


April 1975

**WORT
89.7
FM**

SPREAD

**THE
OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER OF
DANE COUNTY'S LARGEST
IMAGINARY RADIO STATION**

THE



WORT

**VOLUME ONE
NUMBER 1**

**BACK
PORCH
RADIO**



Back Porch Radio welcomes and urges you, the subscriber-listener to become directly involved in the activities of your station. You may think: "Gee, what could I do, I've never been involved with radio before?" That's exactly the image of radio that WORT intends to banish from this city. Here at the Back Porch there is plenty you can do to participate. All it takes is an interest, which you've already shown us that you have -- you subscribed, didn't you?

In general terms, WORT invites your person-power, -skills, ideas, feedback, helpful contacts, and your mouth -- "Spread the WORT". The specifics are left up to your own interests. If you have been suddenly sparked into action, or if you simply wish to learn more about Back Porch Radio and your community, come to our general meetings and committee meetings: write P.O. Box 466, 53701, or phone 255-5153. You will be heard!

All plans for Back Porch Radio are, of course, determined by the response of the listening community. The work of the engineering committee is now to get WORT on the air as soon as possible and turn this newsletter into a program guide.

As you read SPREAD THE WORT, keep in mind that WORT will be a community access radio station. If you feel that your particular views are not expressed, please write and tell us, or better yet, come to the next meeting of Back Porch Radio... Wednesday, April 23 at 7:30 PM at St. Frances House 1001 University Avenue, in madison

Programming

Whose Interests Should Programming Serve?

After the general meeting of Back Porch Radio during which all interested gathered in buzz groups and discussed programming ideas and policy for the first time, the Programming Committee met to mesh the lists developed and to examine other suggestions. The committee agreed that the following four basic issues (among others) need much further exploration moving toward consensus and that priority should be given to fund-raising needs of the station:

1. Should the station essentially serve the communication needs and interests of the "alternate" Madison community? How much and in what ways should the interests and needs of other community groups be served?
2. What structure should there be for making on-going decisions about programming? A small collective group? Individual responsibility? Division into departments? What kind of appeal procedure?



A SMALL COLLECTIVE GROUP?



INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY?



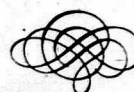
DIVISION INTO DEPARTMENTS?



WHAT KIND OF APPEAL PROCEDURE?

3. How exacting and complete should the time schedule be? Rigid? Flexible? Set up how long in advance? Should programs sometimes run longer than scheduled? By how much? Should there be unscheduled open space? How much, how frequently, and at what times?

Anyone with comments on these issues or who wants to work on programming policy please contact Don Stweenweg, the committee coordinator, at 251-3364, or leave a message at the BPR office, 255-5153.





outreach

Tools Developed for Meetings with Community Groups

The Outreach Committee has met twice and has prepared four tools for those who want to meet with community groups to invite involvement in BPR activities and to raise funds:

1. A 12½ minute audio-tape (cassette and reel-to-reel) with an entertaining presentation of the sound of similar stations.
2. A questionnaire to stimulate discussion of programming needs and to meet the ascertainment requirements of the Federal Communications Commission.
3. A sheet with suggested responses to the questions most frequently asked about the station.
4. Helpful information on over 300 Madison groups to be contacted, and a breakdown of these groups into 17 categories: media and communication, social welfare services and counseling, co-ops (food, service, and living), political, elderly, schools (alternate and public), environment, labor, alternate life style, religious, theater and cultural, women's, day care, professional and business, United Way types, clinics and health, and community centers.

If you would like to meet with any of these groups (or with individuals you think might be interested) or if your group would like a speaker-discussion leader to bring these tools plus copies of the already prepared brochure, call Gay Eder, the Outreach committee coordinator, at 251-0792, or leave a message at the BPR office (255-5153). Those interested in working on lapel buttons, T-shirts, bumper stickers, etc., please contact

Michael O'Brien at 233-5829.

Backporch Radio's initial exposure to the people of Madison came through the showing of two films at the Capitol City Theatre on March 5th. Billed as a benefit, the opening night provided over \$1200 to B.P.R. through both ticket and subscription sales.

