

# Free Radio Campaign, Ireland.

## 'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE'

THE ONLY IRISH FREE RADIO MAGAZINE.

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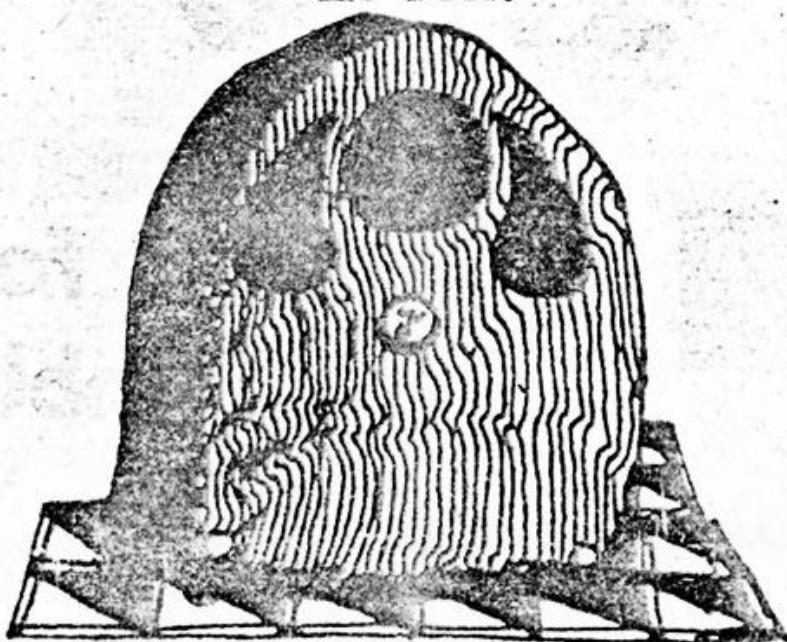
**WE LIVE IN A LOT OF PEOPLE'S EARS  
DAY AFTER DAY**

Because we pass on the kind of SOUNDS people want to hear,  
in a way they like hearing them



Adv. Ph. No. 600731

### **BIG D RADIO** 273m.



**We rise with the sun,  
shine with the moon,  
and give you the stars.**

**DUBLINS ONLY 24 HOUR  
RADIO SERVICE**

**MAG No8**

**AUGUST/**

**SEPTEMBER 1979.**

'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE' is a quarterly publication of:-  
FRC-IRELAND, 53 Charleston Road,  
Dublin 6, Ireland.  
Annual subscription: £1.00 (Eire &  
U.K.), £1.20 (Europe).

**BUMPER  
EDITION!**



HELLO MEMBERS!

WELCOME TO EDITION NUMBER EIGHT OF 'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE' (IRELAND'S ONLY FREE COMMERCIAL RADIO MAGAZINE - AS WE ALWAYS SAY!!!) WE WOULD LIKE TO APOLOGISE FOR THE NON-APPEARANCE OF THE MAY/JUNE EDITION OF THE MAG. THIS WAS DUE TO THE FACT THAT ALTHOUGH THE FEB/MARCH EDITION WAS PRINTED IN MARCH, (DUE TO THE 19 WEEK IRISH POSTAL STRIKE,) IT COULD NOT BE PUBLISHED UNTIL THE STRIKE ENDED IN JULY. IT WAS THEREFORE DECIDED TO HOLD OVER ALL THE NEWS AND FEATURES FOR THIS AUG/SEPT BUMPER EDITION.

SINCE OUR LAST EDITION, RTE HAVE OPENED UP A SECOND NATIONAL RADIO CHANNEL NAMELY 'RTE RADIO 2'. BUT AS YOU WILL SEE FROM OUR 'TUNE IN' FEATURE, THE ADVENT OF THE SECOND CHANNEL HAS NOT REDUCED THE NUMBER OF PIRATES OPERATING IN THE COUNTRY. FRC MEMBERS HAVE HAD A LOT TO SAY ABOUT THIS NEW STATION, AND THE OPINIONS OF ONE MEMBER IS PRINTED IN THIS ISSUE.

