



RULES FOR RADIO LISTENERS

Dennis Burton

(The following is a transcription from an original recording.)

INTRODUCTION

This was originally written in 1976. Now, in the year 2003 when this recording was made, this advice, these rules, this information – as *valid* as ever. Check it out.

While pulling off a successful radio program doesn't especially require having an audience, listeners can be

pleasant from time to time... provided that they behave themselves. Seeing as how most people who might wander in front of a radio these days lack such manners, it might be appropriate at this point to go over a variety of the rules that exist for listeners to listen by. Not a prissy set of rules as Emily Post or Dear Abbey would come up with if asked.

How does one listen to the radio properly? These rules are stiff and are expected to be followed. If not, one of the boys will drop by one evening and tear off your arms and legs... and sew up the stumps.

RULE NUMBER ONE. Don't make requests. DO NOT make requests. Radio Radio does not exist as a service granting petty favours to whoever is intelligent enough to dial a phone number. If a disc jockey lowers him or herself into this servant/master relationship with a listener, he or she risks being asked to do other favours besides putting on a certain song. Imagine a DJ picking up a quart of milk, doing the laundry or repairing a flat for some listener and you'll understand why requests are forbidden.

TWO. Never call the radio station and tell them you don't like the music. No one is particularly interested in what you might happen to think of the music. If you expect us to listen to an opinion of a certain song next you'll expect us to listen to your views on politics, cooking, women's liberation, conservation, global warming or a variety of other subjects.

THREE. No getting up and saying, 'I think I'll put on a CD.' The DJ on air is already putting on CD's and has more sophisticated equipment than you do. If you don't like what is playing on the radio, do not delude yourself into thinking that there is *anything* you can do about it.

FOUR. Don't leave the radio on in a room when you're not IN that room.

FIVE. Don't fall asleep during someone's show. If you want something to sleep by, sleep by the side of the road.

SIX. Don't have candles burning while listening to Radio-Radio, and make sure the room is properly ventilated. Talking, smoking and farting interfere with listening to the radio properly. Exceptions will not be tolerated.

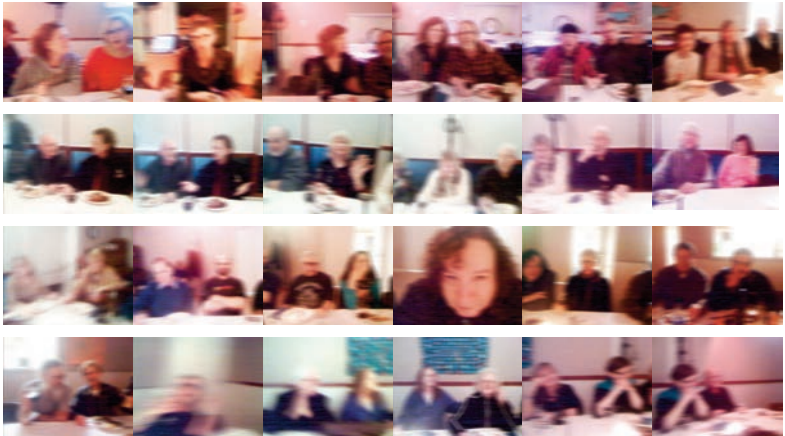
SEVEN. Do not phone the station. EVER.

EIGHT. Don't call and complement the DJ's; they know they are good. Send cash.

NINE. Don't do anything else while listening. This rule is usually followed since most of our listeners are incapable of doing anything else... while listening.

TEN. Don't read and listen. If you want something to read by, read by a light.

Next time we'll present more rules and focus on 'what to wear' while listening to the radio. 'Til then stay cool, enjoy your RadioRadio and... stay away from the telephone.



Dennis Burton • August 5, 1947 – December 6, 2013

These photos were taken at Dennis Burton's memorial gathering where many of his friends and colleagues celebrated his life and spirit. Dennis is a hero who helped start an alternative radio station that continues to change lives.

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