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## RADIOTHON REPORT

The 1984 "Born Again" Radiothon was a great success and IF people send in the pledged \$43,500 then the short-term future of 4ZZZ is assured (that is a big if).

Things have been tough at ZZZ over the last few months. Money ran out in December because of a lack of both big promotions and long-term planning.

The full-time staff were on the dole for a couple of months over the festive season and it is reassuring that even when spirits were low and pockets empty, a lot of good work got done anyway.

I think listeners appreciated the effort and showed their support at the Radiotion. The money will be used to provide a solid basis for the long-term development of ZZZ. We will be improving the quality of the stations signal with a new compressor and an exciter (sounds fun, doesn't it). We will be updating some of the more clapped-out gear.

We are seriously looking at buying a cheap computer to take the random element out of subscriptions and finance. Above all, we will be hanging on to some money to budget with over the next months, though we need to raise a lot more moneyover the next year if we don't want to end up scavenging in rubbish bins next Xmas.

So the battle for survival goes on and,

Steve Stockwell

Acting Station Co-ordinator

let's face it, if is wasn't a battle to get individuals and community groups to support us financially, if we didn't take subscriptions, we wouldn't be providing the challenging, commercial-free radio that is our whole purpose.

While the Radiothon was alot of work, late hours and craziness, it was also a lot of fun. The "Z-Team" was a fairly amusing spoof of the "A-Team" set in Queensland after the holocaust. The return of Andy Nehl and Dan Flannery provided a manic shot in the arm to our on-air push.

The Radiothon market was also a great success. The AM Radio throwing competition featured a mechanical device for the first time but it was badly embarrassed by the strength of the human arm. The Auction was a good money spinner with a lot of interest shown in the National Party Memorabillia package (ironic, isn't it). The T.V. Smashing was also popular – at least it was a way of getting rid of all the old TV's that people dumped out here on the pretex to giving us junk.

So thanks to all the people who subscribed, donated and worked to produce the best Radiothon ever. People often say that ZZZ is the best radio station in the world. I tell them that is so, only because we have got the most discerning audience and the most committed group of workers and volunteers on the whole planet face. It's your station — don't let it fail.

■ Briefly, the idea of a collective decision making body where everyone has an equal say and where there are no bosses and no leaders, developed within the women's movement and has since been adopted by other left groups. The leaderless collective as an organizational form developed as a reaction against our over-structured society which gives others the power to make decisions which affect our lives, eg. governments, churches, bosses etc. The collective is a more democratic form of organizing, the emphasis is placed on everyone agreeing and achieving consensus on particular issues. Whereas in hirarchical structures decisions are made by those who have the power and those who don't have to lump it!

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At ZZZ we don't have an hirarchical structure. All full-time staff are paid the same wage; we have co-ordinators, not heads of departments or managers. Full-time staff are on an equal footing with volunteers. No one job is more important than the others. In effect the full-time staff run the station day to day but are ultimately responsible to the collective.

So, who is in this collective? Membership of the station collective is loosely based. Who-ever-happens-to-be-at-a-particular-meeting is the critera for membership. Which you must admit is pretty loose.

During the fourteen months that I have worked at ZZZ the only formal rule that has become apparent is that quorom is half the full-time staff. In effect the membership narrows down to a core of people who regularly attend meetings.

Therefore a basic description of a collective is:

a) a group of people who come together for some mutually agreed reason. In our case the running of a radio station.

b) Where the responsibility for making decisions falls on the group as a whole, not on any one individual.

The next question is the more difficult one. How does a collective work?

Dispite the collective being an extremely loose and fluxuating structure there are several basic principals involved. The most basic is an emphasis on democratic procedures and ensuring that all those present, participate. Particularly where the delegation of specific commitment, rather than letting people assume jobs by default. This only leads to tasks not being dependably done.

The collective must retain control over people in positions of authority. Otherwise it ceases to a collective. Individuals may exercise power, but it is the group that has ultimate say over how the power is exercised.

Ideally authority should be distributed among as many people as is reasonably possible. This prevents any monopoly on power developing in the process of exercising it. The collective structure has an inherent problem of informal structures within the collective, form a basis for the development of elites. This will consequently lead to the breakdown and destruction of the collective as the primary decision making body.

Information is power. The reason for each full-time staff member giving reports at meetings is to ensure a diffusion of information to everyone as frequently as possible. Access to information enhances one's power. When an informal network spreads new ideas and information among themselves outside the group as a whole participating. Ultimately and ideally, the collective should have power to determine who shall exercise authority within it.

The key elements within a collective are responsibility and participation. Individuals have the responsibility to ensure that the collective functions as a collective. That means everyone must participate in the decision making process. All of those involved then have a responsibility to carry out the decisions made.

Collectives are not perfect, ideal structures; problems with effectiveness and operation dependent. This is why from time to time there must occur some form of questioning and examination of how we are all operating.

CYNTHIA IRVINE

\* This article is based upon "The Tyranny of Structurelessness" by Joreen.



The intention of this article is to stimulate informal debate among as wide a group of people involved in ZZZ as possible.

Hopefully, it is common knowledge that radio 4ZZZ was established for specific reasons. Primarily to offer an alternative medium for people with alternative views to those expressed by the media monopoly which exists in this state, country, world.

However, in the day to day struggle to keep this station viable and presenting alternative, progressive and provocative radio, often the politics of how we operate goes un-no-

We all know that the station collective which meets every Tuesday is the place where all decisions concerning the station are made. However, what is a collective and why do we operate within this particular structure?







MTHE GREAT FOOT 'N' MOUTH SWINDLE GOES ON. .

The ultimate irony: Bob Hawke warns of the manipulative power of the media. (Mr Hawke, if we turned off the cameras would you still exist?)

