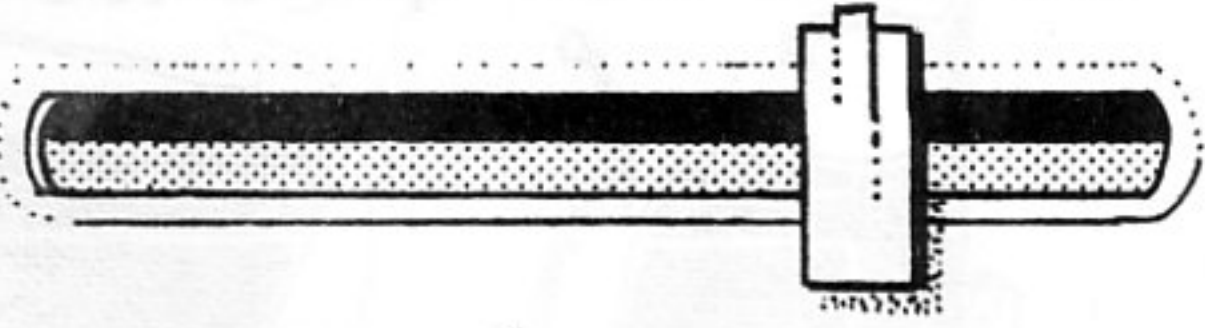


# WRAID Times

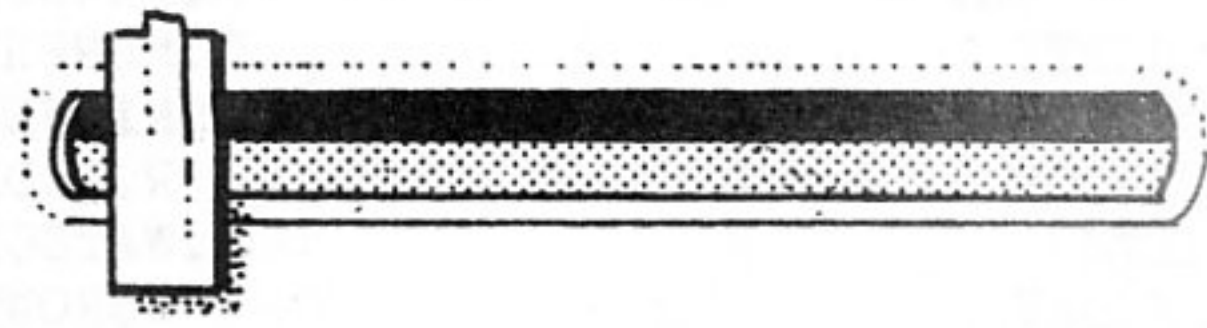


ROLL- CANE THE 4ZZZ AUST.  
ING TOAD WATCH RADIO WEED/  
STONE TIMES TOWER TIMES SEED



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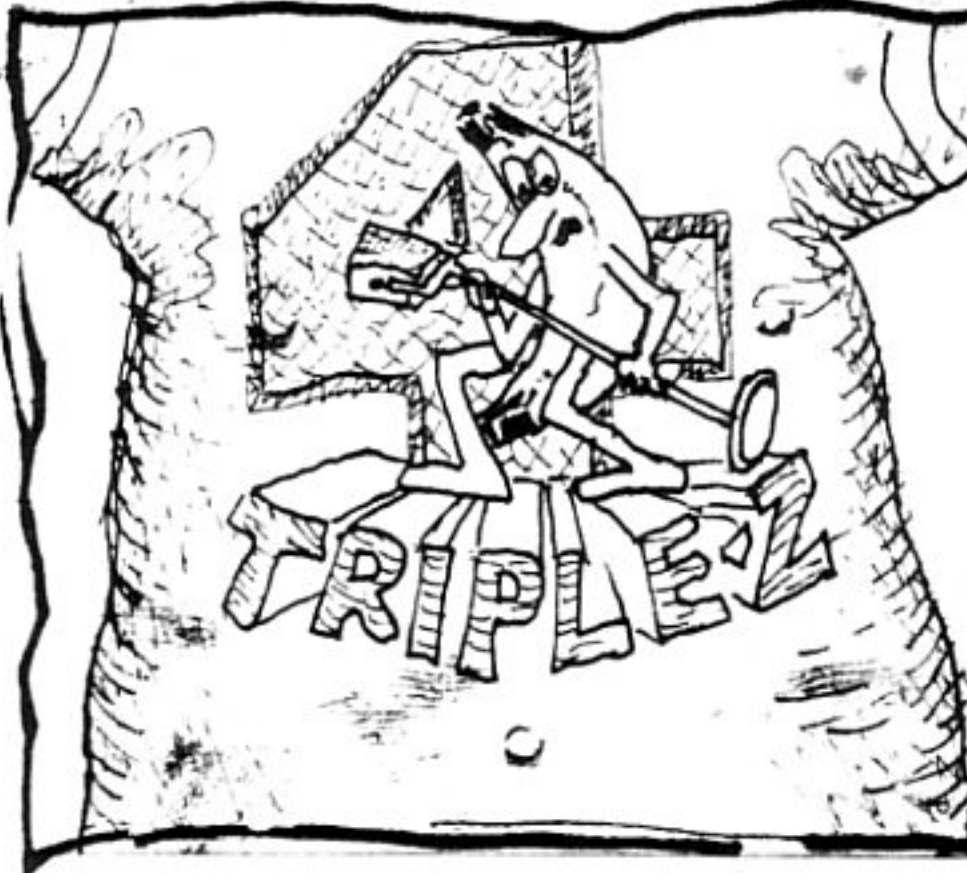


