commercial' music pirates began on the same frequency, these were WHS, Rabotnik and RVZ (a student pirate) and co-operated with Radio Got who had become popular, had their TX stolen twice (probably by commercial pirates). The Womens Radio stopped sharing with Got, which split in two and Radio Twist (an anti-commercial music and politics group) was born. Then the Black Women's Radio began as well, and the new line-up was VKR, Tues, Wed, Thurs. Radio Got, Fri, Sat. Radio Twist, Sun afternoon. Womens & Black Womens, Sun Eve.

Due to regular fortnightly meetings the various groups managed to co-operate in sharing equipment, frequency and often studios, despite their obvious political diversity.

At the present time VKR reckons to have about 1000 listeners at any one time, with everyone tuning in for evictions or major demos. Recent feature programmes have included: Anti-prisons, The junkie problem, the anti-Olympics campaign, Co-ops, Ireland/Nicaragua/Iran/Sth Africa etc, a regular squat

news programme, the anti gas price increases campaign, phone-ins, music, etc. Just now we're interviewing old people about their youthful experiences.

For a while a left wing Turkish group joined in on Monday evenings, before getting their own station together. But shortly afterwards their station (Halk Der) had to close after heavy fascist attacks. VKR itself then came under attack, after we made a programme about the Turkish Fascists, the Grey Wolves, and their "democratic" fronts, with the names of those involved (often getting Council grants!) The programme was jammed out twice by the fascists, but went out the third time, starting a scandal. They did not attack our transmitter site, which is a heavily fortified squat with good escape routes.

In 1985 there were further changes. Radio Twist split off and Got died finally. Radio Factum began their Radio Cafe Marconi. A new Grachten Radio (Centre) joined in, based on the big Frankrijk squat, cafe and pub, and finally a German group began International Radio (¼ Dutch ¼ German) on Fridays.

Due to regular meetings these diverse groups got on OK for a while, but eventually Rabotnik, WHS and Factum got together on 100mHz. By late 86 VKR had actually closed down, but may now be back on the air.
In Zurich the women's radio, WELLNEXEN and SCHWARZ - KHATZE (black cat) still do some broadcasts. The police are very quick to attack any pirates, using the British pretext of 'causing radio interference'. Radio 24, the huge commercial pirate broadcasting from Italy is now closed down. In Zurich a group of alternative radio buffs and ex pirates got together under the name LORA and got a legal frequency from the State when some were handed out in 1982. 32 licences were given from 230 applications, to 31 commercial stations...and LORA, as a 5 year experiment. The irony is that only LORA is prospering, due to membership, donations, benefits and volunteer workers. Its quite a democratic station and encourages listener participation. Different groups put out Womens progs., newsnight, culture, music, etc., LORA's view is this: "If the state extends our licence in 1988 we can see our project as a failure".

West Germany

"Radio must be changed from a means of distribution to a means of communication" wrote Bertold Brecht in 1932, and it is as true today. In East Germany the State has taken total control of the media, while in the West an unholy alliance of State and big business contrives to be nearly as authoritarian and restrictive. Historically the German workers have been among the first to practice free radio. During the 1918 uprising and Revolution people took control of radio stations and illegal radio broadcasts (ArbeiterRadioBund) persisted throughout the Weimar Republic.

Despite well organised and very serious efforts, pirate radio has now been all but wiped out (but for one notable exception) in the whole of West Germany.

The Action Radios still exist, but have been reduced to doing 10 minute programmes, with new names every time. And unfortunately there aren't enough 10 minute pirates on one wavelength to make them worth listening out for. The repression of any non conformist views, actions or even dress is now very heavy, with the squatters movement wiped out completely and activists continually persecuted by the computer controlled police force. It takes ten minutes from when you switch on your transmitter before a gang of riot police breaks down your door. Hence the 10 minute pirates. Such pirates can also occasionally be heard in the Eastern Bloc (eg Radio Solidarnosc) and in the USSR. The action stations are always trying to reappear, for instance during big demos (eg the broadcasts from moving cars during the StartBahm West campaign against the new US airbase at Frankfurt). In Berlin, Radio Metropolis now broadcasts from the Eastern Sector, where the position is slightly easier, and Radio Gaga still exists as far as we know. There are no commercial pirates to worry about in Germany. Another popular method pioneered in Germany is Break Ins (see How to Broadcast Section), quick interceptions of programmes on local or national radio, usually a quick message about a demo, or a responsibility claim for an action by one of the increasing number of guerrilla resistance groups.

RADIO DREYECKLAND

The only and total exception is Radio Dreyeckland, whose story is an inspiration. It was begun way back in 1977, by a coalition of French, Swiss and German anti-nuclear activists, who broadcast across the borders from mountainous forest to France and to the Freiburg area of Germany.

Radio Dreyeckland began with a weekly dual language programme and the police and PTT (French) had no luck finding the transmitter, despite attempted raids. After 1981 they were tolerated by the French authorities and the station split into five different transmitting sites, serving different local areas in Germany and France. By 1984 they were doing 2 hours a day, and then jumped to 6 hours a day, with broadcasts from France beamed to a mountain/forest transmitter and re-directed into Germany. The original anti-nuke pirate was also still going strong.

The daily news programmes deal in subjects like the environment, 3rd World, gays, prisoners,
ethnic minorities and the independent music scene. By this time Radio Dreyeckland had much support in Freiburg, with democratic listeners meetings, support gigs, membership, donations etc. The pirate receives no state, party or commercial backing of any kind and is all volunteer, except for a few office workers. The French part is now legalised, but in Germany you can't even apply for legalisation! However in 1985 the German State put out feelers about licensing some commercial stations. Radio Dreyeckland responded by coming down from the mountains and attempting to broadcast in Freiburg itself!

On 20th April 85 Radio Dreyeckland began to broadcast in Freiburg, from a studio open to the public. Five days later in a massive police raid the entire building was smashed to bits, despite hundreds of people turning out to defend the station. But the transmitter could not be found anywhere, and meanwhile a second hidden transmitter was continuing the programme! Ha Ha.

In July there was a second raid, again everything was destroyed, and people were badly beaten up by the riot police. But again...the police COULD NOT FIND THE TRANSMITTER! Obviously Radio Dreyeckland had spent years in the mountains planning this strategy! They followed house raids on radio staff and supporters, confiscating much gear and personal possessions. But by now support and goodwill were at a very high point, especially in Freiburg, and after a summer break Radio Dreyeckland came back on the air, broadcasting 6 hours a day from Freiberg.

Radio Dreyeckland, Habsburgerstr. 9, 78000 Freiburg

Spain The next to Go

At the end of the 1970's Spanish radio was still much like that before World War Two in the rest of Europe, thanks of course to the fascist dictatorship of General Franco. A year after his death the State monopoly of radio was broken, and a year after that the first Free Radios appeared, along with commercial pirates.

In 1983 all the Free Radios in Spain united in the CRLE Federation and agreed on a common charter, to fight against commerce on the one hand, and State censure on the other. They voted to:

1) Keep independent of political parties and trade unions.
2) To promote independent artists labels.
3) To transmit only with a limited power, so as many as possible could get on the air.
4) etc.,

There are by now hundreds of good Free Radios in Spain, for example Radio Pica, broadcasting alternative culture, news and listener participation, 22 hours a day. Or Radio Luna in Madrid, more interested in anti-militarism, prison struggles, squatting, etc., broadcasting 6 hours a day and supported by its workers.

There are also some independent anarchist stations among the pirates, for example Radio Libertaria in Valencia.

Denmark

There aren't any pirates that we know of in Denmark. Two years ago 84 stations were legalised for a 3 year experiment on local radio and were given 10watt FM transmitters. Of these about 10 could be described as progressive, but only one, Radio Sokkeland, in Kopenhagen, is run by alternative groups. In Radio Sokkeland about 100 activists put together 48 hours of radio a week. Its mostly aimed at young people. Commercials are prohibited, cash is given by groups linked to the stations who can make programmes on the same basis as the workers, taking a part share in the technical and administrative work. Some of the Sokkeland people had tried a pirate station, a year earlier, but it was raided and sunk by the police within 48 hours. Now as long as they can say what they like, they don't mind being legal. There is some frustration, however, for instance an anarchist radio worker was put in jail in Aarhus for advocating an action on the air.
France: Political Battle

The pirate explosion in France in the late 70’s was heavily repressed by the right wing regime led by Giscard D’Estaing, and there were a long series of busts, seizures and arrests. In France the battle was intense from the start, with many thousands of people involved in Free Radio (partly due to heavy political control of the ‘straight’ media) and the State taking the ‘danger’ very seriously.

The first to transmit regularly was Radio Verte in 1977, soon followed by stations like Radio Lorraine of the Longwy steelworkers and Radio Verte Fessenheim, an anti nuclear station in Alsace. The Federation, L’Association pour la Liberation des Ondes, ALO, (Free The Airwaves) began also in late 77.