Its success was perhaps due to several factors: (1.) the timely nature of the films, and (2.) extensive advance work. The primary attraction was the Madison premiere of the acclaimed film, Antonia: A Portrait of the Woman. Produced by Judy Collins and directed by J.N.I. Godmilow, it is an eloquent and urgent document of a female conductor. Gay Eder and Joanie Rubel contacted many feminist and women's groups in the city and its opening night was a central activity in International Women's Week.

The second feature, I.F. Stone's Weekly, was the opening night's sleeper. Produced and directed by Jerry Bruck, it provided an informed portrait of a singular Washington correspondent. Ston's style and thoroughness have earned the respect and admiration of fellow journalists, and his dogged persistence, the anger of many Washington officials and bureaucrats.

In many ways, in spirit and tone, the two films exposed issues and concerns that are to be major goals of Backporch Radio. B.P.R. shall also be devoted to an exploration of people, ideas, and information that is either ignored or repressed in our society.



SPACE

Free Or Low Cost Studio Site Sought On Capitol Square

Based on concerns expressed at general meetings, the Studio Site and Space Needs Committee has formulated the following criteria and is beginning to search for appropriate places:

1. Location - On the Capitol Square or within three blocks (to be close to the transmitter) in a quiet building with adequate wiring.
2. Cost - Donated if possible or up to \$130 per month.
3. Amount of Space - 600 to 1000 square feet temporarily, 800 to 2000 square feet permanently.

It would also be helpful if the station were accessible to people who experience difficulty climbing stairs.

If you know of space available that meets these criteria (especially if free of cost), or would like to work on this committee, please contact David Devereaux-Weber, the committee coordinator, at 845-7267 or 274-3511.

DONATION BY
MAIN COURSE RESTAURANT
306 N. BROOKS

a NON-PROFIT WORKERS' COLLECTIVE

★ IN HONOR OF THE VICTORY
OF THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLE ★

BACK PORCH RADIO (WORT 89.7)

Back Porch Radio is a volunteer programmed, community supported, free form radio station which is being developed by a group of people in Madison and will be on the air, with your help, by August.

We would appreciate your response to the following questions regarding programming for the station. It will help us to determine the needs and interests of individuals and groups who will listen and contribute to the station. Your ideas, involvement and subscriptions are needed.



ie Current at Work

1) What do you see as the main needs of the Madison community?

2) What would you like to hear on the radio that you are not hearing now?

3) In what way do you feel that your lifestyle is ignored or misrepresented in the media, especially?

4) What specific kinds of programs would you like to hear and/or put together?

5) What resources do you have which might be useful for the station?

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mitter power to cover a larger area.

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and Much More!

open 10:00-6:00, until 9:00 mon., thur.
Phone 251-4051

We'll be sending SPREAD THE WORT regularly to subscribers
and other people actively involved in BPR. This first issue
only is being sent to a number of organizations in the Mad-
ison area--if you'd like to receive the newsletter regularly,
please send a member of your group to one of our meetings, or
arrange for a subscription or donation from your group.

SUBSCRIBE Now

NAME →

ADDRESS →

CITY/STATE →

ZIP →

MAIL \$8.97
(OR MORE) TO:

BACK PORCH RADIO

BOX 466

MADISON, Wis.
53701



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The Outreach Commit

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copies of the already pre
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buttons, T-shirts, bumper

Michael O'Brien at 233-582

6) What kinds of music would you like to hear on the radio that you are not hearing now?

folk _____

bluegrass _____

other (please specify) _____

soul _____

country _____

blues _____

rock _____

jazz _____

classical _____

I would like to become a subscriber to Back Porch Radio. Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of \$8.97. Send the monthly program guide to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ zip _____

Please return this questionnaire, requests for information and donations to:

BACK PORCH RADIO
BOX 466
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703

Tele: (608) 255-5153

DONATION BY
MAIN COURSE RESTAURANT
306 N. BROOKS

a NON-PROFIT WORKERS' COLLECTIVE

★ IN HONOR OF THE VICTORY
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BONNIE RAITT

On April 29th, Back Porch Radio and People's Video will co-host a benefit concert with Bonnie Raitt and Mose Allison at the Capitol City Theatre. Tickets are on sale at the box office and are priced at \$3, \$4, and \$5. Concert time is 8 PM.