The RADIO TIMES editors' avowed aversion to violence is becoming well known around Triple Z. And many of our contributors are showing a marked reluctance to submit their articles on time; if at all. Unfortunately the casualties this month include "On the Receiving End", programme notes for "Through the Looking Glass" and the movie review, which was to be of "Don's Party".

The problem is that early this month Triple Z is running a series of Test Transmissions from Mt. Coot-tha. For this to happen Triple Z has had to prepare the transmission site, which means building a hut, moving the transmitter into it, getting the electricity on, preparations for land lines, wiring erecting a 100ft tower, etc., etc. This has meant mobilising staff, volunteers, Telecom and anyone else who looks as though they could or should help.

Needless to say with Triple Z's meagre resources only a couple of areas can get full attention. Programme content and our 'on air' performance always get first preference and with the demands of Mt. Coot-tha, RADIO TIMES fell into disarray.

However we do have articles on the broadcasting scene in Oz, ranging from the grim news of the destruction of 3ZZ, to an unlikely contender for Brisbane's airways, 4ZAP. And station news about licences, Mt. Coot-tha and such, so bear with us and please revive the practice of letters to the editor.



THESE T-SHIRTS AREN'T HERE FOR OUR HEALTH YOU KNOW! THERE THEY'RE FOR YOUR HEALTH: TO KEEP THE WEATHER OFF, AND THE SKIN ON, AND THE RIBS IN ORDER, AND THE VISCERA IN PLACE. SO, IF YOU WANT TO AVOID A NASTY ACCIDENT, SEND \$4.95 IN PAID, UNMARKED BROWN PAPER DOLLAR NOTES TO 4ZZZ AND SLEEP EASY AT NIGHT