In the run-up to the May 1981 General Election the continued repression of the pirates became an election issue, with the ascendant socialists supporting legalisation, and even setting up Radio Riposte, their own pirate, which of course got legalised when they won. After May ’81 there was a huge explosion of cultural, music and political pirates all over France, with seeming ‘carte blanche’ from the new Socialist Government. But the State moved quickly to control the situation. From 1982 a number of ‘Radio Projects’ were indeed legalised, along with some of the Free Radios, but those favoured were the big commercial pirates, with their uniform music and style, while the State tried to keep a monopoly on the ‘serious’ radio listeners. It became very difficult for the smaller militant radio pirates to survive and fight off the superior power (in watts and money) of these commercial and State stations. There were by now several Federations, the FNRL with 300 stations wanted to remain non-commercial, with ‘civic participation’. Repression began again, gradually, against the smaller militant stations who couldn’t or didn’t want licences, but also against the wave of unlicensed commercial pirates. The government was hostile to an ‘Americanisation’ of the airwaves, and took note of what had happened in Italy. This worked in favour of the militant anti-commercial Free Radios, though some left/cultural pirates also wanted to sell advertising.

One major success story is that of Radio Libertaire, the station of the French anarchist federation, which was raided, legalised, banned, raided again and now tolerated with an extensive listenership. (See next section).

Another from this stable is Radio Mouvance, which was started by an Anarchist Syndicalist from Radio Libertaire in March ’83 as a very radical ‘youth experimental’ station with open access to a range of left wing and minority groups and campaigns. Radio Mouvance refused to even consider legalisation, and began to broadcast 24 hours a day on an anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-imperialist basis. It soon became a platform for many extreme left groups as well as anarchists, foreign workers, prisoners, 3rd World independence fighters (like the PLO and militant Kanaks), gays, etc. But it was the style of Radio Mouvance that made it so different...“it is a dazzling hotch-potch, one minute hunger striking prisoners, the next minute press releases from Action Directe, then music etc. To facilitate this style and lively participation 5 different phone lines were plugged into the mixer at all times, leading to a brilliant, if a bit cacophonous effect...” We don’t want to be legalised, at present 3,000 ‘projects’ are still awaiting their licence. We say that licensing one means censoring the rest, and the licensing process has everything to do with promoting business and becoming commercial. For example 15 of the 22 legalised stations have already been bought and sold again, even that of the ‘radical’ newspaper Liberation”.

Big money had indeed become one of the main factors in the struggle. Mouvance itself had 3 failed attempts to seize their transmitter, followed by two successful raids by the police in July ’85, but came straight back on air, despite more threats of raids and arrests. The station is anti-commercial, very much so, and functions by the support of listeners, workers, and from benefits. Its main demand is that part of the FM band, 104 to 108 mhz be given over for non commercial radio, with no further regulations by the State. With the return of Chirac and the right in 1986 the days of stations like Radio Mouvance were strictly numbered. There have been further raids and persecution, and as far as we know Mouvance is not presently on air.*


FRANCE... LATE NEWS... Dec. ’86

In Paris there are now about 80 stations on the FM band, as opposed to a mere half dozen in most parts of Britain. Of course many of the French stations are pirates, including a host of rock stations and minority stations, often sharing frequencies, for a dozen different international tastes. Still going strong at the end of 1986 are Radio Libertaire (89.4MHz), Radio Mouvance (106MHz), Frecuencia Galica, anti-commercial gay station (97.2MHz), Radio Ici at Plaisance, Ca Bouche dans ma Tete (93.8MHz) and many more. The CIA station, Voice of America, has a pirate repeater on 94.8MHz, and there seems to be one right wing pirate, Radio Solidarite, on 99.3MHz.

*
Radio Libertaire: long, hot Summer

There follows an interesting interview with "Laurent" of Radio Libertaire on the attacks on the pirate in the summer of 83, and how they were successfully resisted.

Magazine Libertaire: At the start of summer '83 what was happening with the FM pirates, was Radio Libertaire prepared for an all-out attack?

Laurent: The campaign began with a concert in support of Radio Libertaire, featuring Bernard Lavilliers, at the Olympia on June 30th. It was typical of the 2 months that were to follow: heated, rhythmic, intimate and full of surprises!

"Free Radios...Watch out for the Holidays" warned the headline of our weekly, Le Monde Libertaire, on July 7th. A few days before, Fillioud, the Minister responsible, had said that 11 complaints had been lodged against stations in Paris for "using frequencies without permission" and promised such pirates would be removed after a short delay to allow appeals under a plan by the Media Ministry. We saw this as a Declaration of War and began mobilising our supporters, listeners and sympathisers. A hot summer was upon us.

Magazine Libertaire: Was this kind of campaign really possible in mid-summer?

Laurent: During a June broadcast Leo Ferre (an anarchist who is also the most popular singer/songwriter in France) had proclaimed "You can count on me if things get rough and you're put off air". And furthermore 1000's of listeners were saying "We are with you". This mass support in July '83 hadn't come by the flick of a magic wand. Friendships and political alliances had been forming on a daily basis since our first broadcast in Sept. '81. Through Radio Libertaire (mainly) the idea of "an anarchist milieu" had come back after a long absence, allowing us to escape from the "folkloric marginality" the media and politicians had relegated us to. Radio Libertaire reached 1000's of people. A minority were anarchists, libertarians and sympathisers, but the vast majority weren't in any broad agreement with our politics. Yet everyone had got a strong attachment to the station, and this was clear as early as summer '82 when the 'List of Authorised Stations' was announced without Radio Libertaire on it. With this support we were already facing up to our old enemy, the State, in confident mood. The holiday season was however a big drawback, as a big proportion of our listeners were away from Paris.

Magazine Libertaire: How did the summer's events unfold?

Laurent: It started with a long period of waiting.
Radio Libertaire proposed a 'common front' of all the Free Radios, but unfortunately there was no lack of manipulations, provocations and attempts at recuperation (even the rightwing paper Le Figaro was doing somersaults, waxing lyrical about 'justice and freedom for the Free Radios'). We steered well clear of this type of activity, and our stubborn determination was to be seen far away from the backrooms where the government and Free Radio representatives were plotting...the liquidation of the Free Radios themselves! Our attitude gained us respect and we became an important example to the rest. On 17th Aug., just as it was being suggested that the government might back down, 'Carbone 14' was busting off the air, sending a shock through the FM pirates. Radio Libertaire acted immediately against the 'vandalism of the Carbone 14 studios'. But another station 'Frequncie Gaite' were quick to begin broadcasting on the same frequency, now allocated to them, and so shattering the so-called unity of the Free Radios.

At 6.00am on 20th August six more stations were raided by the CRS (French paramilitary police). These were 'Lumiere 101'(fundamentalist catholic), 'Made In Italy', 'Le Voix du Cedre (Lebanese pirate'), 'Radio Tiers Monde' (3rd World) who had all their gear smashed, and 'Radio Arabe Paris'.

That evening Fillioud announced that 'the radio waveband is saturated, when a plane has 145 seats there's no room for 50 extra passengers'.....

Magazine Libertaire: In this tense situation, what was the mood at Radio Libertaire?

Laurent: Tragic, cos we knew the seizure of our equipment was imminent, but our mood was fantastic. All of us there and the listeners and the militants of the Federation Anarchiste were prepared to fight to protect our station. We had no idea when they'd come so several teams were set up to patrol the area and to warn us by CB's if the police were coming. The studio was barricaded and we stayed on air 24 hours a day. The phones were ringing day and night with support calls. The government was mistaken if they thought the holidays would stop our support. We waited, hot and tense, till 5.40 am on Sunday August 28th. A militant had spotted police and the information was put on the air immediately. But by the time we could say they were definitely coming for us it was too late for supporters to get in. The police quickly cordoned off the surrounding area. The door was broken down by the CRS, those present were being beaten and kicked, and the aerial was cut. But we had got a phone call through to the pirate 'Ici Et Maintenant' (Here & Now), who began immediately broadcasting news of the raid. Listeners and anarchists were already arriving, despite the early hour, but couldn't get through the CRS police lines. Further away militants in cars were being stopped by plainclothes cops pointing guns in their windows! Some Radio Libertaire listeners were beaten up as they were forced to watch the painful spectacle without being able to help. Technicians cut down the aerial, the equipment was loaded into a truck and driven away, and all those present in the studios were hauled off to the police station.

And that was that. Worse than the expected silence on the Radio Libertaire frequency 'France Culture' came on broadcasting early morning Mass!

There was no question of giving in. The raids were given the number one slot in the media. From the Anarchist Federation's HQ in Amelot Street the news went out to the 4 corners of the world: the response will be worldwide!

A little later in the morning the 'clean-up' of the FM band, so dear to Monsieur Fillioud, was completed as the CRS, using tear gas, seized first 'Radio Voka', then 'Radio Mouvance' and finally 'Jet Theleme'. Twenty two pirates had been seized since 17th Aug.

Magazine Libertaire: What kind of support work took place.

