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Subject: WBAI Remnants

Posted by [elektrartig](#) on Tue, 07 Jun 2005 16:00:24 GMT

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Armed with a newly-listenable computer (Sonic Impact amp and old Optimus LX-5 speakers, I decided to troll the internet for audio vestiges of my youth -- specifically, traces of the old WBAI-FM, circa 1970-72. As some New Yorkers may know, WBAI (which still exists, although in unlistenable form IMHO) was a non-commercial station, part of the Pacifica network, that was politically radical (more "counterculture" than old-time Socialist) but leavened with a sprinkling of odd personalities and innovative shows. It was the latter that attracted me at the time (rather than the pure political stuff), and it was the latter I set out to find. I didn't find a heck of a lot, but I ran across a few tidbits I thought I'd pass along. 1. Techie Time was a 15-minute show that aired on Friday evenings, consisting of a collage of intermixed music, old audio clips (e.g., stray dialog from old movies or commercials), and other stray sounds and snorks. Sort of Lumpy Gravy meets Firesign Theater. Although I was hoping to find dozens or scores of episodes (many people had to be recording it), I found only one, but one is better than none: <http://thinhippo.com/techytime/> .2. Steve Post was my idol. A neurotic depressive with a sardonic sense of humor, Steve had a show called The Outside that aired on Saturday and Sunday nights beginning at midnight and ending whenever he got bored. The funniest show on radio -- I'd fall asleep in school on Mondays because I'd been up until 4 or 5 listening to the show. I couldn't find one episode (or part thereof)! I did, however, discover, that episodes of Steve's more recent one-hour show on WNYC (he left 'BAI over three decades ago), called The No Show, are archived on WNYC's website, <http://wnyc.org/shows/noshow> (click on "Archives"). Steve may be an aquired taste, and no doubt I'm listening to the shows remembering his old program, so you may well find the No Show episodes utterly boring. If you choose to sample, I'd suggest one of the shows in which he recounts his youthful obsession with radio and his fortuitous entry into the role of radio announcer (e.g. Episode No. 17, Nov. 30, 2002, or Episode No. 32, March 15, 2003).

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