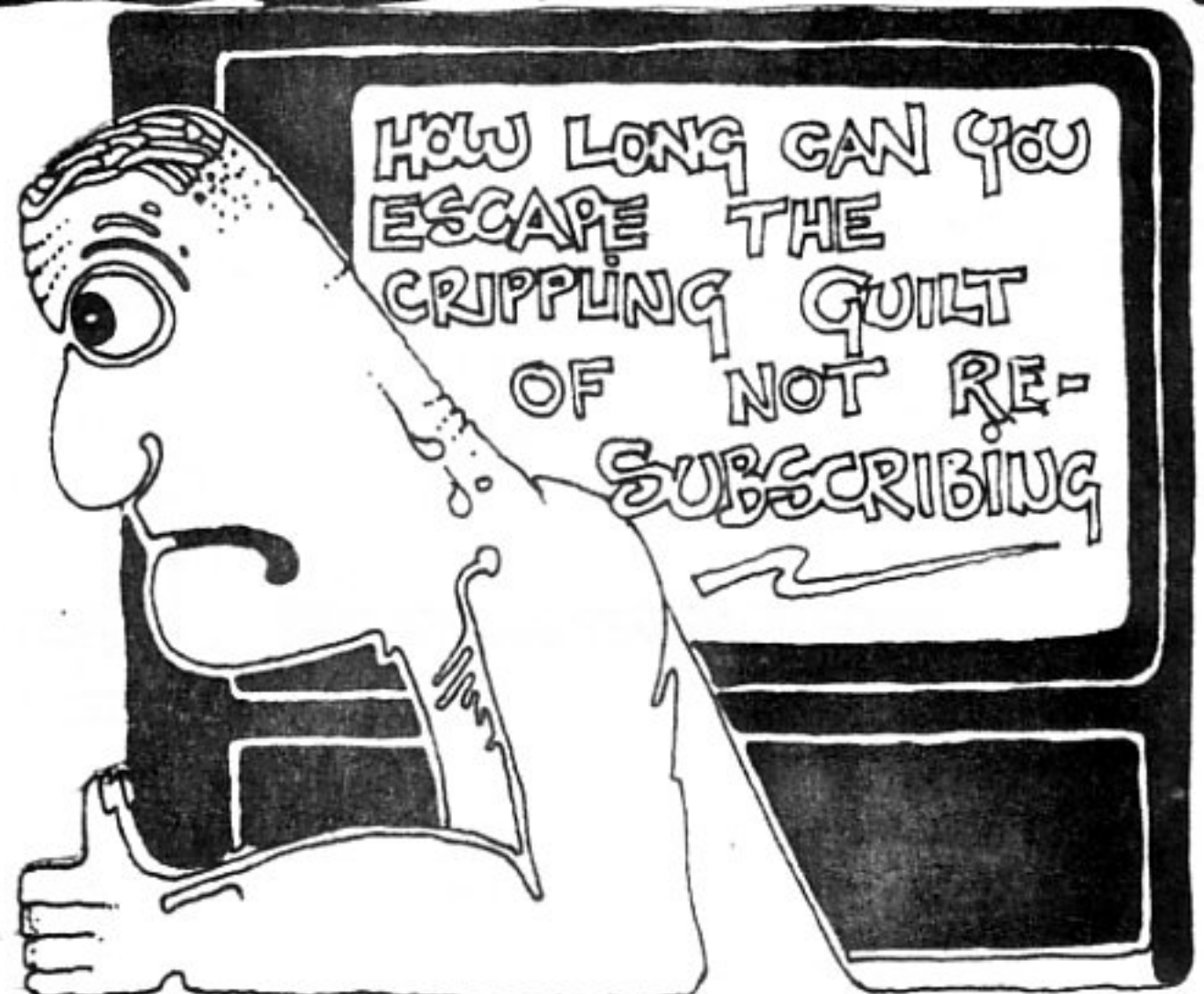
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# The W. Heath Robinson Programme Guide...

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Five A.M.

Six A.M.




Michael Finnan

Roman Masarek

Classical Music Programme

Nine


Stuart Matchett



Mark Bracken

Bruno Kolberg

One




John Woods

Stuart Matchett

Brisbane Line

Five

Willy Riner



Through the Looking Glass  
Reek Westo  
(3715111)

Peter Anderson

Nine

Special

Nuthin' but the Blues

50's Rock and Roll

Jazz on Record

Live Wires

Singles Bar

Ten

Ian Nicholson

Lyndal Kearney

Helen Hambling

Mark Bracken

Ian Nicholson

Leigh Bradshaw

Philip Mosley

One A.M.

The Masked Announcer  
(Till 6 A.M.)

Julie Goodall or Jenny Stoops  
(Till 6 A.M.)

THE OFFICE

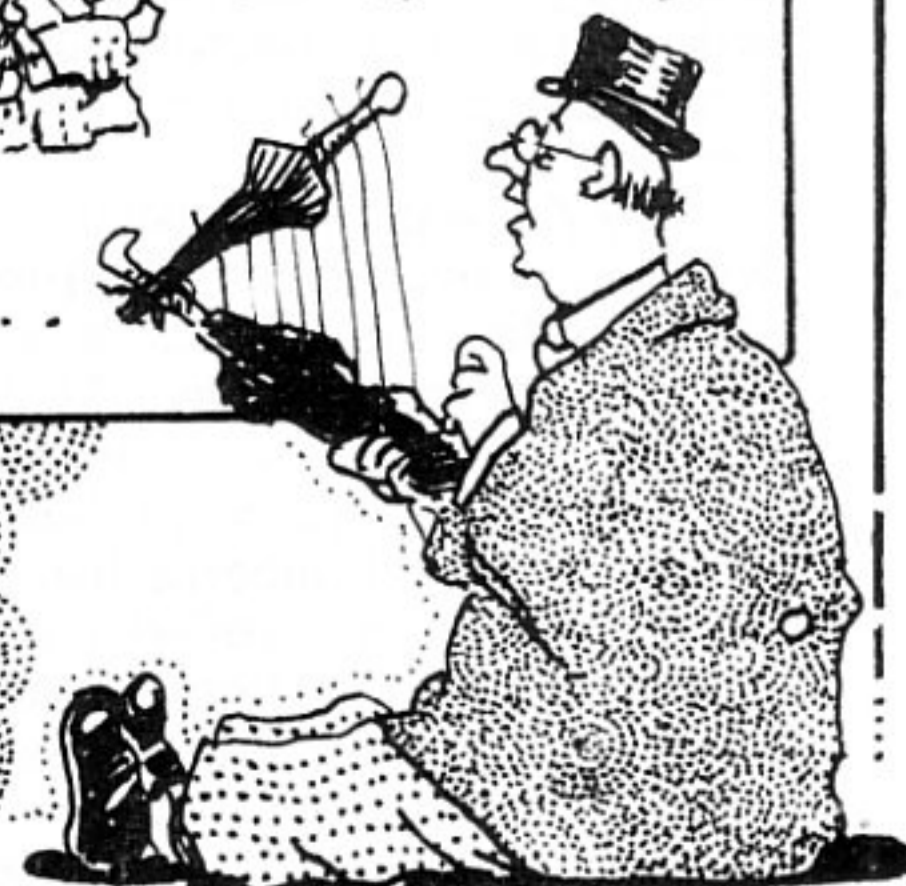
One A.M.

