

One more time for Caroline

cutting through the static on once, the good guys won." 310 metres. On the other hand, O'Rahilly had wanted to maybe they won't.

the first track of a test broadcast beam down to Britain via a by Radio Caroline, the suc- relay ship in the Channel. cessor to the celebrated pirate Instead, he had to settle for ship which in the Sixties and broadcasts straight from the Seventies gave headaches to the MV Imagine, using its 300ft Home Office and pleasure to radio mast, the largest of its millions of listeners who kind in the world. revelled in its illegal broadcasts O'Rahilly claims that Caroof round-the-clock music.

line's original vessel against the the BBC's Radio One. "That Essex shoreline in 1980. Since kind of radio is so computerised then, financial and legal that you feel the musicians are troubles have stopped the appealing to computers instead station from re-surfacing. And of people," he says. Once many competitors predict that Caroline sails on to the they are far from over.

founder, an unsinkable Irish optimist named Ronan O'Rahilly, has anchored a replacement vessel 20 miles off Margate. It is a sturdy Icelandic trawler, renamed MV Imagine, worth some £1.5 million. O'Rahilly thinks John Lennon back to coincide with the was Britain's only true rocker.

Before he could re-float Caroline, O'Rahilly first had to 1967, which managed to kill off repel a take-over bid from his all the offshore radio pirates but freckle-face of 24 when he ship by some American former O'Rahilly. The law tries to launched Caroline in 1964 backers. His vessel was im- starve out the pirates by making against odds he claimed were "a pounded by Spanish authorities it illegal for anyone in Britain to thousand to one." Today he still for two years while legal battles assist them with food, supplies, has freckles, but his long hair is raged in the United States, or funds - including advertis- whiter than Captain Ahab's. Canada, and Europe between ing. So this time O'Rahilly has Sitting at a restaurant table, in a O'Rahilly and his ex-partners. simply decided to supply crisp summer sports jacket, he O'Rahilly even received threat- Caroline from Spain, one of the looks like a respectable ening telephone calls, but, few European countries to businessman. Then he stands, finally, he raised enough cash to permit offshore broadcasting. and you see he is wearing old

RADIO listeners in Southern John Leonard, the New York England who explore the air- lawyer for Caroline Communicwaves around noon today may tions, says: "It was a classic saga find John Lennon's Imagine of idealism versus greed. For

broadcast Caroline from New Imagine is scheduled to be York by satellite, bouncing the

line will win over listeners from Huge waves dashed Caro- competitors Capital Radio and airwaves, O'Rahilly intends to Nevertheless, the station's broadcast also on shortwave and on AM in stereo.

> O'Rahilly insists that Radio Caroline is perfectly legal, but he cannot resist firing a broadside at his former Home Office adversaries. He has timed Radio Caroline's comeanniversary of the Marine Broadcasting Offences Act

have MV Imagine released. O'Rahilly was a sprightly blue jeans.



The Sixties' O'Rabilly and his original Caroline

grooved into the Sixties and owner, John Kenning, had publishing. Not only were the early Seventies. But Radio signed a deal with Philip terms unusually tough, as Caroline (named after the Morris, the American tobacco Duthy saw it; had any author daughter of the late President, conglomerate, worth £2 million | signed them right away he could whom O'Rahilly admires even in advertising revenue. more than Lennon) will play album tracks from the latest rock bands in long, uninterrupted doses. Tired of babbling disc jockeys, O'Rahilly has hired a singing DJ named Bertie: "He can't be any worse."

O'Rahilly has a strange adveryears, he has become a recluse. have a telephone in his Chelsea flat. Business associates and friends reach him at his favourite restaurants.

As well as privateering, O'Rahilly has directed several has always been Radio Caro-Queen have been around longer," he says.

The fun about Caroline in the early Sixties was that it established a thrilling conspiracy between the lonely teenage listener and the seasick buccaneers of the airwaves. Pop songs acquired the urgency of a ship's distress calls.

But the new Caroline must compete with at least 50 landbased pirate radio stations, which beam out programmes on everything from reggae to music hall melodies. One station, Radio Sovereign, based in Twickenham, had even planned to expand into North Sea broadcasting by buying its own pirate ship. Before a millionaire luck." backer pulled out of the

His own musical tastes are venture, Radio Sovereign's Anthony Land, CA's head of

Radio Caroline's rivals claim that O'Rahilly may not have and with no redress. He called publication date. Duthy pointed netted enough advertising to in the Society of Authors and out that if CA suddenly decided keep his ship afloat for long. The major American Canadian advertisers, who originally wanted to cash in on its comeback, lost interest once the new vessel was docked by O'Rahilly's financial tussles.