Laurent: Outside of Paris the French Anarchist Federation groups did a variety of actions as well as petitions. But the international anarchist movement also responded, with actions in Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Australia, Japan, the USA, Mexico, etc. In Madrid the CNT (anarch-syndicalist union) was received by the French ambassador, as was the ANORG in Norway and the Syndicalist Fed. in Sweden. The IFA, SIA and numerous groups, organisations and publications sent telegrams to the Prime Minister. In Paris a demo was called for 3rd Sept, to which all the other Free Radios were invited. At this point the only way to contact Radio Libertaire was through the @ Fed. bookshop. A few other stations did great work, especially 'Ici Et Maintenant' in giving access to pirates who had been raided. Without stations of our own, we heard our listeners on other stations!

In a few days 1000's of tracts, posters and a special edition of Le Monde Libertoire were printed to tell our listeners of the demo. On the morning of the 3rd, militants who had hardly slept for 2 months, were making the final preparations, putting loudspeakers into cars, finishing up banners, etc. The bookshop was packed, beating all previous records, and the 2 phones couldn't cope any more. The hour of truth was approaching. By 2.00pm there was no longer suspense...Supporters in their 1000's were thronging into the Place De La Republique. The demonstrators streamed into the Boulevard de Magenta, shouting 'Radio Libertaire will not be silenced'. Banners unfu-
ried reading 'Civil Liberties Union', 'Pacifist Union', 'CNT', 'Les Occupants Renovateurs', 'Libre Pense', 'CGT proofreaders', etc. People were in great mood. No one wanted it to be a sombre funeral procession. Other pirates, including Radio Voka, Carbone 14 and Amplitudes FFI had responded to the call. The mood was festive as we began to arrive at the Barbes. Not far away, in the studio devastated by the riot police, Julian, our technician, was preparing the highlight of the day: Radio Libertaire, back on the air!

The microphones were attached to sticks of wood, and thanks to Julian's brilliant improvisation, it worked! The transmitter was set up and purring on the toilet seat. At 4 o'clock Lavié, 'Belonging To No One' was ready to be broadcast. If the cops returned this time there was nothing to stop them except the door which had already been smashed in!

The broadcast was heard, on some radios and via the sound gear we had set up in the demo, and was well received by the 1000's of people present.

Magazine Libertaire: What conclusions do you draw from this period of Radio Libertaire's history?

Laurent: By our determination we were able to go back on the air, and later to force the State to give us an infamous 'permit', whereas our enemies, who are very numerous, were saying our chances of survival were nil. Though the anti-anarchist laws are still in place, we have forced the state, the media and the rest to admit the existence of the anarchist movement.

The main thing that summer was that we discovered something new, which I think is crucial for the Federation and Movement: Radio Libertaire had found a true place in the heart of the public.

Translation by M.W. (thanks)

Belgium: Victory for Pirate Flood.

As in Italy and France the first Belgian 'Radios Libres' began in the late '70s, followed by a deluge of commercial pirates. After a period of tolerance the State began legalising some stations after '81, and by mid '83 880 stations had been legalised on FM. Those especially favoured being stations which had fallen back into the standard 'professional' routine.

There are two federations, Free The Airwaves is the voice of the 'Radios Libres', but is losing out steadily to the commercial Federation (GRIB). There is still a deep gap between the Flemish (dutch speaking) and French speaking communities, and this is reflected among the pirates. In addition the 'straight' Belgian media is quite politicised, with the French channels mainly supporting 'socialist' parties, while the Flemish being mainly Christian Democrat. The 'Liberals' (the fascist party) don't get much air time, and have sometimes joined up with right wing commercial pirates to get on air. In a recent scandal Radio Free Europe (a CIA channel) made use of a Belgian pirate. So there's a deep division between the 'radios Libres' and the commercial pirates. In addition, in the French speaking areas commercials aren't allowed on any channel. Its all a bit confusing.

One of the least commercial and oldest of the FM pirates in Flanders is Radio Toestel in Ghent. It's half financed by benefits and donations and has a democratic structure with at least 80 volunteers. In 1985 Radio Toestel was given a whole frequency and went legal, merging with Radio Central from Antwerp. In Brussels Radio Air Libre has now also been legalised, despite its name its mainly an art and culture station, though it does allow groups to make their own programmes. It was with Radio Air Libre that Chantal Paternostre was working at the time of her arrest and frame up for CCC bombings (see inside cover). We don't have more info at present about the radical FM pirates in Belgium.

Ireland

After a decade of confusion and a growing herd of mainly music pirates the Coalition Government have agreed amongst themselves to license a number of 'non-commercial, community managed' stations. There are already a half dozen pirates calling themselves 'Community Radios' up and down the country, and this is good news for them, especially the famous Bray Community Radio. But the music pirates, some of which claim higher audiences than RTE the State system, will face a crackdown. Typical 'divide and rule' tactics. There aren't really any alternative music or politics stations on the air that we know of. Surprisingly Sinn Fein haven't got a pirate together, considering they're banned from speaking on state radio or TV. The Irish republic has also been a haven for international short-wave pirates.
The Rest of the World

Once you move outside Europe you're talking about very different cultures and political situations, and the experience of such pirates is not so relevant.

Radio is a part of the international battleground, the medium, for instance was used effectively both by Hitler's fascists, who excelled at mass propaganda, and by the French and other resistance partisans. After the 2nd world war almost every conceivable guerrilla and national liberation movement had its own 'pirate' stations...the Irgun, the IRA, Basque separatists, Kurdish rebels, Spanish or anti-communist exiles, etc., etc. During the Cuban revolution, for instance, there were at least 9 stations battling it out, 3 revolutionary and 6 run by the CIA and the Right. These included the famous 'Radio Rebelde' set up by Che Guevara in the Sierra Maestra in 1958, which set the tone for later resistance and 'people's' radio.

For the purpose of examining overseas pirates we can divide them roughly into five groupings: Commercial / Sub cultural, alternative / subversive, anti-state / Community, participatory / and Revolutionary, nationalist.

In fact the label 'pirate' itself becomes quite meaningless, for instance in civil war struggles, and are not the superpowers, BBC World, Voice of America and their Soviet and Chinese equivalents, guilty of much worse than pravity in flooding wavelengths in every corner of the world with their more or less subtle power propaganda.

Central America

EL SALVADOR.

A good example of a classic revolutionary nationalist pirate is Radio Venceremos in El Salvador, broadcasting from the liberated Marazan mountains despite continuous army and air force attacks by the right wing US funded regime. Radio Venceremos is the voice of the FMLN federation of guerrilla movements and began regular broadcasts on 15th June 1981, after a year of sporadic 'people's revolutionary radio' in the capital city. During the '82 'elections' the air force failed to bomb Radio Venceremos off the air, and they had to be jammed out by US vessels offshore. The station gives a completely different world view to the State media, and is well supported by the poor and dispossessed (90% of the people). Such radios are an essential part of building and participating in a pre-revolutionary movement, in this case one postponed indefinitely by US intervention and the Death Squads campaigns. One danger of such radio is that it can perforce become cut off from its supporters, and also lends itself too easily to institutionalisation as the 'party radio' of the new state after such a left nationalist revolution. Radio Venceremos has tried novel ways to gain audience participation, for instance in Jan '86 when they invited their audience to gather information on suitable targets for sabotage, and send it to a Box Number in Mexico City!

BOLIVIA.

Believe it or not there is, or was till recently, a tolerated 'community radio' system in Bolivia, existing alongside the State and commercial networks. Since the 50s, for instance, radio has been used by Bolivian miners in the course of their struggles, and many mining towns have for various periods sustained decentralised, autonomous and self managed radios with permission from nobody, in the face of military dictatorship. Now most mines have been closed, resistance smashed and the miners dispersed as penniless day labourers amid total economic collapse.

We don't have info on other 5th American pirates except that they are many. One is Radio Liberacion, the voice of Chilean Resistance, which does 'break-ins' onto State radio and TV broadcasts, calling for strikes, demos etc., against the fascistic Pinochet regime.

The USA

In the US everything is free if you have the money. Radio and the media at large seem to be in private commercial hands, though much of it is controlled by huge corporations enmeshed in the State and the 'military industrial complex'.

So, its free to go on the airwaves, but: 1) It takes years to go through the licence procedures of the controlling body, the FCC. 2) It costs many 1000's of dollars. 3) To get such a licence you need to be a 'respectable hierarchically organised group'. With Boards of Directors etc. 4) What they give, they can take away, if you did by some miracle get a non-commercial licence they would stop it at the first wrong move.

"Public" radio in the US began to be licensed in the '50s (in the US context 'public' means non-profit and NOT run by the state directly). By now one in eight stations are 'public'. One in five of these 'public' stations are in the Community Federation and thus claim to have no institutional affiliation', in fact they see themselves as some kind of social workers. The community radio movement (now 60 stations) was begun by the anarchists and pacifists of the KPFA station in Berkely, SF, in 1949, and anarchist principles were incorporated into the charter. KPFA still exists today, and is the mainstay of the Pacifica Foundation (5 stations, one in New York).
York) which has come under increasing attack (despite all being “free”) in the Reagan years. A right wing group called ‘Accuracy in the Media’ accused Pacifica of broadcasting “filth, racism and communism”. Back in ’81 a National Enquirer expose screamed ‘Your Tax Dollars Support Red Broadcasters’, but the licences have not yet been revoked.