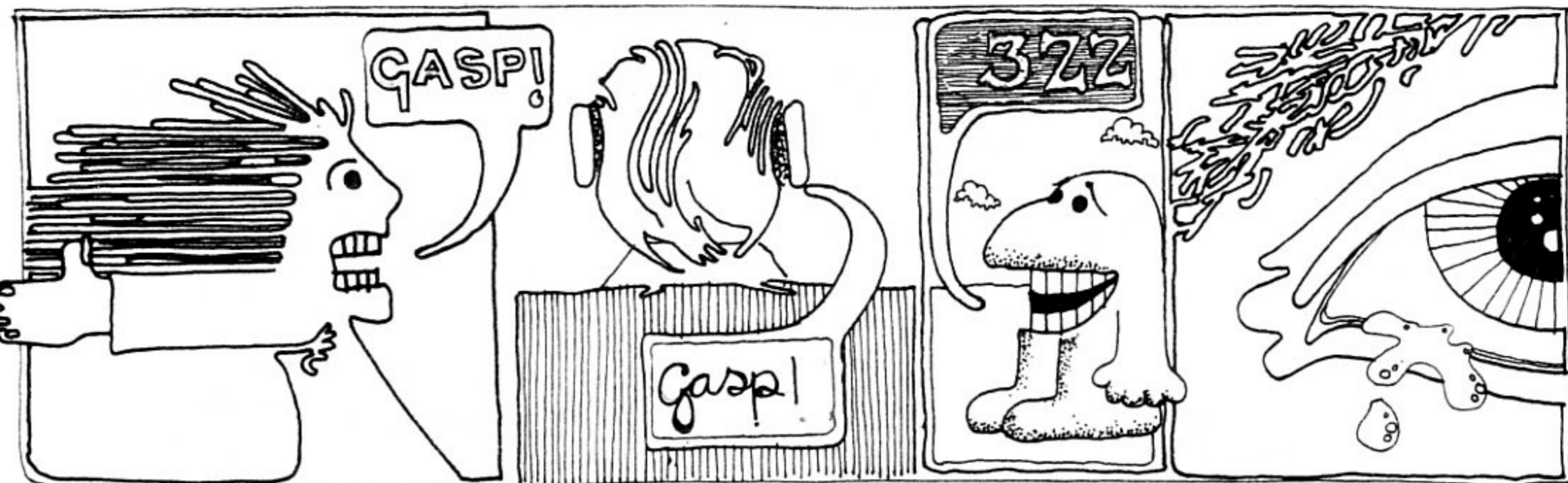
Two A.M.




August!

News can be heard from Mon to Fri every half-hour, till 8.30; then at 11 A.M. and 1 P.M. Major new bulletins are at 5.30 P.M. and 7.30 P.M.  
"Brisbane Graffiti" is on at 6.30 P.M. Mon to Sat (Current cultural and political events around town; ring and tell us)





## THE DEATH OF DOUBLE ZED



As RADIO TIMES goes to press this month, Australia's first and only truly community access radio station, 3ZZ, is silent. It seems the Fraser Government which funds the ABC, which funded the Melbourne station, has decided enough was enough. Two weeks earlier, Minister Eric Robinson had announced that an Ethnic Broadcasting Authority would be set up to handle all such stations in Australia. And that the Melbourne hybrid, somewhere between access and ethnic, 3ZZ, would be closed down.