Meanwhile, extortion fever sweeps Queensland as the National Party's dirty tricks department, a.k.a. Government News and Information Unit gives new meaning to the concept of media manipulation. Of course, extortion threats are neither new nor peculiar to Queensland. The difference is, We Make it Great in the Sunshine State.... the recent rash of timely extortion scares and fear-mongering publicity is typical of Bjelke-Petersen's approach to the media.

Petersen and his ilk reject the idea that the mass media is one avenue through which institutions can be held accountable to the people. Journalists should stop wasting the Premier's time on trivial matters that have already been taken care of by those who know best. After all, as Joh says, "I don't have to justify anything to anyone."

Much less acceptable to the authorities is the view that mass media should provide an efficient means of freely disseminating information to all members of society. If Prisons Minister Muntz was interested in encouraging informed public debate, he would have allowed all media and interested members of the public to properly inspect Boggo Road jail. Instead, Muntz deliberately excluded from his jail tour two media organisations that have been critical of the prisons system (4ZZZ& ABC

Radio Current Affairs). Predictably, the inspection was little more than a public relations stunt, with the hosts bustling journos along and forbidding any communication with prisoners. The jail is still effect-vely closed to independent inspection. Rather than trying to solve the problems inside, Muntz has blamed ZZZ for stirring up trouble.

In Qld, as elsewhere, those with power see the media as there to be used to further political objectives. Privately-owned media outlets generally give no trouble... unco-operative ratbags face reprisals and obstacles. ZZZ is not usually notified about the Premier's press conferences, for example.

In the extortion department, blaring headlines can always make up for lack of detail. (Just gloss over the contradictions in the story — we can't release details for security reasons, you understand. And don't ask why so few of these terror/horror threats ever eventuate.) Look at a few of these beat-ups and their political purpose is obvious.

The foot 'n' mouth virus threat — publicised during secret trials of prison "troublemakers" and widespread calls for prison reform. Serious debate was forgotten in the onslaught of terror/hype and political smear. The bank extortion threat — publicised the day after extensive criticism of the govt's draconian counter-terrorist legislation, and just before the passing of controversial new laws governing Aboriginal reserves... an effective smokescreen.

The dreaded Extortion Deadline passes with just one casualty — a pedestrian struck by a car in a chaotic bomb/terror flower shop evacuation. The incident is just one of many in the atmosphere of paranoia and hysteria generated by the media blitz...... Fears grow as Mad Bomber Anti-Nuclear Fanatic plans bombing campaign, just one day after 250,000 people march for peace. When will we read that Bomb Scare Ghouls Threaten to Kill Debate on Peace Issue?

The Spectre of Terrorism, like god, is everywhere but invisible. Good ol' terrorism never fails to get people's minds off changing things, and back where they belong — hoping that the security forces will protect them. Keep 'em on their toes and in their houses — after all, you can't trust anyone these days.

Now, who are the terrorists?

Harley Stumm

The ZZZ news collective always needs more people with time, ideas and information to help us improve the standard of our news service. . . . . Anyone concerned about political and social issues is welcome to become involved — as a volunteer journalist, or by keeping us informed about the activities of your revolutionary movement. Let us know if you see or hear or experience anything others might be interested to hear.

We'll soon be organising a series of training workshops — to find out more, ring or drop in on the newsroom, and ask for Amanda, Jon or Harley.

## do ya nana...

It's no secret among active, nutitionconscious people that bananas are a healthy food, although few people know what makes them so. That's because bananas aren't sold in packages with convenient nutrition lables. If they were, we'd discover that bananas have no cholesterol, almost no fat and pound for pound, have a higher potassium content than any other fresh fruit.

Potassium determines the amount of water held in body tissues and plays a key role in the function of muscle cells. In conjunction with sodium and chloride, potassium makes up what are known as electroytes.

If you eat just one banana, you're getting 450 milligrams of potassium. If you ate nothing more than four bananas a day, you'd be assured of getting your minimum daily requirement.

A yellow banana (100 grams) contains about nine grams of sucrose, a wealth of vitamins and minerals and also tryptophan which the brain uses to make serotonin (a natural tranquilizer).

When is the best time to eat your banana? That depends on taste preference. Surveys show, however, that 40 percent of banana consumers perfer the fruit when the skin is yellow with a tinge of green at the stem. Few like totally green fruit, although 7 percent of those surveyed like their bananas very ripe (yellow-flecked with brown spots).

There are four characteristics of damaged bananas that we can recognise. They are: "cooked", "chilled", "scarred" and "bruised".

Cooked bananas have been exposed to excessive heat. Bananas suffering from prolonged exposure to high temperature are soft and their peels break off at the neck. Another sign is sugar spotting (dark brown spots) when the banana is still green.

Chilled bananas have been damaged by the cold. In their green stage they will appear dull and smokey. Once the ripening process has been stopped by excessive cold, normal ripening will not resume.

Scarred bananas have gashes in them

from imporper handling. This becomes more apparent on ripening.

Bruised bananas need no introduction. Follow these tips for storing bananas at home: 1) Keep at room temperature until they reach the desired ripeness. 2) To store bananas once they have ripened, put them in the refrigerator. They will keep for several days this way and although the skin may darken, the fruit will be fresh. 3) Bananas will remain unspoiled for up to six months in your freezer, if peeled and wrapped tightly in foil or plastic freezer wrap. Defrosted bananas will be very soft and so, more appropriate for "smoothies" and recipes calling for pureed bananas.

Bananas are easy to eat. They are made up of 75 percent water; you hardly have to chew them before swallowing. Some idea of how easy it is to eat a banana can be taken from Dr. Ronald L. Alkana (Guiness Book of World Records) who gobbled down 17 in two minutes, and that's not monkeying around.

**ED DETOUR**