He has no office, and refuses to Angeles-based DJ named complex, which is why hard graphs and illustrations. "Wolf- man" Jack, who starred people known as literary agents 4: CA's terms for paying because of the Which? connecin the film American Graffitti. were born, to put some advance instalments of the tion and access to its big "Wolf- man's" manager, Don assertiveness about money into royalties included the phrase membership, Duthy would Kelly, agreed to help O'Rahilly | the creative mind. Duthy did "on acceptance of manuscript" anyway be getting at least twice with promotion and advertis- not have an agent. But as a (instead of the more fair and as much as he would with other ing. Several large multinational former stockbroker and invest- usual "on delivery of . . ."). Had films. His obsession, though, firms. O'Rahilly insists, have ment columnist with The Times Duthy agreed to this signed up, enticed by Radio he was no financial beginner. effectively giving CA the right line. "Only Fidel Castro and the Caroline's ability to reach 8.5 | While the proposed £15,000 to scrap the whole thing if they million listeners in Britain, and advance payment of royalties didn't like it - the author could on the continent.

in hopefully today, will be some reason to feel it was not so But the clause that most Buster Pearson, a 40-year-old special for several years' work disturbed the author was the haemophiliac. Cloistered in his by an expert. (A royalty is the offer of only a five per cent home in South Benfleet, Essex, amount paid to the author per royalty on sales by direct mail, Radio Caroline and its fan book sold and is normally in this case an estimated 85 per magazine were his only contact expressed in contracts as a cent of the total market. The with the outside world. Now, percentage of the book's price.) author's right to 10 per cent, however, Pearson is well Some of the terms that Duthy well-established as standard enough to be flown in a small and the Society found most practice in most areas of aircraft to see the new Radio dubious were: Caroline. On the way, the plane 1: CA required a joint share of on the rather marginal sales gives them the right to lean on hand," recalls Pearson. "It work entirely. seemed to be waving good 2: Although CA wanted deliv- clause, virtually routine in

PUBLISHING

WHEN Robin Duthy agreed to write a book for the Consumer's Association under its Which? imprint, the project looked a winner. Entitled Collecting for Investment, it would be marketed mainly by direct mail through CA's extensive membership network and stood to sell 40,000 copies. Apart from the good earnings prospects, Duthy was gratified that his several years' research into the merits of antiques, wine, land, books, diamond and other alternatives to the stock market was going to tune in so well with CA's reputation for impartial, honest guidance.

The shock came when he closely examined the draft agreement offered him by have found himself hopelessly Duthy (left) and publisher Land vulnerable to loss on the deal spondence with CA on authors' fee.

The battle of writers with publishers for a fair share is as might look rosy to the layman, have been left massively un-One of those listeners, tuning Duthy and the Society had compensated.

passed over the wreck of the the book's copyright - a most through retail shops. Another station's vessel. "The mast was unusual demand on publishing surprising omission, in the eyes sticking out the water like a when a book is an author's own of Duthy and the Society, was



instead of sitting down to write to bring it out in two or three his 90,000-word investment years' time he could have been book found himself engaged in landed with months of revision a combative, four-month corre- with no guarantee of a further

3: The author would have to pay about £4,500 out of his own But help came, from a Los old as literature and often graphs and illustrations of the sleeve all along In actual

the absence of an "escalator" ery of the manuscript and art- contracts where a book is Tim McGirk | work by the end of this year it expected to do well. This gives would not commit itself to a the author an increasing royalty

rate as sales rise, because the longer print-run quickly increases the publisher's profit.
Duthy reflected that CA would not be doing badly on terms like this: the ready availability of its market of 600,000 subscribers to Which? magazine had helped to increase CA's books' income six times in as many years.