3ZZ managed to hang on officially without money for over two weeks but finally the powers that be resolved to once and for all decide the issue. The plug was pulled, with the aid of the commonwealth police and senior ABC management, on Saturday, 17th July. More than 30 ethnic groups plus numerous other community groups have found themselves right back where they started from, before 1975 and the Labor Government's brave new experiment gave them the freedom of expression they'd been so long denied. It was cold comfort, for instance, for Robinson to tell the migrant groups to approach Melbourne's purely ethnic station 3EA for air time. They know, and he knows, that things are more closely controlled at 3EA. Even if you have the opportunity, you can't say quite the same things on 3EA, as you could on 3ZZ. That's because Robinson's department runs THAT station. Nor was it much use telling other non-ethnic groups who broadcast on 3ZZ to apply for public broadcasting licences. It's been hard enough to stay on air, let alone get a NEW public broadcast licence since the Fraser Government came to power 18 months ago. Just ask any public broadcaster. So what it all seems to boil down to is control...control of the ABC, of broadcasting in general in Australia...political control.

3ZZ was established mid-1975 by the Whitlam Government as Australia's only access station. In the event, programming gradually became dominated by Melbourne's numerous ethnic groups, who being the most organised community groups were best able to make use of the facility Canberra had provided. However, while 75% of the ABC-run station was in foreign languages, the remainder was used by any other local groups who had a case to put. The aboriginal community had its own weekly programme, so too did returned service-people and the Bing Crosby Society. Only political parties and obvious-

ly commercial interests were denied air time. Despite all this, 3ZZ, like, it seems, most other ambitious areas of ABC programming these days, came under criticism for bias, left wing of course. But more of that later.

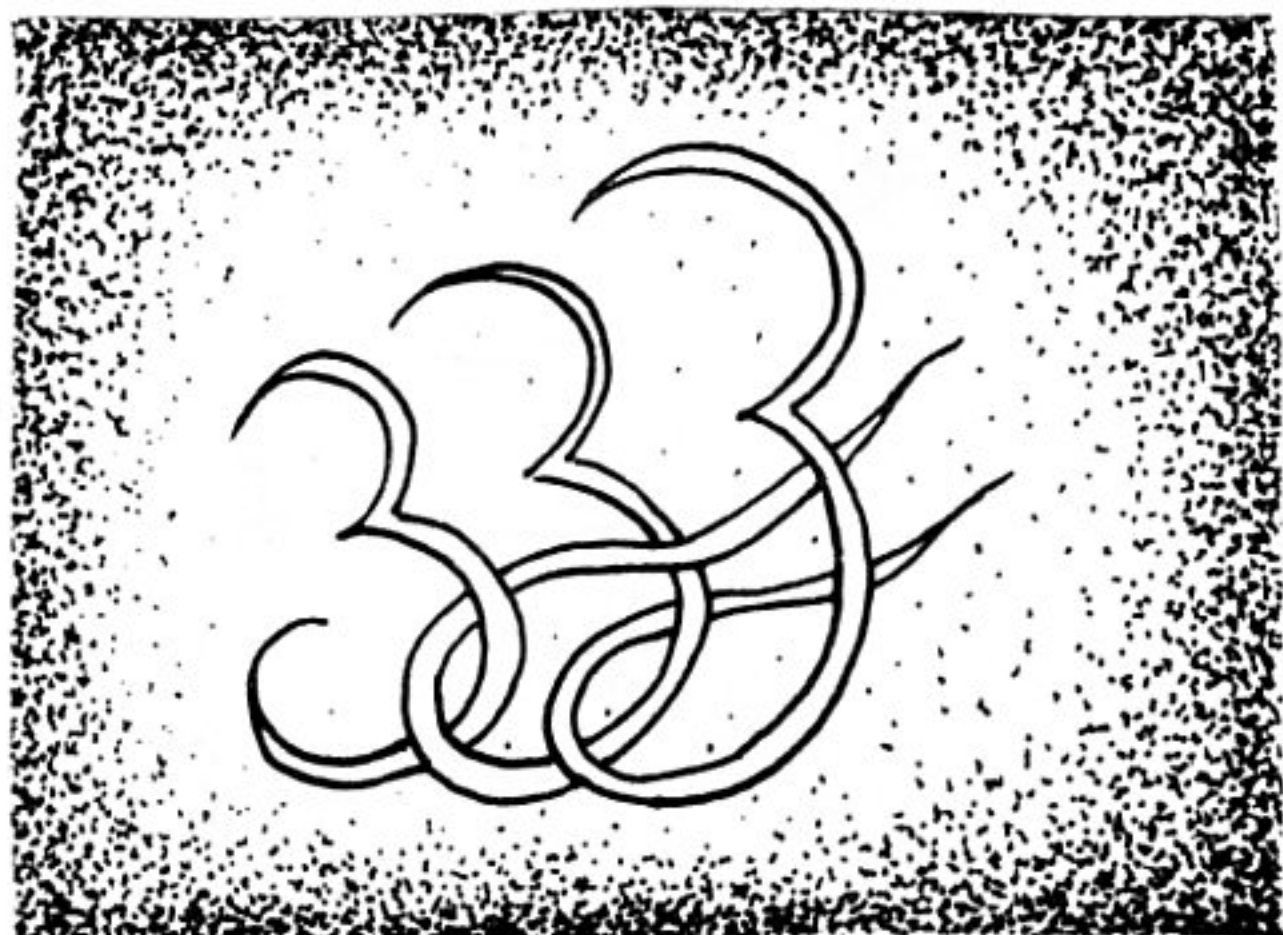
The station was run along fairly democratic lines. Representatives to the Central Planning Assembly from each of the thirty-odd programme committees were elected by interested people and listeners in the community. Four thousand Greek people, for instance, participated in the election of their community's representatives. In the wake of the closure, and with this sort of obvious community support, a number of government members in Victoria are now getting decidedly edgy - whoops, there goes the ethnic vote next election.