While commercialism, rather than the State directly is the controlling force in the US, with most stations flooded by inane advertising and playing the same few top records, there is nevertheless such a big range of stations that you can find alternatives. For instance in New York you can tune in to over 60 channels on the FM band, including lots of ethnic language or ‘minority’ music stations if you look for them. In Britain by contrast you can find just 4 or 5 official channels on FM in most parts of the country. The argument that there is no room to legalise pirates in Britain is demonstrably ridiculous.

We have no information on any pirate stations in the USA.

Canada

Canada has a fairly liberal radio system and few if any pirates. In Quebec ‘Community Radio’ is a legal alternative, and in some places is the main local station. This idea is also strong in Vancouver.

Japan, mini TX boom.

An intriguing loophole has created the possibility of legal piracy in Japan. Technical ingenuity has created wireless microphones, remote control devices for TVs, garage doors and model planes all of which use small transmitters. To ensure they are legal, all transmitters which generate less than 15 microvolts per metre 100 metres from the source are excluded from the regulations requiring broadcasters to be licensed.

A tiny FM transmitter, broadcasting in the 76-90 MHz band, and within legal limits, can reach a radius of 0.3 of a mile, an exciting prospect in a crowded city. Manufactured primarily for CB enthusiasts, and costing £20, the technology was easily available, and with 9 months of the first tentative experiment 100 stations were broadcasting. Soon the media had picked up on the phenomenon and there was an explosion. By August ’83, just three months later, there were 700 mini stations! Once again the fantastic demand for access all over the world was evident. And, as always there were very different interests involved. The first stations included two which illustrate the differences Radio Polybucket, started by free radio enthusiasts from Kanto University; and the media wise Radio KIDS wanting an audience for their home-produced music cassettes.

Radio Kids

In Tokyo there are severe restrictions on street life because of the riots in the late 60s and after. Even stopping on the street without police permission is illegal. But the freedom of the airwaves enabled Radio Contempo to create a completely new kind of event: broadcasting from vans they put out a mix of rock music and political protest against the visit of the US nuclear carrier Enterprise. As youngsters walked the streets listening on their Walkmen, the radio station drove amongst them. A mobile station and a mobile audience managed to have a demonstration, a public meeting and a benefit all at the same time!

The Japanese Government is worried, and have proposed ways of closing the loophole. But every day that passes brings new stations. How can they confiscate so many tiny transmitters, especially because they are so cheap to replace? And the draconian powers, not to mention the resources, needed to fully extinguish the movement would be out of all proportion to the harm they do.

Reflecting

Perhaps our own pirates are too eager to mimic normal radio, not just in content but in service area as well. Wanting to broadcast to a large population makes for relatively expensive equipment, and for fewer stations. If London were a maze of hundreds of small pirates enforcement would cease! And perhaps, as in Japan, the small scale would stimulate some real community radio.

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This section tells you exactly how to go about setting up your own radio pirate, with all the tips learned from bitter experience. This is the list of the things you will need. So you want to be a radio pirate?...Read On.

What You'll Need

A. A group of committed people who get on with each other and have plenty of time and energy.

B. A programme, presenting you have something worth saying or playing. You don't need a studio to start off with. Just borrow someone's stereo and a microphone and start making practice recordings onto good quality cassette tapes.

C. A Transmitter. Ideally over 10 watt power, but 5 watt is fine for local broadcasts, or when using an aerial with 'gain' (see Technical section). You can't buy one over the counter in Britain, but here are some alternatives:

1) Buy one from another pirate (be aware of rip-offs).
2) Buy one over the counter abroad (see Contacts).

In Italy for instance you can get a high quality 50 watt transmitter for under £500, you can buy kits in Belgium, France, Netherlands, USA etc. You then have to smuggle it in.

111) Build your own. A hobbyist can build a low power FM transmitter from the instructions in this book. You can add on amplifiers later if you need more power.

Try to interest radio houses or distainst engineers. It is almost essential to have at least one person in your group with some technical know how.

1. You'll need an equipment specification. There are a few electronics experts around who will build this for you.

2. You'll need to build your own equipment. This is where the engineer will win.

D. Antenna (aerial). You can adapt a design yourself from an antenna book (e.g. The 2 Metre Antenna Handbook, or a Tablo Topanten, or an Amateur Radio Handbook). Or use one of our ready made designs (see Tech section).

E. Odds and ends. You'll need basic tools (also look out for soldering iron, meter, SWR meter, a chassis). Need some wire for the aerial, a radio to listen in on, etc. Also start collecting reading news and getting to know what's happening.

KEEP YOUR PEOPLE WIDE FOR ANY STUFF!

VHF: Pros and Cons

First lets deal with FM (Frequency Modulated) broadcasting, which is your probable choice. The advantages of FM are many. The transmitters are small, light and quite cheap. Reception tends to be either very clear or very noisy. Its excellent for music and for recording off and can quite easily be adapted to transmit in stereo (impossible with AM). A major plus for the pirate is that it is easy to hide and transport, a typical aerial is comparatively small and can be made collapseable. Its also possible to put it in a vehicle, even a bicycle, and go mobile, albeit with a smaller and changing reception area.

The average 5 to 20 watt transmitter would be in a metal box not bigger than 12" by 6" by 3" in size, and weigh no more than 10 lbs without the gear. But including the battery you are using, the aerial is only about 30 feet tall, but is not too much more efficient and of course more practical than the long and tricky procedure for MW aerials. Also lower power FM transmitters ('rigs') can be tuned to slightly different frequencies, so MW you're stuck on one, unless you get a new crystal.

The disadvantage is that VHF FM is essentially a 'line of sight' communication. Which means that your reception area depends on the height of your aerial above your location. This is a problem if you can get up on a hill, an aerial tower or a building, but it does restrict the choice of broadcasting sites, making you easier to find and trap. With high tower transmission you have more choice of sites. In these areas, unless you can get up on a mountain, you'd better choose MW also, if you want to broadcast to scattered communities over a wide area. Distance covered with an FM rig depends on much on height and power. A 40 watt rig on a 35 story tower block will cover more miles than if there are no building hills. A 4 watt rig should go about 5 miles from the same height, but if you build a directional aerial with 'gain' you can multiply that power many times. You don't really need a big expensive and hard to build transmission tower. Also don't assume a 100w rig is ten times as powerful as a 10w one. It doesn't work like that. Power on the FM broadcast band is literally half empty, and there will be more when the police eventually move off it. On MW it's pretty crowded, and at night you're likely to be blocked out by continental interference.

The Broadcasting Site (FM)

TOWER BLOCKS

In cities tower blocks have been an ideal answer for good coverage and wide reception. As are particularly favoured by commercial pirates (who often use a "link transmitter" from the top to the tower block so as to 'go live'). A further advantage is that there are usually electric sockets in the lift or heating room on the roof, so you can just plug in your gear without having to add any additional power to your batteries. Another advantage is that the building Electricities of the buildings isn't too high. If you've had the chance to be caught by the electric company and the police, you'll need more looksouts if you're planning to save the gear when attacked.

BROADCASTING FROM HILLS (FM)

If you've got a tower or hill this is a good option, the higher the better. You can use a piece of derelict or common land, or at night you can use parks, cemeteries or even allotments. A better option is if there are hills outside the built up area, then use a field or woodland from there. If you use the directional aerial you can cover the city just as well. This can be done by Andromeda radio, to good effect, they use a tower of most of Manchester from a high hill outside, using a 4 watt transmitter with directional 'gain' on a tower. If you can get up into mountainous forests you're even better off and can adopt classical guerrilla tactics, often the enemy coming miles away, and very difficult to stop. (See example of Radio Dregge, International Service, who were never caught.)

On a hill within the town or city you could go a good way, cut down, switch off, or have other escape routes, or have a secret spot with regular escape routes.
SOD THE HOUSE WORK! I'M GONNA BE A RADIO PIRATE!!

If on a hill you can also use an ordinary house, flat, squat or decket, and just set up your aerial as high as practicable on the roof (plaguing it up, atop a scalfold pole through a skylight). It's better to get a place by squatting or if you're rich by renting, especially as a broadcast site, no one likes to live under constant threat of the police storming in. In practice you may have to use someone's house, then you don't use it too often. If you must use your own place DON'T leave doors, stolen goods, false IDs or other nasties lying about. It is possible to run your antenna cable from your house to the aerial on another roof and while the cable off quick if they come, but this would only work once, and you lose output power with every extra foot of coax cable going to your aerial. Most of this is the kind how to get away with it section. NEVER leave your house at the broadcast site. They'll confiscate the lot under the new laws.