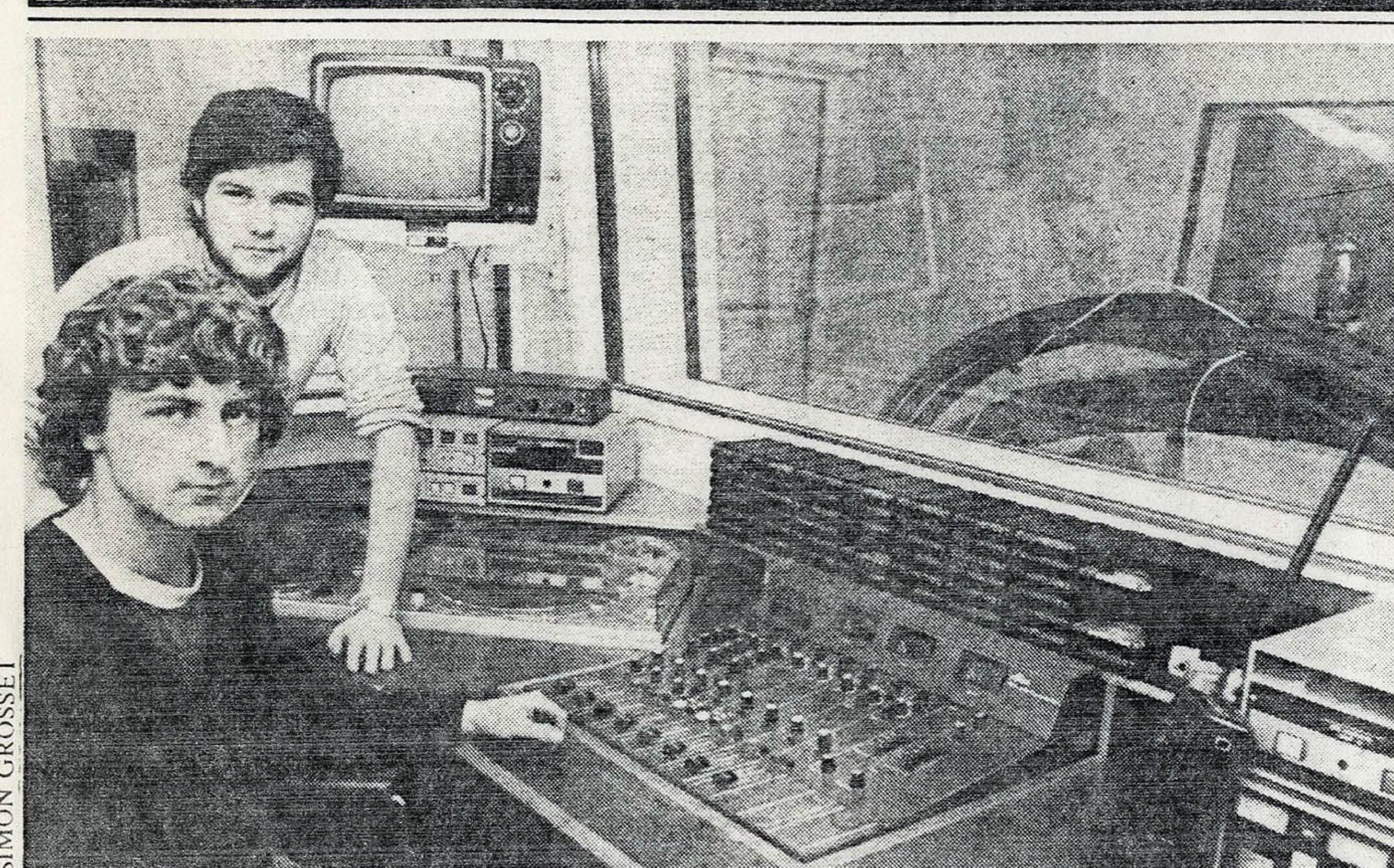
As the forceful correspondence mounted (with the book Anthony Land refused any concession on the five per cent or the escalator, though he expressed readiness to rethink other points. He justified the five per cent as the usual and equitable rate for CA authors because, he claimed, his organisation was rather like a book club, which tends to pay a lower percentage. Not so, countered Duthy, since CA was commissioning original work and book clubs generally do reprints. Furthermore, CA would be charging the full selling price of £10.95, on all copies, even through the direct-mail system.

Well, all right, Land replied, not exactly like a book club, and perhaps "unique" was a better description. When Duthy suggested that this seemed to be a claim to making its own rules, Land came back with what

When the Society of Authors sought to discuss costings and profit margins with Land, so as to compare them with those of publishers who do offer the usual 10 per cent plus escalator, Land replied that there was no true way of comparing them.

Duthy's final word was to point out that if a CA author was supposed to be doing well out of it then so, indeed, was the Consumer's Association. "CA may be special in some publishing, would be paid only respects," he said, "but nothing authors to accept a bad deal." He finally withdrew from the deal, despite the financial sacrifices, and is now negotiating his book through another

Roy Perrott





RULING THE WAVES: Radio Caroline's Tom Anderson — one of the DJs whose shows have silenced 13 campus stations.

SCUTTLED: After an investment of £50,000 Loughborough University radio's Dean Creswell, left, and Keith Paterson have been sunk by pirates.

RADIO CAROLINE has caused problems with student radio before. The pirate ship started broadcasting on 963 khz (312m) in the early sixties, several years before the frequency was assigned to student radio.

The ship's transmitters were not very powerful and the interference they caused was tolerable. Broadcasts ceased in 1980 when the ship sank. When Caroline started broadcasting again a month ago with a new ship and extremely powerful transmitter, the student radio world was turned upside down.