Against this background of a thoroughly viable and healthy station, the Fraser Government at first felt it had no option but to offer the responsibility on a permanent basis to the ABC. This was when Henry Bland was commission top dog. Bland, you may remember, gave newly elected Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser the hatchet chop into government spending. Anyway, Bland with his generally austere outlook on life seemed to think Australia could get by without the luxury of ethnic radio. Certainly by the time he resigned as ABC chairperson, the commission was no closer to assuming responsibility for the new area of broadcasting than it had been when the offer was made months earlier.

However, the new commission head, John Norgard (to whom the name 'bland' could perhaps more easily be applied than his stormy predecessor) seemed to be more interested in the ABC taking over ethnic radio. Finally, six months later the ABC had a submission ready for the government which suggested it receive about two and a half million dollars to fund ethnic broadcasting. On hearing this, Robinson, who had become increasingly dissatisfied with the ABC's 'attitude', decided this was far too high. (Speaking to the National Times on 11th July, Robinson had this to say: "There has been too much tendency by some ABC staff to interpret the news and this has gone too far. In some programmes like 'Broadband', I don't think the material is acceptable to the community, either morally or politically. I believe a lot of it is subversive and sub-standard.") Cabinet agreed to bypass the ABC: it was decided an ethnic broadcasting authority

would be established to look after the remaining ethnic stations and that 3ZZ, in many ways a de facto ethnic station, should go. Robinson's decision went right against a promise he'd made only weeks earlier that 3ZZ should continue to be funded.

Many in the ABC were shocked by the Government's decision. 2JJ staff, Broadband, even ABC-FM people began to realise how vulnerable they were to political interference from Canberra. But of course they weren't really TOO suprised. The Henry Bland appointment must have shown them how this government felt about any sort on independance of the ABC. Other examples are well documented - in a previous coalition government, Post Master General Alan Hulme tried to cut off funds to 'This Day Tonight' because of alleged bias; government Senate leader Reg Withers, sought a moderator to check bias in ABC coverage of the '75 elections; transport Minister Peter Nixon's hysterical ravings about biased ABC news coverage and his desire to appoint a Supreme Court Judge to check it out; and probably most significantly of all, the abortive attempts last year by the Government to have the ABC's staff elected commisioner removed from his/her management position. Even to this day there are understood to have been directives to other ABC radio and television stations to play down the significance of the closure of 3ZZ in their news broadcasts. THAT'S political interference, and THAT'S how the Fraser Government is trying to remove any even minor checks and balances which control the Australian media.