OTHER POSSIBLE BROADCASTING SITES

FESTIVALS, especially large free festivals are an excellent and common broadcast site. A small 4w, rig will do fine. Set up on high ground in a semi or vehicle, and invite the festival goers to protect you from possible police attack. Much more unlikely in these circumstances. If possible make a 'live' studio in your car or caravan or truck and get everyone involved. Try to get mentioned in pre-festival publicity, or do your own, so people will bring radios. This is pirate radio at its best.

DEMOS, especially long ones, like blockades for ex., of Nuclear Stations or other similar, can be justified and widely listened to. So mains electricity is a big help if you can run a lead from somewhere. Outdoors all your gear must be in waterproof cases, or covered with a tarp or tarp. Tents are good if you can pretend to be camping. One case also of you and your group (you need at least two people, preferably four). Hot drinks, food, water, roofed, short shifts for lookouts etc are good ideas. It gets boring after a few days. One case, or at least one, but get ones with earphones if possible to avoid noise.

GOING MOBILE, from cars, vans or even bicycles is discussed with 'Guerilla Radio' later in this Section.

How To Set Up Your Gear. (FM).

BEFORE YOU GO

Before setting out you had better brief everyone, especially the commuters, on what will or may happen. A talk about getting caught, for instance, have good excuses made up for being at or near the site. If you are planning to give false names, for instance, you'll need to find somewhere where someone will confirm you live, otherwise you might have troubles getting bail if you were arrested. In this case keep your first names the same, to avoid being caught. (See Legal Section)

Make out a standard 'check list' of all you need, and go through it before you set out. It's surprisingly easy to find yourself on top of a Tower Block, or at the back of a moving car, with your cassette deck lead is at home five miles away.

HERE IS A SAMPLE LIST OF THINGS YOU NEED

Transmitter (TX)/TM mains lead or 2 clip on battery leads / power leads (large & well insulated) TX lead to cassette deck (check not attached) cheap cassette deck plus mains lead or 2 clip leads and a volt battery charger up or power supply 12 volt, if on mains / antenna (serial) check you have the right leads or clip if possible the co-axial cable (with plug attached or clipped to antenna / fused plug board (if on mains) programme tapes (newsound to starting position) small FM radio receiver(s) to monitor broadcasts/ CD's for lookouts, fairly essential,1 E10 licence fee optional (plastic 'gaffer tape' anti-soldering iron and solder in case of broken leads / torch / warm clothes / munchies / bus fare).

ON THE WAY

Ideally you need four people, at least two. Carry the gear as inconspicuously as possible, in holdalls or plastic bags. The antenna is a problem. If it is a big long one make it collapsible, using butterfly nuts in assembly. Or try to keep it somewhere close to the site. Most people in the '80s, especially in the '80s, will have used it before. Send an unhandy scout ahead, to be sure the police and DTI aren't waiting for you and all clear. Check also you're not followed.

SETTING UP

In the case of a tower block, you should have been there beforehand, and have either a key or a broken lock, to get straight onto the roof. If not, get inside quietly behind you. If there's two doors onto the roof have access through both. Take your gear to the lift/hot room and find a plug in wall socket
avoid interference. Keep the din level well away from the power leads. Interference between these leads often causes loss of power at your receiver. Then adjust the volume to suit your own taste. If you have a frequency indicator (F1) or external meter, you can also use it to monitor your receiver. When listening, turn off the power to the receiver. If you need to make any adjustments, use the remote control or switch on the relay. If you need to make any adjustments, use the remote control or switch on the relay.

Plug in the antenna: If you have an external antenna, plug it in. Turn on the receiver and adjust the volume to suit your taste. If you have an internal antenna, fit it and adjust the volume to suit your taste. If you have a frequency indicator (F1) or external meter, use it to monitor your receiver.

To monitor your receiver, use the remote control or switch on the relay. If you need to make any adjustments, use the remote control or switch on the relay.

The detection squelch are now directed by the Home Office through the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and are officially responsible for stamping out "radio interference". They have recently been reprocessed and upgraded with fancy new equipment. Their HQ is at Waterlow House by Waterlow Bridge and they have several other fixed transmitters in London, for instance tracking. We think their facilities are also connected to the WCET base.

In other cities they are generally slower to get after you. In smaller towns they don't have permanent staff so you have to come specially, depending on your usual broadcast time, so switching your time is a big advantage.

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The DTI squelch are not supposed to arrest you, so they have to bring the local field along on buggies, which makes you easier to spot and makes them less flexible, as they often have to wait till the cops have the time free.

BROADCASTING...HOW TO GET AWAY WITH IT

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

On a tower block, in London, the DTI squelch are often seen to be your victim, with no less than 10 minutes after you're switched on. So they can bust you any time, in the case of new pirates the procedure is to monitor your output for a while (in case you're just messing about) before busting you. It could easily be a few months before your first attempt, but if you play anything but straight music they will record and keep all your programmes for some time for use against you (though voice prints aren't used in court). In other cities they are generally slower to get after you. In smaller towns they don't have permanent staff so you have to come specially, depending on your usual broadcast time, so switching your time is a big advantage.

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When combined with Cat and Mouse tactics this can make you difficult to stop. The problem arises, if you're using tower blocks your choices are limited. If you set up say 5 miles away, your reception area may be completely different, and you'll need plenty of dedicated people ready at a moment's notice to aid and abet you. If you're using a small directional high gain antenna. If you're using a low power link and a narrow beam it's high powered. In this case you'll be able to use the 288 laws (see our raid on Radio Horizon's studios in late 85 when over £20,000 worth of gear was stolen). This legal safety net does not mean that the DTI's new gear can detect links, it's just an added element of protection by groups. Phone taps or just by following you. Links can make you feel safe, if you can trace one you could always use two, or three... what they don't and can't do is protect your transmitter, its main advantage is that it allows you to go live from the studio. To protect yourself you might as well use a transmitter, something you have on hand and on remote. Timers are pretty easy to build, you can get the kit, not that one's hard to find 'off the shelf' as they can obviously be used to make bombs. A good one to buy is the 1000 watt timer from the local electricals when you're on holidays, or by landladies to deter squatters.

For remote switching you can also make sound activated switches, via a radio link, or 'square wave' switches, or some other combination of these. What none of these devices can do however is to turn over a tape, so you still have to go to the station to do this, unless you want to broadcast for less than an hour.

F) GUBRILLA RADIO

This is one of the main ideas this book is trying to promote (see Chapter One). Guerilla or Hit and Run radio is the war of the flea. First of all you can reduce the risks of getting caught drastically by broadcasting at a fixed times or with a fixed name, or by doing it only for 1/4 hour periods. The problem of course is that your audience is also random and small. To avoid Gerilla radio is to get together quite a few stations, broadcasting on the same frequency with cheap mass produced transmitters, thus forming one big loose station which listeners would have a good chance of finding you, while being very difficult for the DTI and police to stop.

BREAK-INS

Break-ins are a higher and riskier form of Guerilla radio, and need only Radio Arthur and Radio Wapping. The idea is to grab your audience by broadcasting on top of a legal station. The sentences are much higher (see Legal Section) but there's no chance if you keep your breaks-ins short, say for five minutes, on top of the news or advertising of a major station. You're taking advantage of a quality of FM broadcasting that the stronger signal tends to 'win', blustering out the weaker one completely. With a small transmitter you'll only 'win' for a short distance, but even a few hundred yards will cover a whole city block. For break-ins strength of signal is the main factor, a big powerful transmitter (100 - 200 Watts) would be ideal, and your TX needs to be built and tuned exactly to the required frequency so you can break in with your message on the most popular channel on prime time. For break-ins all precautions should be taken to clear out the area as soon as you've finished, and don't use the same time or broadcast site again. It's as simple as that.

Break-ins are also easy to police on TV, but only over the sound.

Break-ins are more common in countries where police are heavily represented, e.g. in W. Germany or the Eastern States, and are ideal for mounting demonstrations etc. There is another and better way of doing break-ins on FM, which may have been used by Radio Arthur, using the VHF microwave transmitter, beaming your signal at the microwave dish receiving the signals from a legal station from their studios. Their dish then picks up your signal, and provides you with enough to be stronger than their signal, you get re-broadcast by their main transmitter, thus giving your break-in perfect coverage through any area of your choice (See Section 4). Particularly if you're doing a local station, where you don't need much height, and have lots more choice of broadcasting sites.

GOING MOBILE

In theory this is an ideal way of getting away with it, but there are a few problems. If you're going in a car you can use an ordinary car cassette player, but you are better off having a separate VHF or UHF to feed your own transmitter. One problem is with the aerial. If you use a bigger, more efficient one it will be very obvious, one possibility is to run it under a tarpaulin to avoid any noise. Another is to fit a tarpaulin or roof rack. A bigger problem is height, unless you park or drive up and down on a high hill, your coverage will be totally blocked. And then of course your reception area will be limited to where you're driving any distance. No much use for gaining or developing an audience. The main advantage is that you will be much more difficult to stop!

Going mobile is more practical as a publicity stunt, or possibly for local broadcasts. To a small extent, having a bigger TX will compensate for lack of height. Going mobile is good for broadcasting asrandom just for the hell of it.