Bonnie Raitt, at twenty-five, is an accomplished guitarist and singer of exceptional quality. She correlates the traditional with the modern. To old tunes by Sippie Wallace and Fred McDowell, she adds those of contemporary writers like Jackson Browne and Joni Mitchell. She is primarily an interpreter of others' songs though some of her own songs appear on the first album.

From protest movements and folk music revivals in her early teens, to hanging around the blues circuit in the late 60s, to the Philadelphia Folk Festival in 1970, she acquired a working knowledge of the blues. In fact her primary concern involves the plight of many old bluesmen, some of whom taught her how to play her distinctive blend of slide guitar and blues. She also equates politics with music, reducing many complexities to relating to and caring about people. Known as a "blues mama," she is not a showperson in that sense but often makes visible her emotions and feelings.

Proceeds of the concert will go to People's Video, a non-profit video access collective, and to BPR.



EFFECTIVE
RADIATED POWER
TO THE
IMAGINATION!



Electric Current at Work

The engineering committee met twice in March. The first meeting was largely a social event, where the group got to know each other's backgrounds and talents. Several non-engineering persons attended, and were largely confused by the discussion. Their participation in the group did keep the discussion from becoming purely technical, however.

The second meeting of the engineering group was held at the YWCA, which will be the transmitter site for WORT. It was determined that the site will be acceptable for WORT until funding permits an increase in antenna height or transmitter power. Back Porch will be working with the Design Coalition on both a platform for the transmitting equipment and a design for the transmitting tower. The unique transmitter location will require a platform to support the gear across a twelve foot span, supported on the end of the span only. Because of the height of the tower in the capitol square area, tower construction plans will have to be certified by a registered engineer and approved by the city.

The engineering group is currently investigating availability of transmitting and studio equipment. This is a prime area of concern, since construction of WORT is slated for August. Depending on funding, the station will likely sign on the air in mono. Future plans for the station include the possibility of stereo, and of increasing antenna height and transmitter power to cover a larger area.

THE SOAP OPERA



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and Much More!

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SUBSCRIBE Now

NAME →

ADDRESS →

CITY/STATE →

ZIP →

MAIL \$8.97
(OR MORE) TO:

Back Porch Radio

BOX 466

MADISON, Wis. 53701

ANTONIA BRICO: A PERSONAL REACTION.

Talking with Dr. Antonio Brico during her visit to Madison, feminists here discovered she is aware of the prejudices against women which exist to bar them from entering traditional male professions like symphony conducting. I think I was not the only woman who was inspired by her perseverance and insistence that one can excel in any field if one has the stick-with-its and some talent.

Yet, Brico is shocked at the amount of good notices received and popular response to the film. Her newly gained notoriety has brought her a manager and a marked increase in job offers. She remarked again and again how astounded she is that a film can have so much effect.

But when asked where she thought the feminist movement fit into this process, Dr. Brico fell short of making the connections we feminists so ardently hoped (and somewhat assumed) that she would make. From her experiences in trying to obtain a permanent symphony job, Dr. Brico feels that she has been hurt by women's sexist prejudices about female conductors in ways more destructive than male's comments, attitudes, and actions: "Women on symphonies' boards of directors want to see male conductors gesticulating madly. They want to be titillated, to sublimate their own sexual needs and frustrations through swooning over male conductors at concerts. It is these women who have most hindered my career."

I think Dr. Brico fails to see how the women's movement has helped to change these attitudes, which, while they may be based on sexism possessed by women, are more correctly based on adulation of the omnipotent, dominating male (in this case, sexual power is associated with seeing a male figure conducting a symphony orchestra). Evolutionary thinking about male and female roles and socio-sexual images projected, brought about through the organizing and education efforts of the feminist movement, has helped make palatable the idea of a women symphony conductor. A film like Antonia sanctions the existence of a female conductor as a saleable commodity.

It is no wonder to me, therefore, that Antonia Brico at last has a manager and is being sought after, after so many years of standing in the sidelines. But it also seems unnatural and unfortunate that Dr. Brico does not understand and embrace the changes the feminist movement had brought about, which are now making it possible for her to fulfill her potential as a female symphony conductor.

By Gay Eder

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