Following his provocative decision, Robinson continued to refuse to see the 3ZZ Planning Committee Chairperson Ian Eliot to discuss the closure. So Mr Eliot went to the meeting of ABC Commisioners in Sydney to try to get some help. He wasn't allowed to attend and all that meeting did was suggest that the Minister reconsider his decision. Chairperson John Norgard is understood to have been soundly criticised for being unwilling to make stronger protest to Robinson over 3ZZ's closure. Morale is said to be low in many parts of the ABC because some commisioners are too willing to accept the governments blatant interference. Of course, Robinson is quite within his rights to set the precedent of closing down an Australian radio station in peace time. But he certainly needn't have,

At the moment Ian Eliot has a submission to Norgard asking that 3ZZ go back on air with community financial support. Although there

are problems, Norgard says he'll consider the request. Mr Eliot, despite everything in the past, is hopeful.

The whole case against the Fraser Government's closure of 3ZZ can probably best be summed up by the resignation letters of the stations 4 producers : "Our resignation from the ABC marks the end of a unique attempt to redefine the role of public servants in Australia today. Public servants are paid to serve the public. Too often this relationship is distorted and even obstructed by the bureaucratic structures of the Australian government. For the past 2 years, 3ZZ has demonstrated the possibility of public servants working directly with the people they're employed to serve. Although the Federal Government appears to have been successful in closing 3ZZ, it has not succeeded in isolating the 3ZZ staff from the people of Melbourne. In order to strengthen our relationship with the community we believe we've got no option but to resign from the ABC. We'll continue to serve the Melbourne Community through the 3ZZ Planning Assembly. We believe that this Assembly represents the cultural, social and political diversity which is Melbourne today. The ABC does not represent this diversity nor can it. However we believe the commision should have recognised that the 3ZZ Planning Assembly acts on behalf of the people of Melbourne. The commision should therefore have acted in concert with the Planning Assembly and refused to carry out the Government's directive that the station be closed.



As it is, the commision has not only failed the people of Melbourne, it has compromised its integrity to a degree which we as employees find unacceptable. However, the Australian Broadcasting Commission is made up of eleven people and we take this opportunity to thank publicly those commissioners who have supported us...Finally, we call on all democratic Australians to give the same support to those people who are still ABC employees. The government has set a dangerous and frightening precedent in closing 3ZZ. Now that the precedent has been set, the autonomy and objectivity of our national broadcasting institution is in peril. If the remaining staff are to defend the ABC's independence, they'll need massive public support. We are sure that the people of Australia will fight for freedom of speech."

Barry Weston

# ZIG ZAG MULTI-MEDIA.

*Announcing!!*

# 4ZAP



# DIPLOMACY

4ZZZ, is rather lonely on the FM dial at the moment. As the only FM station in Brisbane we would be more than happy to have a little company on the Band (to lessen our heavy load??). Of late a proposed FM station, 4ZAP, has been making fledgeling-radio noises. For your interest and education I will review its formative stages.

4ZAP is the proposed station of the Brisbane Public Radio Society. As its major spokesperson Keith Ashton, says 4ZAP is "...surely the most unique Public Radio Station application on Australia...". According to the Societies' letters and literature, the aim of the station is to be a "Total Public Access Radio Station... .. a community service radio station owned by the community and operated by the Brisbane Public Radio Society... .. to provide a radio link for those groups and organizations which are not being fully catered for by existing Radio Stations." Certainly commendable ideas, but perhaps the Society is too eager to alienate nobody, it appears to me not perfectly consistent to say that the station is Total Public Access and to say it caters for those who presently have no radio link. Both formats are needed, but it would be nice to know exactly what to expect from 4ZAP.

In a Total Public access format obviously

those not already catered for by existing radio would get air time, but so would others. This is what the situation will be, according to Keith Ashton; "The organization is not restricted to any one side of the political arena." However an examination of the groups that the station (seeks/has gained) support from, and some official statements have a different view of the stations' role. In a letter from the society to the Minister they state they are not interested in catering for "Radicals", "Communists", etc. They will refuse access to "National Groups with no recognized country". The official letter says it feels it would be more suited to LIONS, Police Boys Clubs, etc. Already it has support from groups like Youth for Christ, Australian Coastguard, all tending toward the more conservative side of the Political spectrum, most of them reasonably attached to the Status Quo - not exactly a wide spectrum on a Public Access Station that refuses access to certain groups. Alright we will assume that it is some minor aberration that keeps the Total Public Access Radio line on the masthead. It looks at this stage like 4ZAP will cater for those without a voice on existing Radio and whom they deem suitable. Are they then, handling this formats' birth well?