BREAK-INS

Do break-ins in this way would be great fun in the main hour traffic.

LINKS, TIMERS, SQUARE WAVES

These aren't for the Shoeshine pirate, though you can build them cheap if you have the know-how. As you know, in Germany and Belgium, some carriers are used. In principle, you should do it clear away from the area as soon as you've finished, and don't use the same time or broadcast site again. It's as simple as that.

CONFRONTATION

A good trick if you can get away with it. The DTI and police officers are all there to protect you in whatever way they can. The problem is that in future you have to change your station name, possibly from radio voice and voice they're always looking over their shoulders, and have to be more careful with their surveillance work.

One easy way to do it, using an old tower blocks, is to have a man or woman in the lift. The lift goes up and you throw the main power switches in the lift. (Careful don't use too much surge on the lift. This has been tried down the stairs, breaking up any of them you meet on the way, and make off. Their cars are also vulnerable, because they're parked underground around the corner. If you're going to attack them directly make sure you're well masked and covered and you have enough skill and numbers to get past them. Go straight for the police officers and disable them before they can make them. Of course you can take over their call, or smash their radios, or have someone jamming their frequencies.)

In exact ways of hitting these are, attacking the DTI at their base, attacking their vehicles at their depot, obtaining home addresses, phone numbers of chief officers and harassing them, etc. etc.

But one easy way to attack is to attack them in the lift. The lift goes up and they throw the main power switches in the lift. (Careful don't use too much surge on the lift. This has been tried down the stairs, breaking up any of them you meet on the way, and make off. Their cars are also vulnerable, because they're parked underground around the corner. If you're going to attack them directly make sure you're well masked and covered and you have enough skill and numbers to get past them. Go straight for the police officers and disable them before they can make them. Of course you can take over their call, or smash their radios, or have someone jamming their frequencies.)
When the lookouts signal a raid or anything very suspicious (e.g. a crop car racing too close to the rice fields) immediately switch off, dismantle the gear and move it (switch off the TX first, then the tapedeck). DON'T rip out the aerial when the TX is still switched on.

**Building Your Pirate Station.**

We're not talking here about commercial pirates, where it's just a matter of having good financial backing, popular DJs and hit records, plenty of ads, jingles and news relayed from legitimate stations.

We're talking about the "do it yourself" community or political pirate, starting from square one, and doing something worthwhile and original. The truth is that more people will take more effort to offend nobody and build towards a more agreeable, practice heavy version of the internet that can be blocked by the state and the commercial monopolies of "Her Majesty's" airwaves.

**YOURSELF:**

First thing you need is an interest in sound, and some worth saying or playing. Get a bike and a cassette deck and play around with it. Record yourself, record any song that you record. Listen and record off the radio, tape people, tape people in the street. Bring back your results, see where you want, and try again. Note down your results ends and discuss them with others. Read and find out everything you can about sound and recording and think about why you want to be a radio pirate. Join the Free The Airwaves campaign and read their "Radio Pirates" bulletins.

**THE GROUP**: You need to find more people with similar ideas, and just hang out with them. You need to get to know each other, find out who you can trust, and ditch those you can't. Members should be prepared to share in the tasks, risks and finances equally. Keep fighting against backdoors. Keep fighting against the state. Keep fighting against the commercial monopolies. Keep fighting against the police. Keep fighting against the DTI. Keep fighting against the government.

**OPEN ACCESS**: Once your group is going well, and you've started to make tapes and get the gear and cash together, you should think seriously about teaming up with other groups who you broadly agree with. For example, at the moment (late 1986) there are two of such groups who have failed to get Community Radio licences and are dying to get their stuff on air, though they intend to "go pirate" in the present hostile climate.

The idea of 'Open Access' is to share a frequency, studios and even transmission gear to use in your community. The advantages of such groups are obvious—more money coming in from more sources, less equipment needed to begin with, pooling of technical abilities, more political clout, more publicity, bigger audiences etc. A good way to approach this idea is by having public meetings, contact Free The Airwaves, etc. The problems come with coordination, political possibilities, and the many of tasks. For an Open Access group you need to:

- Regular meetings of all involved (at least monthly) and insist on full attendance.
- Have a few good people who are interested in organizing and making it work.
- Another problem is with broadcasting. You should aim for people having their own gear and broadcast, as well as enough so you can, so you will be more difficult to stop by the police and the DTI. So you should use on group of producing tapes providing at least two hours of material per week.

Open Access stations depend on cooperation, if you have that then all the other advantages come into play, but you are fighting all the time against our training, in this society, to be competitive and individualist. The ideals of Open Access radio have been pioneered in this country by stations like Sheffield Peace Radio, Our Radio and Cambridge Community Radio and its worthy studying their experience quite closely. The radio groups of such stations and Federations of pirates in other countries. (See elsewhere in this book). It's time to have a local pirate station. Be a local pirate station. Be a local pirate station.

**LOCAL/"COMMUNITY" PIRATE RADIO**

The word 'community' has lost its meaning through misuse (e.g. Community Policing). The old style communities are a thing of the past (if they ever really existed) except on the soap operas, where the system breaks us all down into individual consumers. You're talking about "Community Radio" you should be quite clear what you mean by it, and what the State means by proposing (and then backing) such an idea. What is your idea of a "community"? interest, political or gender sections of the people are you aiming your pirate at? Or better, creating your pirate with? Or are you really working on your own career? Or trying to create 'community' in your own head?... Local pirate radio is a more complex idea. There are many advantages to broadcasting locally, eg. more broadcast sites, harder to get caught, room for local pirates on the broadcast band, cheaper easier to build transmitters, closer contact and participation of listeners, etc. In a big city it's a good idea for your station to base yourselves in one area, where you can broadcast locally or citywide. You need a local base and a local voice. If you're trying to appeal to a small section of listeners it may not however make sense to do a local station, because the potential listeners are fewer a local station should aim at a fairly wide distribution of the population. An open access station would work well on a local basis. As coordination would be easier, as local bands and minority groups could be persuaded to make programmes. On a local basis publicity and support are much easier to get, as is the possibility of mobilising people to defend you when attacked, eg. a popular station in the middle of a large housing estate. Local broadcasting in inner-city areas can involve hundreds of thousands of potential listeners. Most of the smaller existing pirates are, in effect, local stations, because of the limitations of height and the power of their transmitters. The future is though for open access or see themselves as a local voice and resource.
and on the final tape recorder, allow the needle to move between the records. The recorder allows half a way up for speech recording. For group interviews an omnidirectional microphone can be handy, and pay special attention to sound recording levels and background noise. Don't use a telephone in the studio. Though the phones in the lineup are of the type with a pickup and/or headphones, you really do need two microphones and at least two cassette decks. All these tips, and more will you pick up as you grow, but it's good to work out a standard way to use the studio lesson for newcomers. Pay attention to safety, e.g., the plugboard (socket) well out of the way, and don't allow coffee or beer near the gear. Read a book on basic sound-studio.

One last tip, lock it up well, especially if it is in your own home or flat and one of your windows. There's one sure thing about accounting: sound gear sooner or later someone will nick it!

THE PROGRAMME

This entirely up to yourself. No need to follow any conventions. Some people say you have to ‘match’ content and programming before you can do anything different. But you don't have to if you do that you'll never do anything different.

Again there are some hard tasks for programmers. It's good to get things planned before starting, make a list of all the possible material gathered (speeches, interviews, sound effects, news items, jokes, whatever) and try to put it into some kind of order. A signature tune of a programme, a core audience, a handout for a busy audience, people can see programmes, and so on. Make a programme that has a clear plan, maybe you can see the problem. It's never a bad idea to show how to put together a programme.

Making programmes is really not that hard, however, if you're not used to the task, you can quite easily become an expert on the topic. The key is to have a clear idea of what you want to say and how you want to say it. You can't do this in a hurry, you have to spend time on it.

Building your pirate station

It's hard to give advice about long-term development, but there's a few things to say. First of all it's important to pace yourself. It's easy to start off with a lot of enthusiasm, then get bored and give up. This is a common mistake. If you are you will be very lucky to build up a regular audience or mass support overnight. Though your potential number of listeners may be large, you can expect response to take some time. Breaking down passive consumption of the media is not easy. Having your own clubs, events, regular demos etc, helps, as do dramatic programming strategies. Be creative and be bold.

We say support. Participation and support of large numbers of listeners is a good aim. But you may just be broadcasting as a way of getting a licence (which is a lot of effort and a lot of money). Ideally, you should plan ahead and gradually increase your broadcasting times, before developing all aspects of your station. If you are a pirate, rather than going all out and then collapsing at the first setback you then have to organise well within your capabilities, and to join up with any other pirates who are not commercial radio and try to cultivate contacts among the many pirates (journalists). Almost any publicity is good, as those people who are likely to listen in to you will also likely hear about the bias of the Tory press. Oddly, one detail that you should certainly see publicity is on radio, for it's getting onto phone lines. On radio you are already there, and you are already listened to. If you can find any way of stunts to get onto it.
Medium Wave

Advantages and Problems.