Caroline asserts that the European Broadcasting Union, the body in charge of allocating radio frequencies for international use, has never assigned 963 khz to Britain. And it claims that since the Home Office were never in a position to assign 963 khz to student radio stations in the first place, there was nothing

After their sinking by pirate DJs, DAVID LJUNGGREN looks at the options now open to the 13 campus stations silenced by Radio Caroline's return to the airwaves.

to stop Caroline using it instead, especially as they had been broadcasting on that very wavelength since the ship's inception.

The Home Office, however, were entitled to the allocation, for the EBU decided that wavelengths which did not overlap international boundaries could be appropriated by any government.

Campus stations broadcast for most of the day and throughout the night, which is peak audience time and also the time when the interference with Caroline is

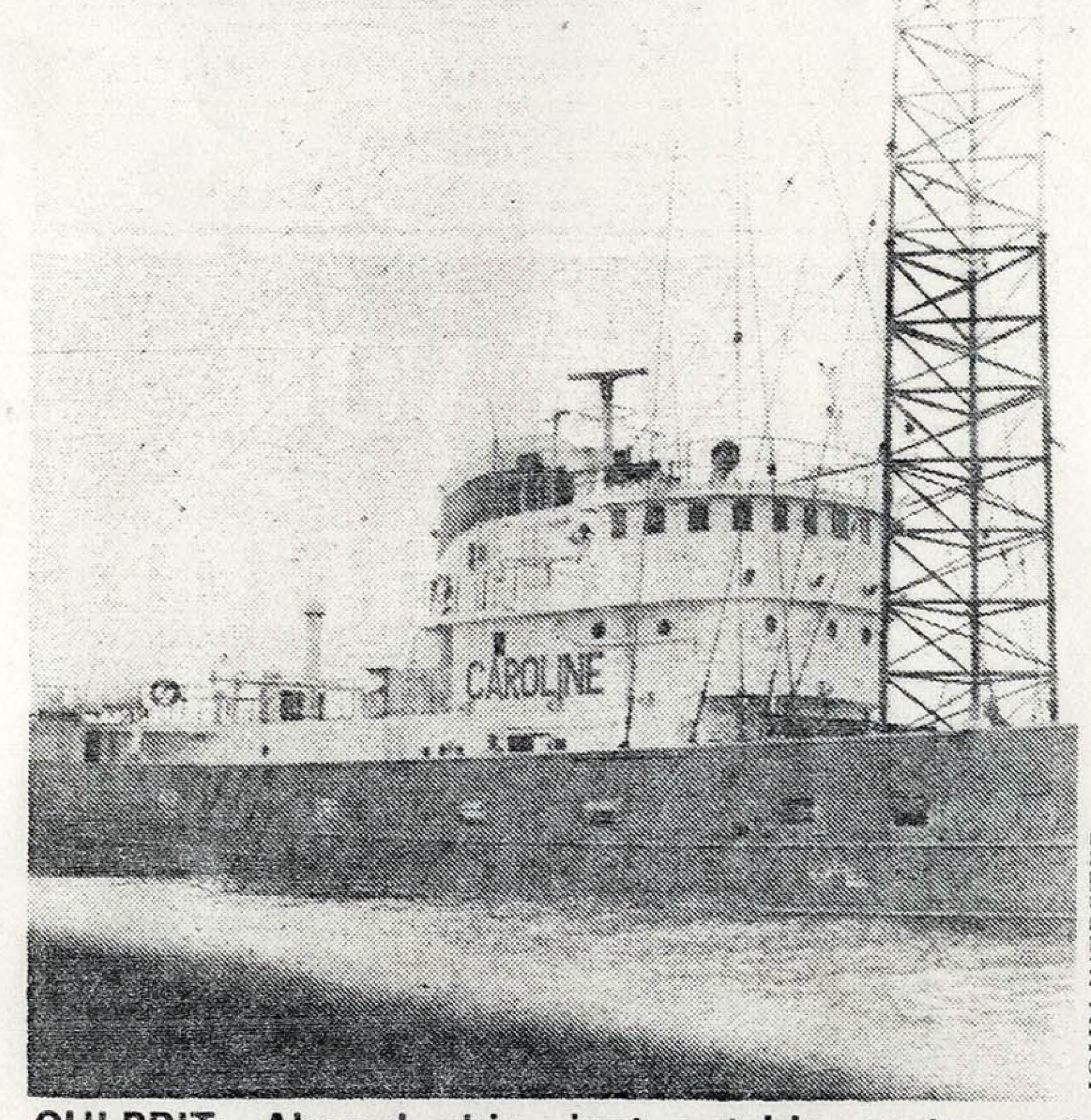
The three alternatives facing student radio are all flawed. Upgrading signal strengths entails extra expense and would conflict with the very strict limits laid down by the Department of Trade and Industry, which require the strength of signal at the campus boundary to be 100 times less powerful than normal night-time interference.