They appear to be organizing along the lines of getting various groups (whose tendency has already been noted) to give them financial and vocal support for their licence application. At every opportunity the Society claims it has over 140 'community service clubs, ethnic groups, church groups, sporting and cultural bodies...' supporting it. When we asked Mr. Ashton what some of these groups were he read from a list and named, among others, the Society To Outlaw Pornography. A few minutes later we quoted some of the membership rules of STOP as espoused by Rona Joiner. After hearing them, Mr Ashton described them as 'fascist. and went on, "That's really heavy and I couldn't agree with her..."', we pointed out that this sort of group supported 4ZAP and Mr. Ashton said, "Well, actually she hasn't given us support yet, we've approached her.". All right, so STOP hasn't actually committed itself to support the station:

1. Why ask it to if you think it's 'fascist'?
2. How many of the 140 groups are actually fully committed? - How many are in STOP's position?

There are a number of major inconsistencies in various expressed programming ideas for 4ZAP. For instance, Keith Ashton speaking in an interview with 4ZZZ about 4ZAP and ethnic broadcasting, "We wanted to do something in the ethnic area...we've got no preconceived ideas about that (ethnic broadcasting)...maybe there might be an opportunity in this market for an ethnic station.". Yet in the letter to various political persons, the Society states, "We also submit there is NO need in Brisbane for a pure ethnic station". Rather definite that, sounds as though their ideas have developed a little past the "no preconceived" stage. Back to Keith, "The true definition of access is we don't close the door to anybody". Cut to letter, "We propose to broadcast 2 hours of ethnic music and news (no political comment)...access will not be granted to National groups with no recognised country (i.e., Palestine, Croatia, IRA, East Timorese)". The Society may be so eager to please everybody that they don't realize they appear to be saying one thing to certain parties and saying contradictory things to other parties. One doesn't expect these inconsistencies in Australia's 'most adventurous licence application'.

Adventurous 4ZAP certainly is. They have/are about to applied/apply for Australia's first simulcast licence. That is their transmission will be in FM and AM at the same time to cater for those without FM receivers. More than this their application will be for a Public Broadcaster's Licence BUT they want to have limited commercial content (5 minutes to the hour will be paid advertising). This is to cover the running costs of the station and after the first year they hope to have profits which they will distribute to various community groups, worthy causes etc.

Given such fine ideals it strikes me as strange that Keith Ashton can write to 4ZZZ and say, "I've heard some of the best radio ever lately on 4ZZZ", while in an official Society letter to the Minister, they write, "Our programmes will act as a counter to the left-wing attitudes of 4ZZZ University Cultured Youth Broadcasting. Being more conservative with Public Access broadcasting we feel that we could not cater for groups such as Communists, hard line radical groups or

Radicals, rather APEX, Jaycees, Lions, Police Boys, Scouts and other such groups in the same interests". It looks to me as though if they can get a little closer to their licence by knifing 4ZZZ and standing on 4ZZZ's corpse, they will be happy to do it. Not pleasant.

In the same letter the Society says, "Our station could do much to build faith in the advantages of the present Australian free enterprise system. In the field of employment, we wish to encourage young people to seek employment, not to accept the credibility of a dole cheque society...". Take this sort of blatant barrel thumping, propagandizing and add to it the fact that the Society has got a studio complex in the Focal Point Arcade, has employed several staff, bought a transmitter for FM and is arranging the purchase of a tower and AM transmitter - most of these done before they had even sent an application down to Canberra for their 'unique' licence, and it looks to me like a rather unsubtle licence hustle in which the end justifies the means.

This view is compounded, for me, by the fact that the Green Report on Public Broadcasting directly recommends against simulcasting. Keith Ashton says, however, "I think the Minister will do what he wants to regardless of the Green Report...". Our interview with Keith Ashton was done because in the Courier-Mail on Wednesday, 1st June, it was reported that 4ZAP could be on the air in 3 weeks (i.e., over a month ago). Mr. Ashton says the reporter misconstrued what he had said. So when will 4ZAP go to air? "Well who knows when we get a licence?". Who knows indeed, Mr. Ashton. Certainly if pushing hard (even in others' backs) helps then you've a chance. At the moment the hustle doesn't seem to be working. Even though, I feel they've said whatever seemed expedient given the circumstances and whom they were talking to, even though they've been prepared to use 4ZZZ's position to their gain and our detriment, not the most companionly gesture, they don't seem to have got very much further.

Inevitably, I have come to the conclusion that the 4ZAP people are not as sincere as they would like us to think that they are. Seemingly a highly principled station with a great respect/care for the community, their actions belie their words. As much as one would like to see the FM band in Brisbane expanded I cannot but strongly disapprove of a lot of the Brisbane Public Radio Society's tactics in doing same.

Michael "Woodward" Finucan