At the moment FM broadcasting, with all its advantages, is the favourite for pirates. But its well worth pointing out that at least 20% of pirates in Britain can't even receive FM, so you can't pick up most pirates on older radio. Another thing, in some hilly areas (or FMs having a very bad coverage. And a third advantage, you can cover a very much bigger area on MW, at least potentially. MW can be the best choice for you, especially if you're in a country area, or in hills or mountainous, or only want to broadcast by day and aren't concerned about sound quality. MW transmitters are also fairly cheap and easy to build, and because you use a crystal there's no problem with tuning or with 'sprogs' (harmonics). Although the antenna is a big length, it's just a roll of wire, and doesn't necessarily have to be up high, which gives you a different effect from a fixed position. If you don't get MW works by bouncing radio waves back off the stratosphere, not by line of sight like FM.

Of course there's lots of other disadvantages, one is sound quality, and stereo is out of the question, and there's not much free space on the wave band, chiefly because of a host of European stations, which become stronger at night, blotting out your relatively weak signal (this is due to atmospheric changes we are told). The TX is also bigger and heavier (about 12"X8"X10") and you'll probably need a car battery to power it. The transmitter.

One thing I forgot, if you want to reach any of the 50,000 prisoners in Brit jails, you must use MW. FM is still banned in prison, for some reason probably related to security. It's also agreed that you're generally less likely to get busted. In the present repressive climate that's worth considering.

HOW TO BROADCAST ON MW (540 - 1600 KHz)

YOUR TRANSMITTER.

Enough general talk. So you want to broadcast on MW. So here's how to do it. First, your transmitter. Medium Wave transmitters aren't so hard to build, any good amateur should be able to do it, and there's people around who will build them (from £50 to £150). The technology is tested and buzzed up (see Tech Section) as good as any. The TX is a valve equipment (which you have to order on the chosen wave length) which keeps you on frequency without the problems of FM. So you have to decide from the start which frequency you want to use. The Viking Ranger (TS12W), made by Johnson & Co. has a variable frequency oscillator which gives you a single crystal to work on and a note with the end of the AM band. All you need to do is to set your R.F. (radio frequency) circuits to add capacitance to the 100 microphone tuned circuit. And all you seem to do is to the audio circuits is to bypass the first pre-amp (assuming you're using a line level instead of a line level. One other thing, you must bypass the speech frequency filter, which is located between the 2nd pre-amp and the driver.

When buying such a 2nd hand ham transmitter a) get one with 160 meter capability. b) Don't pay more than a good amateur price (say £150). c) Don't pay for modulation (look inside and check there are two transformers well seperated from each other), and d) don't get a 'kit' built one with dodgy wiring and if possible check the values before buying, they're costly.

SETING UP YOUR AERIAL (Medium Wave).

Security precautions and preparation are the same as for FM. But there the similarity ends. For a start your total aerial length is 48 your wavelength, so if your antenna is 10 wavelengths long, your aerial would be 60 meters long! You use ordinary thin single strand wire. Buy a roll, keep it on the roll, and measure it out, metre by metre. Ideally the aerial should point straight up, but this is just as feasible, unless you hang it out from the side of a tower a piece, or suspend it from a balloon (only the balloon blows away). The normal method is the 'dogleg' which is just fine (see Diagram). The ideal site is a field, or deserted common land, far away from houses, with long trees (only 2 if possible, preferably 3), about 30 to 40 meters apart, and a 'dogleg' between the two trees and down to your TX without touching branches or leaves. Sounds impossible? If you have a trained monkey that just fine. Otherwise try our method. Practice and patience is necessary.

Bring along with you a catapult, a long roll of 70 to 90 strength string line, and plenty of lead fishing weights (not too heavy for the catapult). Also some plastic rings (cut out lids of plastic containers work fine).

SAMPLE CHECKLIST. Things to bring along when broadcasting on Medium Wave outside.

Transmitter, TX battery leads, Cassette, Deck and battery leads. Lin lead from Cassette to TX, 12 Volt 6 Watt radio, Car radio leads and staks. Aerial wire. 70th fishing line and weights. Cattle, Animal rings. Disguise gear (eg kite, fishing rods). Screeders/piers. Soldering iron & solder with 12V transformer (if possible). Programme cassette. 40's or torches or whistles, Plastic sheet or large umbrellas (for gear in rain). Filligrees, Food and drink. Radio receivers. Waterproofs (warm). Possibly a tent.

To a end of the fishing line to a lead weight, leaving the line rollon neatly and loosely on a piece of hose ground. Then tie the weight from the catle right over the centre of a tree. Go and search for it (don't try this at night). Tie on your plastic ring in phase with the weight and pass about 30 cm of your aerial wire through the ring. Now get your mate to pull in the other end of the fishing line, if it doesn't get tangled pull it till the ring is about 5 meters from the tree top. Tie the fishing line securely (to the tree), cut it, and head for the second tree. Repeat the performance, firing right over the tree from the rear side. Pull the aerial end through, and this time tie it to the ring. Pull up as before to about ten from the top and tie the line. Now back to the roll of aerial wire (extended with fishing line as nec.) and start pulling it in. Tie a ring to the tree and pull the line through the tree to get it just right so the aerial reaches your X and is tight, adjust fishing line length and/or position of TX. Better choose two trees too far apart than too close. When you finally get it all set in hardly worth taking it down again after the broadcast, though you should loosen it off or it'll map in the wind. Disguise it if possible. A further problem can be with kids passing by your aerial, but away from it near a well you can watch from a distance. If you're able to do this, it's likely that kids will move on. This is a good ploy. One of the best broadcast sites is a clearing in a large wood. On Medium Wave you can broadcast outside the city and still cover it lots and more besides.

SETING UP THE GEAR (Medium Wave).

See the Diagram. The transmitter should be on a wet ground. If it's dry, wet it. Mud is just stuff. The aerial wire should be laid all the way. Shoes are an advantage, but it's not too bad on grass. If your TX is more than 240V you'll have to get it adapted using a 'rotary inverter', it's not difficult. A tack battery is the real thing, but what a drag to carry! There's a chance to go on mains, try running a line from somewhere, you should go for it. Otherwise wear old clothes and gloves against acid spills. When choosing your site balance the need for remoteness with the problems of moving the gear.

The Transmitter must be very well earthed, the earth is an essential part of the aerial system. Use a ring of metal stakls (eg tent stakls) and file off any metal joins for good connections. Attach the stakes securely to the chassis of your TX, with thick metal strips or wires held by butterflies nuts or strong classic battery clips.

So far so good. The cassette player, on the contrary, should be off the ground, on a box or whatever. As usual keep the din lead, battery leads, and aerial wire, and don't let anyone touch the trees and fiddle with them. The cassette player is normally powered by a 6 volt motor bike battery, with suitable leads. Torch batteries are dear and have a pathetic lifespan.
SWITCHING ON
Connect up your batteries, load up your cassette player with a "trial tape" and you're ready to go. (See Diagram B.)
1. Turn tuning adjuster to the right till the meter gives lowest reading.
2. Turn "load" adjuster till meter rises about 50 milliamps.
3. Tune again till it drops about 25 Ma.
4. Load up again.
5. Carry on procedure till you get a load of about 150 Ma on a 20 watt transmitter, or 500 Ma on a 10 watt rig. Your last tuning adjustment should produce virtually no dip on the meter needle.
6. Adjust modulation in relation to other channels to get your best sound. Use a radio receiver held at least 50 yards away for testing.
7. If there is a call, or knocking or bad sound, repeat from the beginning. Check that your stands are in well to damp ground, that all lines are well separated, that aerial isn't touching trees, hold receiver further away, etc.

PACKING UP
When you're finished switch off immediately. Then disconnect everything and pack into holdalls or large plastic bag. Be especially careful carrying the TX with its delicate valves. You should have several sites, and switch as often as you can. Don't re-use a site after an attempted bust. If you have a good dry safe stache and are coming back here leave your transmitter, cassette deck and leads there, and just take the batteries back for recharging. Such a stache should be in a heavy duty plastic bag if a hidden watcher or bod with binoculars couldn't spot you stashing the gear. Its likely that the DTT will send in men to sneek up and watch you, prior to planning a bust, to be careful, even when not on air, don't relax till safely home.

WHEN ON AIR: PRECAUTIONS. (Medium Wave)
Read the FM chapter 'How To Get Away With It'. A lot of these precautions also apply.

1. At 9 AM fly your chances should be much better, you need one person just to stay near the TX, in case of kids, passers-by etc., and to grab or hide it fast when they get the danger signal. On many sites you can work out lookout points to give plenty of warning. However you might as well abandon the batteries, and certainly the aerial, if you have to run.
2. If you have transported good escape routes you can try a clear getaway, but a better method is to hide the gear well (not too close to the stache if it's left up) and beat it. We favour bunks, holes pre-dug and lined with waterproofs, under rocks, with heavy lids covered with earth and bushes. In this way they could find these with door or metal detectors, but we've never had one succeed or even trying. (You could always bury bits of metal all over the place.)
3. The possibilities are unlimited, if you're on the ball there's no reason why they should get the gear... and without that they have a lowey case against you.