FINALLY, BEFORE WE GO, A QUICK WORD ON THE SUBJECT OF 'CITIZEN'S BAND' OR CB RADIO IN THIS COUNTRY. IN THIS ISSUE WE PRINT OUR FIRST ARTICLE ON THE SUBJECT. WE HOPE TO HAVE AN ENCOURAGING RESPONSE FROM OUR MEMBERS AS WELL AS THE 3,500 CB'ERS IN THIS COUNTRY!

"ALL THE GOOD NUMBERS" Kieran Murray, Editor of 'S.A.'

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THE HISTORY OF DUBLIN FREE RADIO(PART TWO).....

Meanwhile, other pirate stations had emerged. Radio Valleri began in 1972. On August 3rd 1975 Capitol Radio started broadcasting. Capitol had been raided but had shown quite a degree of ingenuity in disposing of their transmitting equipment and the Post Office went away empty handed. Capitol disappeared in 1976 and 1977 and returned in 1978, run largely by the original people. By the end of 1977, Radio Dublin was by far the most popular of the pirates, although ARD, which started broadcasting that year, run by Davitt Kelly, Declan Matthews (from Venessa) and Mark Story, was gaining a considerable audience. Don Moore, ousted from Radio Dublin offered ARD a permanent location in Cabra, which was accepted. After this a series of incidents occurred between Radio Dublin and ARD: sabotaged aerials, break-ins and finally a head on collision between Eamon Cooke's White Jaguar and Don Moore's car.

At this stage advertising began to play an important part in the transmissions. ARD was the first station to offer commercials at £2.00 a spot. Now it stands at seven times that price. It was at this time that Bernard Llewellyn, the owner of Anya TV shops, became interested. Llewellyn bought 50% of the station from Moore (the station's founders were not consulted). ARD moved to Belvedere Place early in 1978 and began broadcasting seven days a week. The station limped along through raids, a series of bad transmitters and disputes which has led to few people remaining with the station for very long. This has changed over the past couple of months with the station attempting to run a serious local service. At this time Don Moore's involvement with ARD is greatly reduced. He now had interests in two rural stations - one in Roscommon, the other in Mullingar.

Radio Dublin, which had started seven day week transmissions at Christmas 1977, proved increasingly popular with listeners who hadn't heard continuous pop music since the days of Radio Caroline in 1966/67. By April 1978 advertising revenue was flowing into the station, while disc-jockeys James Dillion, Gerry Campbell, John Paul and Denis Murray were becoming personalities. Many factories relayed the station through their P.A. systems. In April while Eamon Cooke was on holidays a backer had been found for a new station, Big D, and the split was made. Allegations of child molesting and sabotaging the transmitter were made. Both sides probably had good reason to be bitter. Big D did not replace Radio Dublin, but it took a very large proportion of its audience, which remained loyal to the Disc Jockeys rather than the station. If it was their intention to sabotage Cook's transmitter, they did not do a good job: Radio Dublin was back on the air within hours and back to normal within days. Since then, Big D has broadcast 24 hours a day, continuously despite raids, as a co-operative, attracting a large number of their Disc Jockeys from ARD as well as the original Radio Dublin team.

When legislation does finally arrive, and many think this will not happen before March or April next year, few of the stations will continue, although Radio Dublin, which is still based in Eamon Cooke's terrace house in Inchicore could do so by returning to the time when it was on a shoestring. ARD, in its Georgian building with its expenses of well over £1,000 a week, could definitely not continue without advertising revenue. As to whether Big D or Capital could survive, that is debatable. Whatever does happen the pirates' contribution lies in the fact that they have shown two needs: Firstly a need for local community based radio; Secondly a need for a national music radio service. The Minister must now recognise their contribution and provide an adequate replacement before he removes them.

+Reproduced by kind permission from 'In Dublin' magazine, 23rd November 1978.

