come of age.



in England, the nearest the Mercury boys get to violence is

Ayour lug'oles for a truly different kind of pacy, popular, ferent, alternative and

was flying in the face of

... illegal The Jolly Roger of Pirate radio had been hoisted and

there to see and hear it

I have to admit my swash has been more buckled, a field in Eaglesham wasn't quite what I had in mind. Where was the pirate ship and the life on the open sea?

for all that stuff," chief pirate Brian

"We transmit from fields, houses. and multi-storey flats. We change the renue so we don't get caught."

multi-storey flat in Carnwadric but since it was such a nice night Radio Mercury was going out from a field.

Actually it was rather a nice field and it was rather a nice night. We had some difficulty in getting there. The transport was a clapped out car with a flat battery. It didn't seem to realise the undercurrent of suspense and excitement of what we were about to do. It refused to start quite categorically and had to be jump started with the help of a passer-by who was quite unaware of the crime we were about to commit.

"We have to have an old banger like this," Brian said." If we get caught, they can confiscate your equipment, so we don't want to lose anything worthwhile."

Strangers

It's all about being caught in the act. It isn't an offence to make tapes or listen to pirate radio but the airwaves you have committed an Telegraphy Act of 1949.

Brian and "Candy" are convinced they have been observed by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Radio Interference people.

"Oh aye, we've been watched. They came down here one night and took photographs. They know who we are, it's just catching us at it."



wood that makes up a large part the aerial is rather conspicuous, but the small piece of copper (£3), some jubilee clips, wire, two battery packs, and transmitter ("We put it in a camera case so's we can pick it up and leg it if we're raided") are all it

"We've spent about £4000, but we are very professional, you get a good sound from most places in Glasgow,"

so we could listen to the show which Candy and another DJ. The Boy Wonder, had recorded in a South Side enough Glasgow talent," Brian said. flat the night beofre.

The strains of Mink de Ville's and The Fighting 51st." Spanish Stroll hit 96.1 FM at seven o'clock and Radio Mercury was on the air. Brian (27) and Candy (24) are two very likable chaps and the music is good! It was wonderful to listen to constant chart music.

a catalogue of incidents in which ethnic stations. These people aren't their tape deck and potable mike one

doing their job.

frequency for the police n' that on the

It's clear they feel there is a real We had a radio/cassette with us need for a new station in Glasgow.

"Radio Clyde doesnae' promote

Ethnic

always do their own thing."

They know who we are,

it's just catching us at it'

club, Fury Murray's, are having a chance to meet him after the show," concerned it's just the DTI seven and nine every night and not air and gave out the Vodaphone just on Wednesdays and Fridays.

nutters who will use the emergency this field. We were freezing when it calf. We couldn't believe it, this calf was born while we were transitt trying to get a better spot for the aerial, but that's what it's all about - DJ. "I just did this show because we

> had a couple of cans of beer, and sat to shut up. My family know what I'm three months in prison. Equipment can also be back listening to the three-hour up to. I'm a constant source of worry forfeited. Sunday afternoon show, getting up to my mother."
> now and then to change the tapes.

Juice, Al Green, The Isley Brothers, and hundred others.

help earlier last week after detailing an English problem with all the tiny of pirate action. They brought along

Butcher appealed to the public for Brian claimed. "The violence thing is The field in Eaglesham has seen a lot back on the air tonight at seven.

this field and there was a cow which

THE Radio Interference Service which is part of the Department of Trade and Industry are well aware of Mercury's existence.

"They are under investigation," a spokesman

The RIS build up a dossier of information "We play a lot of home talent. Up and entertainment the day they decided because I'm too embarrassed to talk nearly always in attendance. Equipment found can coming bands like The Stern Gang to broadcast from the Kilbarchan on the air. But I'm getting better. In be taken away and put on "freeze" before a court hills. It was a scorcher of a day, they fact, my sister says you canny get me case which can end in a fine of up to £2000 and/or

> Officials are not impressed by the claim that In no time at all it seemed to me pirates go to great lengths to find a "spare

Radio Mercury's two-hour blast drew frequency. "If I had a fiver for every time someone said

y are community radio proposals which break in the cable. The only things being have already passed the Green Paper that had heard the show were the stage.

