

May 29th 2002



Hi dear radio friends and welcome to some of the new people who will read this news for the very first time.

Here the monthly report on the scene in Holland and of course our section Past and Present where we mention things happening to people who've been in offshore radio.

For longer stories in the history of radio I would like you to visit our internet online journal for media and music culture at the University of Groningen. During this month we've updated it with several new articles including a page with more Luxy memories and one with more than 100 exclusive photographs of Radio Luxembourg. For the newcomers here is the address: www.soundscapes.info

And now the monthly news:

Of course the most saddest news from Holland came on Monday May the 6th, when the new political party leader Pim Fortuyn was shot dead after he left the studio of Radio 3FM. Holland was completely shocked and hundred thousands of people visited the place where he was shot, the street where he lived and the cemetery where he was buried. In the international press the intention was brought that Fortuyn was as extreme right as the Austrian Heider and the French Le Pen. However many of the things Fortuyn had spoken off during his campaign were taken out of context through left wing papers and news programmes on radio and television. After his death the LPF, as the party was named in March this year, got 25 places in Dutch Second Chamber, which is the highest newcomer in Dutch Political History.

In the week after the election it became known that on Dutch radio several hundreds of thousands Euros lost were due to the death of Fortuyn. Many companies withdrawn their commercials for the radio as a respect to the political leader. On 3 FM all commercials were dropped the day after the murder. On other stations all the commercials who were partly mentioning the name 'Pim' were

dropped. Of course, with his success, many companies wanted to bite in the cake.

Also can be mentioned that the other new political party 'Leefbaar Nederland' only got two seats in Dutch Parliament. Therefore two of the important men from the party stated they would leave the Party. And these are Willem van Kooten and Jan Nagel. Van Kooten is better known in radio world as Joost den Draaier, former deejay at Radio Veronica, RNI and Hilversum 3. Nowadays he has a lot of money in Business Radio and is owner of Arrow Classic Rock.

Then we can inform you that the American company Liberty Media is in talks with the French company Telecom to buy the cable company Casema from the French. Casema was originally a Dutch company with 1,3 million subscribers. If Liberty succeeds in buying Casema it will be the biggest company in his sort in Holland as the company also UPC, which is the biggest cable company up till now in Holland.

On the 29th of this month of May on Radio 4 the AVRO will transmit for the very last time the program Classical with Caroline. This program is on the air already for 21 years and is presented by the Scottish singer Caroline Kaart, who immigrated in the late fifties of the last century to Holland. The program had to be removed to bring something new in the future.

Then on the age of 35 Bart de Graaff died last Saturday the 25th of May. He was already having problems with his health since the age of 9. During the last months he was operated twice and died after complications. De Graaff started his career with Super Channel, where he did a small program for the little children in 1985. He then, with some friends, made a program concept and introduced themselves to the big



Veronica. There he got his own program in 1986 and became very popular. Due to his illness the growing of his body was stopped at the age of 9 but as he had always a very big mouth he came not only popular but also he got famous. He started his own broadcasting company within the public society in the late 90's. The day after Bart died all programmes of BNN were dropped from the Dutch television as well as the radio in respect for 'the big boss'

Radio 538 was honored as the best radio station in Holland. The media program 'Storing' followed the Dutch radio scene during the past month and listeners could do a weekly vote on internet or by e mail. Second became the complete set of regional radio stations and on the third place with the same points Sky Radio and Kink FM, which is a cable only station. Radio 538 got 8.5 points from the 10 they could earn. The jury mentioned that the fast format, in cooperation with the diversity in personalities with each their own sound led to the winning of the prestigious radio price.

And now over to 'Offshore Radio - Past and present'

May 2nd I heard that there will be an RSL in August from a place somewhere of the British coast, organized by Paul Graham and Ray Anderson. They will use a ship called MV Grampian Princess. Where the RSL will be held will be announced at a later stage. But I can tell you that the station will be called Swinging Radio England. By the way one of the former people behind the scenes of SRE, Jack Curtis, is coming over to Holland this summer to meet up some of his former radio friends.

Also I had the chance to listen to the programme which Graham Gill and Tony Allen did together on Caroline Satellite on the 19th. Well done boys. A pity Andy Archer didn't show up, as it was earlier promised us that he would join to. I think it was for the first time ever they were together in one show. Funny to hear the acapella version of 'Way back home'. Graham is every Monday on Caroline Cable network and it's time Peter Moore decides that some of the

programmes of Dutch Caroline, like the Graham Gill shows, will be relayed on satellite. All the listeners deserve it.

The former Veronica transmitting vessel Norderney still exist and nowadays the ship is a restaurant discotheque in the harbor of Antwerp Belgium. During the 24 and 25th of May their was a radio program from the ship which was transmitted by Radio 192 and the internet station Radio Maeva. The later was a land based station in the past and could be seen as a illegal version of Radio Mi Amigo in Flandres as some of the people who did run Mi Amigo in the seventies went on in the eighties with Maeva. During the program memories to the history of Maeva and Radio Veronica were brought as well as some of the former Veronica deejays presenting an own show.

Sometimes I ask my self If the things I do hear are true, but really the next one is for 100% true. I got an email from a very good friend in California USA in which he mentioned that he got a promotion package from the Caroline organization or Club (whatever you choose to mention it) with the info sheet about The Caroline Making Waves Campaign he got a letter in which Caroline wrote that they don't want his money anymore in the future as it takes too much time to bring the cheques, which they got from abroad, to the bank to cash it!

And while typing this report I was listening to a recording which one of my English friends did some weeks ago of The Emperor Rosko on Amber 1170 in England. And I must say Emperor you're still one of the deejays to bring a listener to relaxation. Yes, the Emperor is one of the around 170 ex offshore deejays who's reading this report on a monthly base by getting it by email..

I want to round up this edition of the monthly report from Holland with the question if there's a listener in the surrounding of BBC Eastern Counties who could do me a favor and record me a complete program from Keith Skues on FM in one of the forthcoming weeks. Of course I can sent a nice recording from my archive in return.

Comments on the above question or remarks on the report are always welcome: H.Knot@home.nl

The June report will, due to other activities, not be published before July 5th

Greetings,