POSTSCRIPT TO ABOVE ARTICLE.....

Laws prohibiting unlicensed broadcasting are now in an advanced stage of preparation. These laws will also make provision for the setting up of the necessary machinery to issue licences to groups interested in providing local commercial radio services to areas around the country.

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FREE BROADCAST MOVEMENT, BCM-Box 8033, London WGLV 6XX. presents "Free Broadcasting Magazine" issue 7. priced at 18p for eighteen pages packed full of news and information on Free Radio. Articles included are Radio Mercury Int', Radio Mercur, Radio U.B.N., Eire Radio features, C.B. radio, L.B.P. and Offshore radio news. (Also read about the possible prosecution of F.B.M.). Other items; - F.B.M. 4-Badges with photo of the Caroline ship, wording "RADIO CAROLINE 319 METRES". These are 55mm in diameter and are printed in black and white, 25p each. 3

Fr 1-RADIO CAROLINE by John Venmore Roland - tells the early story of Caroline. 184 pages and over 50 illustrations. Price £1.30. Fr 2-The Story Of Offshore Radio - sampler ep stations featured include Caroline, RMI, CNBC, England, 270, London, Noordsee, Britain and many others. Price 85p. FH 6-The Final Hour Of Radio London on a C-60 cassette. FH 8-The Final Hour Of Radio Kaleidoscope on C-60 cassette. FH 6 & 8 are 90p each or both for £1.60. Postage 12p on orders up to £1.00, 20p on orders over £1.00. PAYMENT BY POSTAL ORDERS ONLY MADE OUT TO: FREE BROADCAST MOVEMENT.

BOYNESIDE RADIO ON 225 METRES.....

Boyneside Radio (or LRD) has been broadcasting since late November 1978 from Donaghy's Mill, a grand five storey fortress on the banks of the Boyne in the heart of Drogheda. The first days of LRD (Local Radio Drogheda) were very successful despite the fact that the transmitter power was only 9 watts! In January 1979 the station increased power to 50 watts and a couple of weeks later to 160 watts using a 'Redifon' (ex. IBA) 2kW transmitter (not properly loaded to aerial). The station suffered several technical problems in May, including an unsuccessful P.O. raid, but despite this and the arrival of RTE Radio 2, the loyalty of LRD listeners still remains.

In July, the station again increased power to 400 watts which eliminated all technical problems and today that station can be heard quite clearly within a 45 mile radius of Drogheda and also on the West Coast of England and Wales. The station staff includes 10 full time D.J.'s 2 Newsreaders, with a full time NUJ newseditor and several sports correspondents.

Station timetable: 7.30am 'The Rise & Shine Show' - with David Brown - David worked with RTE Community Radio and hosts the morning show. 10.00am News Headlines followed by the 'Eric Vaughan Show' - Eric formerly of Radio Dublin, Big D Radio and Radio Carousel, talks to housewives and keeps them entertained. 12 noon 'The Lunchtime Special' with Gavan Duffy. 1.15pm National & Local News. 1.20pm 'Lunchtime Special' part 2. 2.00pm 'Afternoon Delight' with Heady Eddy - features 'Memory Lane Time', 'Old Folks Corner' and the 'Birthday Call'. 4.30pm the 'Scenearound Show' with Eric Vaughan and Aine Ní Guider - includes 'Community Calender'. 6.00pm 'Main News Round Up', followed by the 'Teatime Show' with Séamus Mc Kenna - Séamus features a selection of Rock 'N' Roll music, plus competitions and phone-ins. 8.00pm to 9.00pm (Mon, Wed & Fri) 'New Wave' with Tony Clayton-Lee. 8.00 to 9.00pm (Tue, Thurs & weekends) 'Country Convoy' with Paraic Roden - featuring the best of Irish & International Country Music.

Weekend programmes include a Top 30 show on Sundays and live broadcasts. Boyneside Radio 225 metres has a chain link of operators and controllers, with the ambition to pioneer Local Radio. ==FRC-IRELAND wishes them every success==.



## IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE WITH 'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE'



- + FRC-IRELAND now has over 150 members in Ireland, Britain +
- + and the Continent. 'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE' is THE ONLY +
- + Irish Free Radio magazine - so it makes sense to advertise +
- + with us! A  $\frac{1}{4}$  page advertisement (with artwork) costs only +
- + £2.00, a full page only £6.00. For more details contact +
- + our advertising department. +



FRC-HOLLAND have a very special offer for 'Sounds Alternative' readers. They are offering the book "Veronica Leen Jaar Later" (Veronica One Year Later) at a specially reduced price. This book normally retails for £5.00 but 'S.A.' readers may obtain it for only £3.00 (Postage and packing included). For your copy of this exciting book, send an International Money Order for the value of £3.00 (Cheques or Postal Orders not acceptable) to: J. Verbaan, P.O. Box 544 2300 AM, LEIDEN, Holland.



# WHAT HAPPENED TO RTE ?

RTE or Radio Eireann or 2RN as it was then known was formed out of necessity because of the fear of English based companies coming into Ireland to operate a broadcasting system. RTE Radio 2 also came on the air through necessity because of the growth of illegal radio stations. RTE Radio 2 is a total music station but in the book 'Broadcasting in Ireland' by Desmond Fisher, he states: "RTE sees such a second radio service as permitting more balanced and comprehensive programming, ensuring a better service for minorities (including adult education) and providing an outlet for further artistic and creative endeavour".

The quote continues: "Plans are advanced for five or six additional local radio stations on M.F. The first two such stations will be Radio Shannonside serving the Limerick/Shannon region and Radio Dublin for the Dublin area".

Where are these local stations today ? In the incenerator I expect! And what about adult education on RTE Radio 2 ? There are more educational programmes on ARD (Paul Vincent's quiz show for example) than on RTE Radio 2.

In an 'In Dublin' article on local radio, Eugene Murray (RTE Features & Current Affairs producer) stated: "We have a studio ready in Ballsbridge to start a local community radio station in Dublin." I live in the Ballsbridge area and never heard such nonsense unless RTE have a secret hideout (probably to stop P.O. officials raiding them after ARD's claim that RTE was illegal!!!)

The pirates have done more for RTE than the converse. Apart from providing competition, these stations have provided nearly half the staff for RTE Radio 2. Producers, (E.G. Robbie Irwin co-founder of Radio Vanessa) and D.J's alike have all started their broadcasting activities with pirates (RTE save money because they didn't have to train staff).

Then there is the fact that Radio Na Gaeltachta began as a pirate until RTE took over the station and polished up the local presenters who were working with the station. This was mentioned by Bernadette Ni Fhlathartha in the above mentioned quotation from 'In Dublin'.

It took RTE many years to get a VHF service on the air and it cost the station a lot of money whereas Big D Radio is now broadcasting on VHF and it cost the taxpayer nothing and was done relatively quickly and effectively.

By FRC member E. Bohan.

+++++ FRC members! Don't forget to tune in to the FRC-IRELAND SHOW every Sunday morning from 10.00 to 12.00 hours. This is your very own show - so tune-in and write and give us your comments as well as reception reports which are most welcome. There's also up-to-the-minute Free Radio News and features plus the very best in good music!!!!!! Presented by D.J. Bernie Lyons.

For listeners in Dublin City & County: The programme is available on 273 metres/1116 KHz Medium Wave and on 99.8 MHz FM Stereo.

For listeners outside the Dublin area: The programme is available via two Short Wave relays: Radio Condor on 6243 KHz (48mb) and Radio Westside 6280 KHz (48mb).

An alternative FRC-IRELAND SHOW is transmitted by Southside Radio on 300 metres from Bray.

+++++ SOUTHSIDE RADIO, STATION HISTORY.....