BUSTS... IF ALL GOES WRONG
You're nabbed. (See Legal Section.) What you say to them depends on the circumstances. If they haven't got you, deny it point blank, give them your cover story and a veritable address, and stick to your story no matter what. The problem with this is if they have nicked others and they give different stories, a different name for you etc. Best discuss all this beforehand. If caught on the hop, best say you don't know any of the others. You're caught in the act or with the gear. Give them a veritable name and address and refuse to discuss the matter further. People have managed to get off in the past, even with the gear in their hands, but under the new laws this is unlikely.

Although they can arrest and charge you, illegal broadcasting is still normally treated as a "smash and grab". Which means they question you, let you go (eventually), then summons you by letter to appear in court. This opens possibilities of getting away with it -- you may be able to baliff them with a false story that you now hold you on suspicion of doing this for three days. They will normally "ask to accompany you to the stache", or if they've nabbed your flat may interrogate you there and then. If you refuse to go to the station they will arrest you (for obstruction, intimidation etc., suspicion of stealing electric etc., etc.) and take you there, where you can be interviewed by police and DTT. The pretext charge is often dropped later. When interviewed in the station it's better really to refuse to say anything, especially if there are several of you, cover stories usually fall apart under long and detailed questioning. However their silence usually means they will hold you longer. If they get you to the stache they are pretty certain to photograph and fingerprint you. You can't refuse under the new Police Act.

When nabbed your best bet is to remain calm. Demand to ring your solicitor. Don't panic, it's not the end of the world. Smile at the bastards. Have a good kip in the cell - you've done your best.

FIGHTING YOUR CASE. (See Legal Section.)

It's usually months before your summons arrives, if they decide they have a case. Get legal aid if at all possible, and a good solicitor who knows the laws, pretty complex legal situation. Plead NOT GUILTY, but beware if you have money, they may award costs against you if you lose. Get your Bust Fund together, with gals, jumbos, radio appeals, donations all round etc.

If it's good to campaign about your bust on the air if your station is still going. Most commercial 'radio-organized' pirates don't do this, carrying their bid for reputation so far as to ignore their own best weapon. Make sure the address you give when arrested is 'clean' they could possibly raid you to look for further evidence. If you're a political station watch out for suspicious break-ins where nothing is stolen, the branch often does this.

The story straight, get any witnesses to write out statements and make copies and give them to your solicitor. Don't trust your solicitor too far, they sometimes say 'plead guilty' just to save themselves trouble. If they start getting cold feet get yourself a new one (they don't like this at all but it can be done). Get your solicitor to ask for copies of the prosecutions witness statements in advance of the case and make sure you see them.

In court dress neatly and be polite to the bastard (magistrate) and the fheads. Have a good 'hard luck' story for your solicitor to tell, it's always good to say you've just got married/started a new job etc. but don't say you have money or the fines will be bummed up. If going to 'bend the truth' a little don't tell your solicitor you're doing it, and be sure friends watching in court don't start laughing. The DTT and police will lie anyway, more likely than not, get your solicitor to focus these lies and your solicitor to cross question each other, especially any police witnesses, who are more stupid and inexperience in this kind of case. Demonstrations outside the court are good for publicity and can intimidate the magistrate if big enough, but don't always help your case (eg. if you're pleading 'clumby bystander' how come these people are so concerned about you?) Use the press, radio, press, radio, press. Write to Press Reports at least a week in advance, so the hacks can put it in their diaries, and phone around with reminders the day more.

Your fine should be paid by the Bust Fund if at all possible. If not extra costs should be divided up among everyone in the station (always plead poverty and ask for time to pay).

When you've been bust not only you shouldn't, ideally, work on the broadcasting again, though you could still do lookout, backup, monitoring etc., as second offenders normally get the maximum fine.

If you win the case, as quite often happens, have a good party!

If you win there is also some possibility, in theory, of clamping the gear back, though this is much less likely under the new laws. Ask your solicitor about it, and if there's a chance get someone else, with some kind of receipt, to apply for it, saying they tought it before the bust.

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Radio Support Group

To join Radio Support Group and get updates and developments, send to Radio Support Group, c/o Downed Rat

Communications

Box 018, Sticker Court, Bristol, Avon BS1 3PY

Free The Airwaves

BQM Box 1502, London WC1N 3XX

Radio Crimes is the name of the FTA bulletin, and will carry full technical updates on these designs, and much more. To join FTA and receive the bulletin send £2 (or organisations £10) to the address above.

JOIN NOW
The following is a summary of the legal aspects of unlicensed broadcasting on land in the UK. The Acts of Parliament are:

Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949
Wireless Telegraphy Act 1967
Telecommunications Act 1984

which we'll refer to as 'the 49 Act', 'the 67 Act' and 'the 84 Act'. We also include info about your rights under criminal law generally, but NOT details of changes under the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill. (Not then enacted. Ed).

THE OFFENCES

The main offence is under section 1.1 of the 49 Act as follows

"No person shall establish or use any station for wireless telegraphy or install or use any apparatus for wireless telegraphy except under the authority granted by the Secretary of State, and any person who establishes or uses any station for wireless telegraphy or installs or uses any apparatus for wireless telegraphy except under and in accordance with such a licence shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.".

The terms 'station for wireless telegraphy' and 'apparatus for wireless telegraphy' are interpreted (s19.1) as referring to stations and apparatus for emitting or receiving over paths which are not provided by any material substance constructed or arranged for that purpose, of electromagnetic energy of a frequency not exceeding 3 million MHz, for purposes of conveying messages, sound or visual images, or for the actuation or control of machinery or apparatus, or for purposes of radar.

So 'apparatus for wireless telegraphy' includes relay transmitters (links) and remote control devices as well as broadcast transmitters. (And also TV transmitters but possibly not infra red 'links' Ed.) The term 'station' is ambiguous and isn't interpreted more under the 49 Act. Strictly speaking a station refers to a 'place set apart and equipped for some particular purpose' and in this case should only refer to the transmitting site, and only include the studio if props are live, or possibly if broadcasting takes place from the same premises as the studio.

For an offence to be made out under this section it has to be shown that you have been involved in setting up or using a transmitting site, or installing or operating a transmitting gear. Any of the site crew could be charged on the angle of being 'involved in establishing or using a transmitting site'. But unless programmes are live it shouldn't include people who make programmes, supply tapes or interviews, advertise or provide a mailing address. The DTI did once threaten to do advertisements for aid and advertising but this hasn't happened. (also not till 1986. Ed)

Under the 49 Act its unlikely that you'd be prosecuted unless the transmitting gear has been tracked down or traced... ...

... (but under the 84 Act you can be. Ed), and you had to be more or less caught in the act.

Section 7 of the 67 Act (as substitute by s77 of the 84 Act) provides for the Secretary of State, for the purpose of preventing or reducing the risk of interference with wireless telegraphy, to make orders applying restrictions to wireless telegraphy apparatus of any class or description. Any of the following actions are subject to restriction under this section:

a) manufacture (whether or not for sale)
b) selling or offering for sale, letting or offering to let on hire or indicating one's willingness to let on hire
c) having in one's custody or control
d) importation

(its made clear that manufacture includes construction by any

method or the assembly of component parts).

When such 'orders' are in force a, b, or c are offences under the 49 Act, though in the case of c (possession) the words 'without reasonable excuse' are added.

In 1984 the only order in force was for d, importation, though this appeared to apply to only CB rigs (with an inbuilt or connected microphone or microphone socket). And the penalty for importation is only confiscation (under the Customs and Excise Management Act, 1979).

(However by 1986 it seems that a, b, and h have been invoked by 'orders'. According to the Feature, 'Pirates and the Law' in TX magazine, Jan 86, with the same max fine of £2,000, no prison sentence. We have no reports of any prosecutions for sale or manufacture, and as late as Oct 86 a TX rig was returned by police after being taken in a drugs raid, with the advice... 'You'd better not use that'. Ed).

THE PENALTIES

49 Act (Section 1.1) The main offence of unlicensed broadcasting. Its a summary conviction (ie magistrates court) and the maximum penalty is 3 months in prison or a fine of up to £2,000 or both. In practice present penalties (1986) range from £200 to £1,000 for a first offence. It depends where you are (in central London fines tend to be much higher than elsewhere) and on the mood of the magistrate (check they haven't got shares in your local IBA franchise!). Fines are likely to be greater for persons seen as ringleaders, and for 2nd or 3rd offences, with the chance of a suspended sentence after more convictions. (But we have no reports of anyone going to prison yet, and some people have a dozen convictions. Ed 1986)

Also under the 49 Act (s1.1) its an offence to listen to pirate radio. So your entire audience is breaking the law! We have a record of one member of an Our Radio team being done for this (they couldn't get him on anything else). He got a £30 fine.