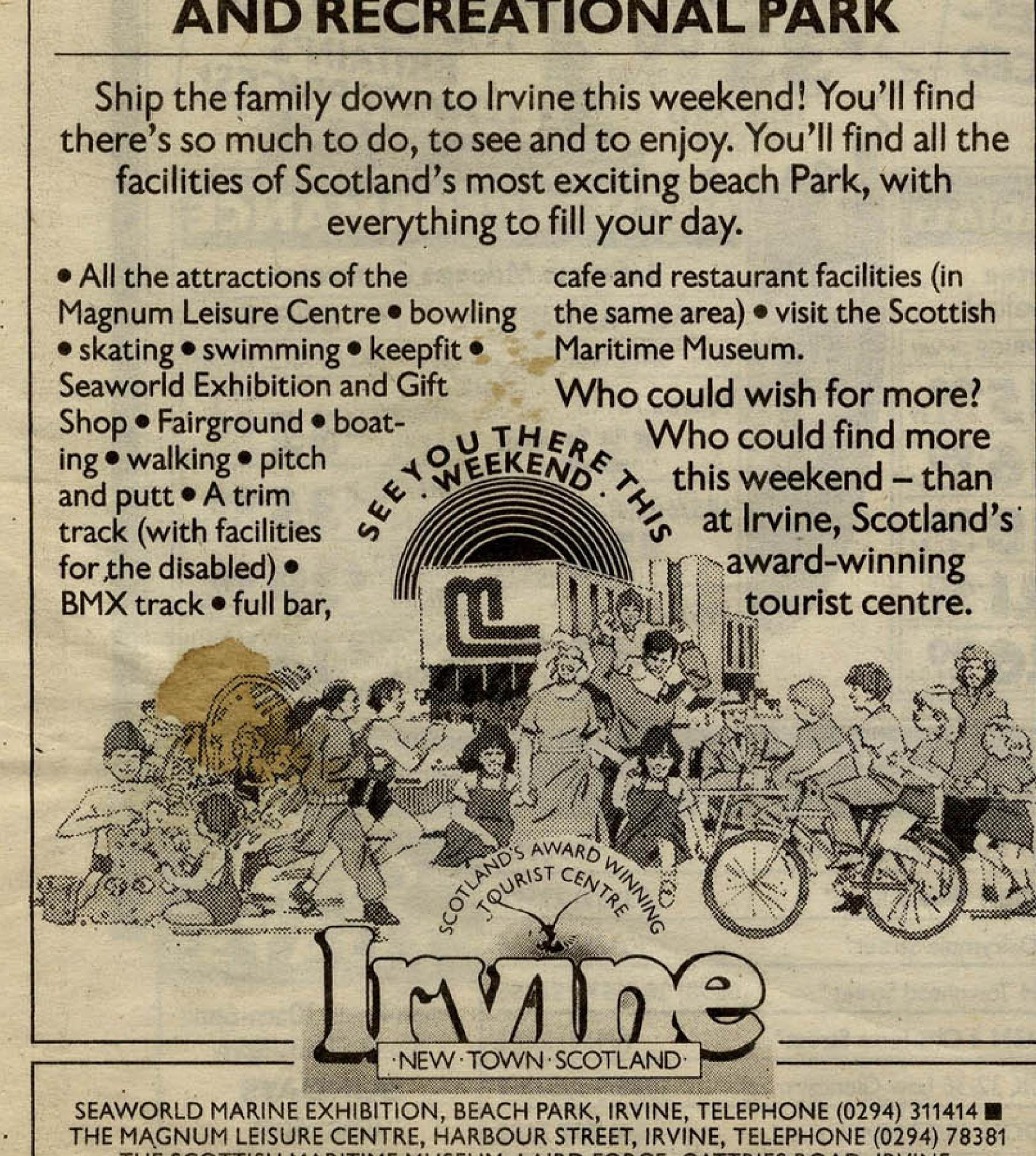
In between I had listened to Joe 90's said David Nolan, information officer for the RIS. theme tune, Icicle Works, Orange stage.

The trouble is there are frequencies which Juice, Al Green, The Isley Brothers, are used only occasionally and pirates interference.

The potential for disaster is ever present. In February reggae music blocked a landing officer's channel at Heathrow Airport.

"It can turn nasty when the police network is

The problem is one of escalating popularity as stations grow like wildfire. Equipment is a hotch potch of cobbled together wires and tape and the problem of attacks on RIS staff has grown every



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