Southside Radio commenced broadcasting on the 18th of December 1978. Transmissions were from 4.00pm to 1.00am weekdays and from 1.00pm to 1.00am Saturdays and Sundays. Initially the signal could be heard over a three mile radius, but this was to be later increased. Due to popular demand, the broadcasting times were extended from 11.00am to 1.00pm and soon a large percentage of the Bray population were listening to the station. However, on the 25th of April '79 Southside Radio was raided by the P.O. - backed up by 8 Gardaí. The P.O. officials were unable to gain immediate entry to the station, and in the intervening time (15 minutes) the staff were able to dismantle the transmitter. No equipment was taken.

In June 1979, a new transmitter was installed which improved reception considerably in the Bray and surrounding areas. On the 9th of June, the station owner Mr. Paul Nicholas was informed by four members of the staff that they were taking over the station. Thinking that there would be trouble, Mr. Nicholas removed the transmitter that night. During that same night, the stays supporting the 60 foot transmitting mast were cut and all the equipment was removed.

Southside Radio was off the air for almost 2½ weeks whilst repairs were being carried out. When transmissions recommenced, the signal was poor. It was decided that a change of location was needed in order to improve reception. A new location was found, thus improving the signal immensely. Southside Radio can now be heard clearly in Counties Dublin and Wicklow and along most of the East Coast of Ireland.

++Don't forget, the FRC-IRELAND SHOW on S.A.R. every Sunday 10.00am to 12.00 hours++

===== Would you like to contribute material to FRC-IRELANDS 'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE' magazine? FRC-IRELAND are always interested in hearing from readers and their views on the Free Radio Scene. And if you care to try your hand at journalism we may even print your article. So if you care to drop us a line, do so at 53 Charleston Road, Ranelagh, Dublin 6, Ireland.



# Tune in

BY

K. MURRAY.

please note that this list includes only the stations that are known to be active at the time of going to press. If you know of any Free or Commercial station currently active, and not included in this 'Tune In' section - please write to the Editor supplying full details - many thanks!

| STATION NAME                 | WAVELENGTH     | DAYS & TIMES OF BROADCASTING                        |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| ALTERNATIVE RADIO DUBLIN     | 257 metres     | 07.00 to 02.00 hours (Mon-Thurs) non-stop weekends  |
| ATLANTIC RADIO (Galway)      | 300 metres     | 13.00 to 18.00 hours Saturdays and Sundays          |
| BIG D RADIO (Dublin)         | 273 m + 99.8FM | 24 hours per day + FRC Show, Sundays 10.00 to 12.00 |
| BIG L RADIO (Limerick)       | 196 metres     | no details                                          |
| BOYNESIDE RADIO (Drogheda)   | 225 metres     | 07.30 to 21.00 hours daily                          |
| BRAY LOCAL BROADCASTING      | 365 metres     | 11.00 to 23.00 hours daily                          |
| CAPITOL RADIO (Cork)         | 233 metres     | 08.00 to 20.00 hours daily                          |
| CAPITOL RADIO (Dublin)       | 226 metres     | 08.00 to 01.30 hours daily                          |
| CORK BROADCASTING COMPANY    | 214 metres     | 08.00 to 18.00 hours daily                          |
| CORK CITY LOCAL RADIO        | 261 metres     | 07.00 to 17.00 hours daily                          |
| INDEPENDENT RADIO SLIGO      | 257 metres     | no details                                          |
| KILKENNY COMMUNITY RADIO     | 216 metres     | no details                                          |
| LIMERICK BROADCASTING Co.    | 270 metres     | no details                                          |
| KERRY COMMUNITY RADIO        | 188 metres     | no details                                          |
| MIDLAND RADIO (Athlone)      | 265 metres     | 08.00 to 20.00 hours daily                          |
| NORTH WEST RADIO (Donegal)   | no details     |                                                     |
| RADIO CAROLINE DUBLIN        | 199 metres     | 10.00 to 24.00 hours Sundays                        |
| RADIO CAROUSEL (Dundalk)     | 265 metres     | 07.00 to 24.00 hours daily                          |
| RADIO DUBLIN                 | 253 metres     | 07.00 to 03.15 hours (Mon-Fri) non-stop weekends    |
| RADIO MONAGHAN (C'blaney)    | 228 metres     | 09.00 to 21.00 hours (Mon-Sat) only                 |
| RADIO MID-DISTANCE (Dublin)  | 105 MHz FM     | erratic, but mainly confined to weekends            |
| RADIO THURLES                | 230 metres     | transmissions on Sundays only                       |
| RADIO TRALEE                 | 255 metres     | no details                                          |
| SOUTHSIDE RADIO (Bray)       | 300 metres     | 07.00 to 24.00 hours (Mon-Fri) non-stop weekends    |
| SUIRSIDE RADIO (Waterford)   | 257 metres     | 08.00 to 21.00 hours daily                          |
| TRALEE COMMUNITY RADIO       | 96 MHz FM      | no details                                          |
| WATERFORD LOCAL RADIO        | 252 metres     | 08.00 to 21.00 hours daily                          |
| WEST COAST RADIO (Galway)    | 219 metres     | no details                                          |
| WESTSIDE RADIO INTERNATIONAL | 6280 KHz       | 10.00 to 13.00 hours every Sunday (Relays FRC Show) |
| RADIO CONDOR INTERNATIONAL   | 6243 KHz       | 10.00 to 13.00 hours every Sunday (Relays FRC Show) |