Alternative frequencies offered by the Home Office, 945 and 999 khz, are rendered unusable by Radio Toulouse and Radio Trent. A new frequency the Home the DTI has no jurisdiction.

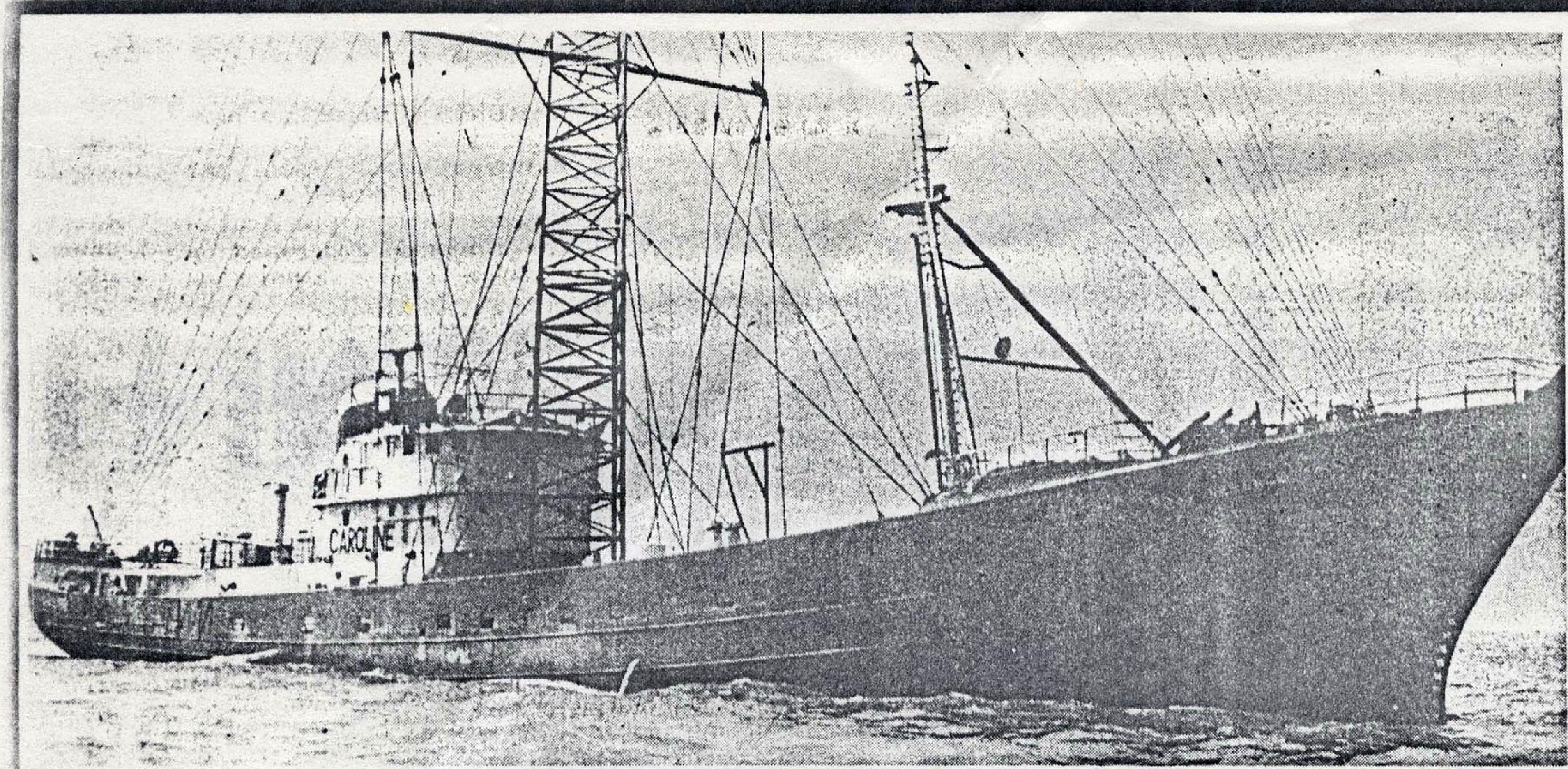
Office, 1602 khz (187m), has just offered is reasonable, but will cause severe headaches for the stations who want to broadcast on it. The expense incurred will in some cases be great, running into thousands of pounds for each station, and it will take time to retune and rebuild transmitters tuned in to the old frequencies.

