

(Ref:42a/Radio Note June)

May 1993.

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SOUTH AFRICA. ☎ (031)

DRAFT NOTES for PRESENTATION to MANA/DAA/NCC etc. Please correct grammar and spelling where applicable. Thanks.

There are many examples of how deep apartheid has cut into the minds of the maid-generation....and one can only gaze in wonder, mouth open at the 'reactions' of people who have no idea of who they are accountable to, what their responsibilities are and why they are there in the first place.

At best one can politely refer to these people in key state media positions as nieve, at worst they are downright out-of-line and should be reminded of this.

I refer now to yet another recent example of a 'state' radio incident that took place between a lady called SHONA and a Port Elizabeth promoter. This promoter, incidently, has had the same problems with RADIO ALGOA as I have had with RPN. Not as acute. At least RADIO ALGOA has made some attempt to assist local PE musicians with mentions on air, and even official co-sponsorship.

However, certain 'officials' take certain issues personally, and like at RADIO PORT NATAL (and now it seems at RADIO 5) they 'refuse' to associate themselves with some local initiatives because so-and-so said this or that about me.....NO MORE AIR SUPPORT FOR HIM FROM NOW ON...the word is out "THIS PERSON IS TO BE AVOIDED" along with ANYTHING heshe may care to promote.

Back to the RADIO 5 issue. The PE Promoter is told:

Radio 5 can not see its way clear to promote or advertise the BAR NONE PE FESTIVAL on June 19/20th because (quote) "PE Bands are not considered national, and they are not good enough....."

Who, on subsidised State radio makes those sort of decisions about a local community who are going out of their way to hold an entirely local show? They have no 'names/stars' (no budget) and no Duran Durans, Undercovers, 2 Unlimited's and other imported disasters.....who are Radio 5 obligated too? If they are a 'commercial' independent why are they still operating from Auckland Park?

What is the DAC and SAMA's position regarding State Radio and the importance of creating an own South African Culture?

What is happening in the 'new South Africa' and where exactly do we start drawing the line between a people's radio station (SABC), the SA Record Industry and all those regional stations who are entrenching, not changing the status-quo by acting as a window to the world for the record companies?

They claim there's no new SA Music or bands because no record landed on the desk this week!

One can understand the mediocrity and banality of supposed SOUTH AFRICAN music mags like TOP 40...they do not get public funding. I don't think that their attempts at being South African fools anybody but them....eg: the May issue is a ludicrous case in point...they even have a libelous article on "The empty Void of SA Music" in a magazine that's covered with empty imported rubbish....see enclosed TOP 40 article.

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Radio 5 are NOT TOP 40. Radio 5 is a tax payers subsidised SOUTH AFRICAN station that had great potential almost immediately after 2nd February 1990, and have slipped into this Record Industry morras with no regard whatsoever for music.....they support what South African Music happens to be on record and make limp attempts to play the occassional demo tape and promote the odd festival and show.

Like Radio Algoa and Radio Fort Natal, they now refuse to assist South African musicians...especially those, like the PE example who go out of their way to stop cultural imperialism.

I'm so mad, because I have been forced to spend all my musical life fighting a corrupt social system instead of getting out there and making music, and just when we thought things were changing for the better, and that freedom was truly around the corner, we get a complete role reversal from 'cultural commissars/desks', SAMA, the DAC and our recent experience with the ANC getting into bed with the Durban City Council over the PEACE FESTIVAL fiasco.

The politicians are pretending hard to being democratic while the artists' outlets are being closed up and becoming more difficult to access than ever before. We must lobby the NAI, SAWCU, MANA, NCC and others to do something about it before we go back to 1948.....we DO NOT NEED ANOTHER FAK, or, as KOOS says, swapping die Ou Baas for a New Boss.

David  
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