## STATION ADDRESSES:

A.R.D., Belvedere House, 42 Belvedere Place, Dublin 1. Atlantic Radio, 92 Renmore Park, Renmore, Galway. Big D Radio, 117 St. Stephens Green West, Dublin 1. Big L Radio, 13 Ellen St., Limerick. Boyneside Radio, 14 Mill Lane, Trinity St., Drogheda. Bray Local Broadcasting, 8 Goldsmith Tce., Quinnsborough Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Capitol Radio, 1 Empriss Place, Summerhill, Cork. Capitol Radio, 36 Bachelor's Walk, Dublin 1. C.B.C., 36 St. Patrick's Quay, Cork. C.C.L.R., Annelly, Fairgrove Cres., Bishopstown, Cork. K.E.R., Ballycallan Rd., Kilkenny. K.C.R., Church St., Tralee, Co. Kerry. Midland Radio, Athlone Shopping Centre, Athlone, Co., Westmeath. R.C.D., 57 Abbotstown Avenue, Ringlas, Dublin 11. Radio Carousel, Dundalk Shopping Centre, Dundalk, Co., Louth. Radio Dublin, 3 Sarsfield Road, Dublin 10. Radio Monaghan, Bree, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan. Southside Radio, c/o "In-The-Mood-Records", Bray, Co. Wicklow. T.C.R., 20 St. John's Park, Tralee, Co. Kerry. W.L.R., Waterford Shopping Centre, Waterford. Westside Radio International & Radio Condor International, c/o FRC-Ireland, 53 Charleston Road, Dublin 6, Ireland.

+++++ further to our recent article on European Music Radio, we have been informed that they have changed frequency from 6265 KHz (48mb) to 6235 KHz and 7325 KHz (41mb). E.M.R. transmits every 3rd Sunday in the month. We have also been asked to mention that Radio Sunshine will be on the same frequency, but on the air every 1st., 2nd. and 4th. Sunday in the month.

+++++ If an 'X' appears in the box on the left, then please renew your subscription as soon as possible! Enclose your name and address with payment. Thank You!



+ 'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE' ISSUE NUMBER EIGHT.  
+ Editor: Kieran Murray. Published by: FRC-IRELAND,  
+ 53 Charleston Road, Dublin 6, Ireland. Printed by:  
+ Hedges Ltd., Wynnefield Place, Dublin 6. Contributors:  
+ European Music Radio, Boyneside Radio, 'In Dublin'  
+ magazine, Eamon Bohan, Southside Radio.  
+ Next Issue: Nov/Dec. 1979. © FRCI August 1979.

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