The Home Office would like to make 187 a blanket frequency, but realise that it is not very satisfactory to ask people to change frequencies. "The change will mean a hell of a big jump", said National Association of Student Broadcasting chief Richard Sivier. "It will mean rebuilding a lot of transmission equipment at great expense and some stations aren't going to make it."

The Department of Trade and Industry can do very little to stop Caroline's activities, even though the ship is broadcasting illegally to Britain. The ship is registered in Panama and broadcasts from international waters, over which



CULPRIT: Aboard ship, just outside east coast territorial waters, Caroline's new high-powered pirate transmitter.



OF THE RADIO WAVES DROPS ANCHOR ONCE AGAIN

LEGEND

Caroline's new ship in position off Margate

by JOHN NURDEN

HERE they are some of the first pictures of pop pirate Radio Caroline's new ship anchored off the Kent coast.

They were snapped on Sunday - the day most Caroline buffs expected the floating radio station to resume transmission after three years of silence.

It would have been 16 years to the day that the British Government outlawed offshore stalling thetwin studios tle. meant the debut of new

postponed. now coincide with Robb giant red letters on one manning the station. was his cure? Eden's first Radio Caroline 60s revival night at London's Lyceum tomorrow

Swell

Senior disc jockey Andy Archer told the Post: "We don't want to come on the air for a few days and then close down for adjustments. When we start we want it to be perfect."

The Post's expedition to the 976-ton former Icelandic deep - sea trawler began before dawn as our own hired trawler sailed from Queenborough harbour.

Despite a calm sea the slight swell took its toll on my stomach. By the end of the five hour haul any enthusiasm left had drained in direct proportion to the amount of green beans I reencountered from the night before!

Even the excited dry of "There she is" from one of the crew did little to reawaken interest.

However, slowly through the heat haze I began to pick out the enormous 300 feet high mast jutting from the horizon.

Below it was the shape of the Ross tentatively Revenge,



ANDY ARCHER

As we approached we back. style Caroline was could see the bright red Tied up alongside, we relevant at the time, was at a pretty low ebb. two years while the hull, the white talked to crewmen and was did he ever get However, he did have ever - optimistic Its relaunch could superstructure and the the DJs who will be seasick and if so, what this message for impa- O'Rahilly battled with

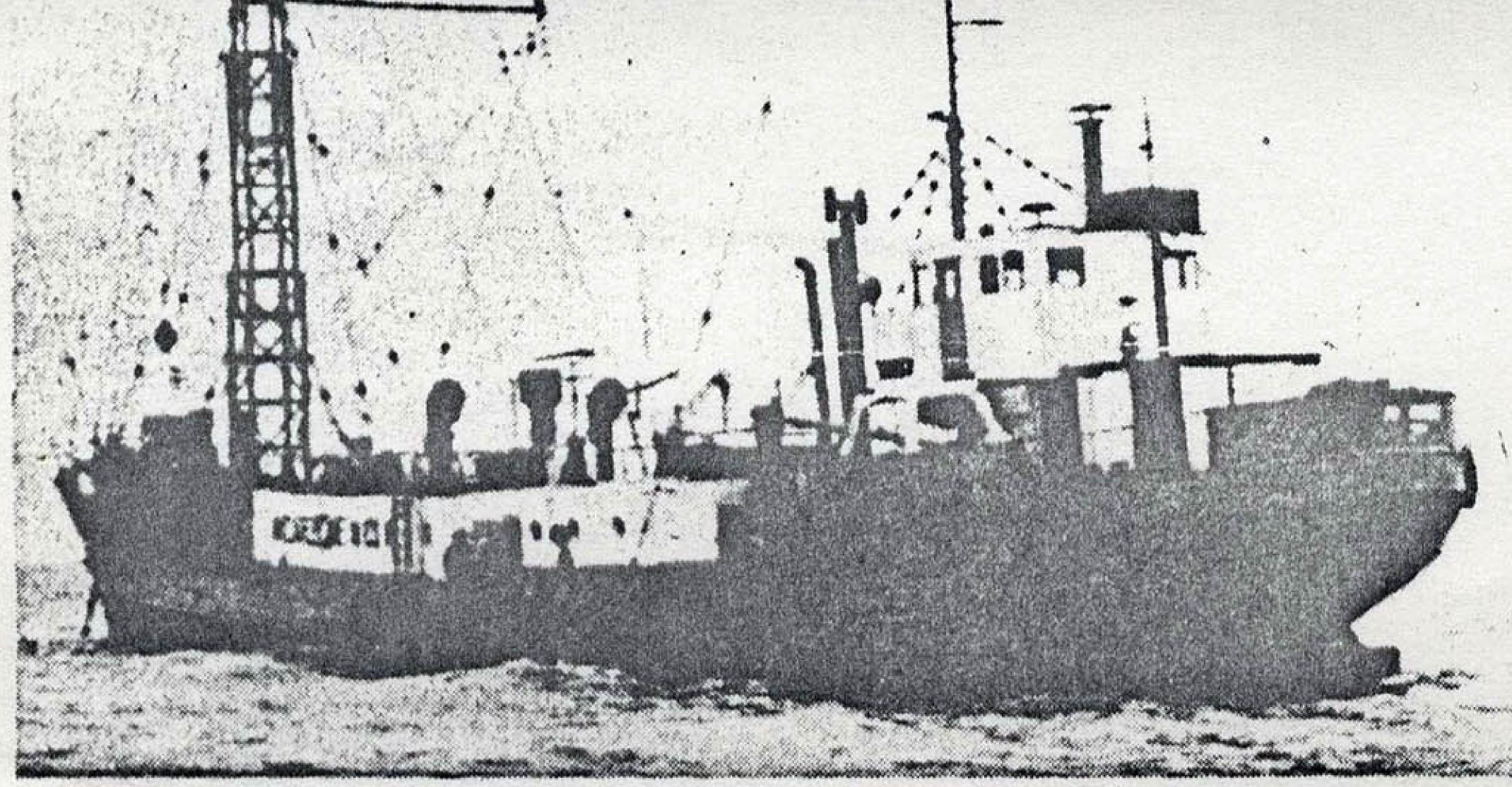


Interview through a loudhailer

Act. But delays in in- showing her original ti- rumours were right talk. after all. Caroline was My first question, was back hanging over in Spain, where she re-

DJs with the Marine renamed Imagine after side spelling out the Archer even jumped Broadcasting Offences John Lennon, but still world Caroline. The aboard our trawler to seasick. If he gave a O'Rahilly, 47, and con-

which seemed totally the side. Enthusiasm mained impounded for



Mi Amigo, the last Caroline, sunk in a storm

ne Caroline log

1964 Easter. Ronan O'Rahilly launched Britain's first sea - going radio station introducing jingles and com-mercials plus Johnny Walker, Emperor Rosco and Tony Blackburn. Simon Dee's voice was the first heard. O'Rahilly later took over Radio Atlanta broadcasting from the Mi Amigo and two stations, Caroline North and South, were

tormed. 1967 August 14. Marine Offences Act closed down all over pop pirate stations except Caroline.

1968 March. Both Caroline ships hi - jacked by Dutch authorities.

1972 After four years rotting in port of the ships were auc-

tioned and O'Rahilly bought back the Amigo, ostensibly to turn into a floating museum. It was soon broadcasting again.

1980 March 20. It Sank off the Margate coast when its anchor chain broke and the engine - less boat drifted onto sandbanks during a

Ronan O'Rahilly is back with American backers including DJ "Wolfman" Jack to the tune of £1 million. But will there be enough advertising when even Britain's legal commercial stations are scratching for customers? Only time will tell in this battle of the airwaves on 319 MW.



Dixie Peach, Caroline's new star

cure I didn't hear it. I verted into a radio ship

tient fans: "We're angry financial here, Hang on, because backers. we'll be back soon."

ing sometime this Channel. week.

Wreck

DJs Peter Murphy, become a political inci-Robin Rose, Dave Sim- dent." mons, Tony Gareth, Once outside Bri-Caroline's new star, tain's territorial waters West Indian Dixie the trawler used her Peach, and Tom Ander- own 2,500 horsepower son - who was rescued engines to take up posifrom the old Mi Amigo tion. minutes before she By Sunday afternoon

chored 12 miles east of long pilgrimage to the Mi Amigo wreck. meet the rebel radio

She has two 50,000 stars. watt transmitters and transmitter.

bought by Irish back-to-back.

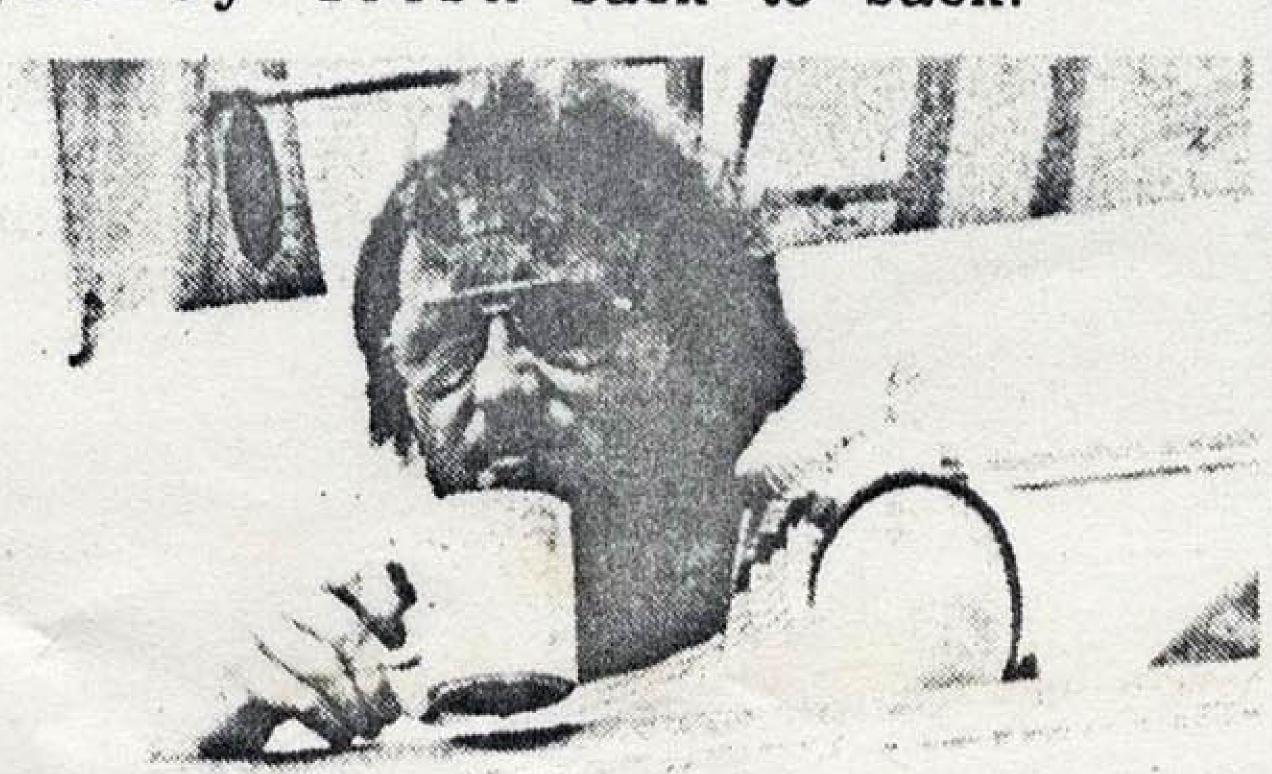
He said he didn't get businessman Ronan

Last week she was "Soon" looks like be- towed up the English

· Archer explained: "It was a kind of insurance. If the ship had been confiscated from the back of a Spanish Also on board are tug it would have

sank in force 10 gales she was already off Margate in March becoming something of a tourist attraction as The new ship is an-aquatic fans made the

The station is exone 10,000 watt pected to carry a format similar to The Grimsby - based American radio with Ross Revenge was lots of music played



Tom Anderson: Survived the last Caroline's wreck

O I HOPE nobody will try to make folk heroe Archer and the other disc jockeys aboard the pirate ship Radio Caroline. They are flouting Navy should arrest those on board and bring to H. REID

Caroline rocks Ciffs boat

RADIO Caroline, the pirate radio ship, returned to the radio waves yesterday at noon and sailed straight into trouble with Cliff Richard

Caroline started broadcasting on 963KHz from international waters off Essex, the same frequency that Cliff and the organisers of a Christian pop Festival were planning to use next weekend for their on-site radio station at Knebworth Park, Herts.

The festival station will broadcast music and information to the 20,000 expected at the four-day event.

Organisers of the Greenbelt Festival have now been given a new frequency, 945KHz, but claim it is poor and could pick up interference from foreign stations.

Meanwhile on the radio ship, DJ Tom Anderson, the last voice heard from the original which sank three years ago, started the new broadcasts.

Caroline back

Pirate station Radio Caroline reopens at noon today, broadcasting on 3 19m from a ship anchored in international waters off the Essex coast.

DI TONY DOES PARTY

Elackburn DJ Tony shocked partygoers when he yesterday down his pulled trousers and "mooned." The King of Corn became

The King Of Porn as he stripped down to seethrought pastel-pink pants and reeled off blue jokes at a party to relaunch Radio Caroline.

Tony 40, staged his impromptu strip to "liven up" the early morning at London's Lyceum Ballroom.

Convince

The DJ, who began his radio career with the pirate station in the Sixties, said: "It was a pretty poor turn-out.

"I was disappointed too. because DJs who have made It today thanks to Radio Caroline didn't show up.

"I encouraged the audience to get off their backsides and do something."

Radio Caroline, most famous of the pirate ships of the Sixties, will be back on the air today at a cost of around £3; million.