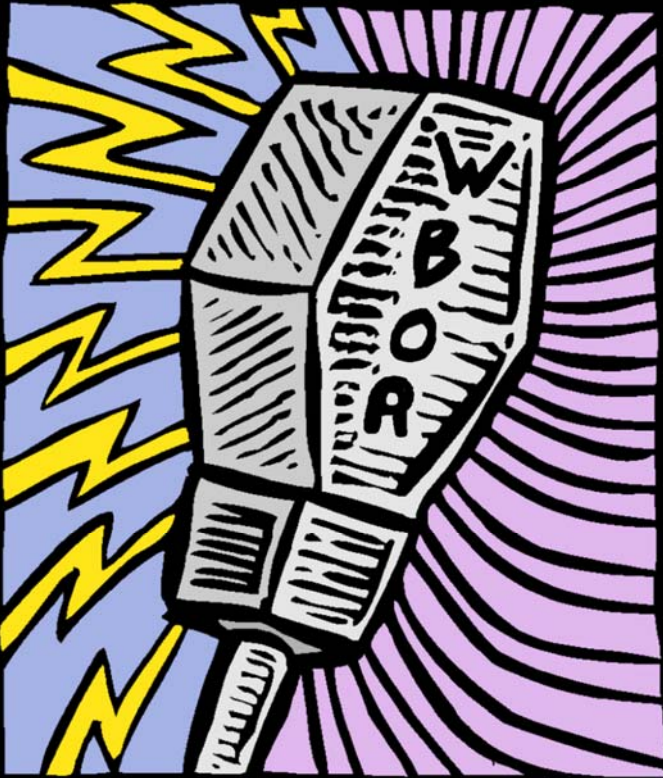


SAVING W BOR



Bob Wilkins

BIG DOG PUBLISHING

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SAVING WBOR

Winner, McLaren Memorial Comedy Playwriting Competition, One-Acts, 2008.

COMEDY. WBOR is a small family-owned TV station that is having trouble competing with cable and satellite companies. Deeply in debt, the station's owner announces plans to sell the station, ending its unique programming lineup including Leonard's cooking show segments on how to properly cook roadkill and the "The Mildred Show's" trivia segment, which highlights "important" facts like where Germans used to hide their lost teeth and how much an African ostrich egg weighs. Desperate, Lenard and Mildred cook up a scheme to save their beloved station, but an investor who wants to buy the land is determined to foil their plans.

Performance Time: Approximately 45-60 minutes.

CHARACTERS

(3 M, 5 F)

MILDRED MURDOCK: Host of WBOR's "The Morning Show."

RAYDENE BULLWORTH: Producer and director of "The Morning Show."

ETHEL POTTER: Elderly resident trivia expert who is a regular on "The Morning Show."

LENARD WOODS: Host of WBOR's cooking show who likes to do shows on how to cook roadkill; owner of a local restaurant; male.

VERLENE NASH: News and weather anchor for WBOR, her hometown TV station.

FLOYD BEALOR: WBOR's technician and floor director who has a secret crush on Verlene; wears a headset.

ELINOR HEWITT: Co-owner of WBOR who wants to save the station.

FRANK HEWITT: Elinor's younger brother from New York who wants to sell WBOR.

SETTING

WBOR, a small TV station in a small town.

SET

WBOR's "The Morning Show" set. There is a desk and a chair SL for the news desk. There are two easy chairs SR for the interview area.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1: WBOR's "The Morning Show" set, morning.

Scene 2: WBOR's "The Mildred Show" in progress.

Scene 3: WBOR's "The Mildred Show," later.

Scene 4: WBOR's "The Morning Show," early morning, the next day.

Scene 5: WBOR's "The Morning Show," late evening, three days before the telethon.

Scene 6: WBOR's "The Morning Show," the night before the telethon. A pledge total board is USC.

Scene 7: WBOR's "The Morning Show," the next day, hour one of the telethon.

Scene 8: WBOR's electrical room, moments later. Played on the apron or on a satellite stage.

Scene 9: WBOR's "The Morning Show," hour six of the telethon.

Scene 10: WBOR's "The Morning Show," hour 19 of the telethon.

Scene 11: WBOR's "The Morning Show," one hour after the telethon.

PROPS

Papers

Newspaper

Pencil

Large bag stuffed with assorted papers

Large pledge board

Pamphlet

Desk phones

Check

**"LET'S PUT THE FERRET
DOWN THE HOLE
AND SEE WHAT COMES OUT
THE OTHER END!"**

-MILDRED

SCENE 7

(AT RISE: WBOR's "The Morning Show" set, morning. Floyd is straightening up the interview area. Verlene enters, carrying sheets of paper.)

VERLENE: Good morning, Floyd. Here are the production notes for today's newscasts.

FLOYD: Why, thank you, Verlene. You didn't have to that.

VERLENE: I know how busy you are getting Mildred's show ready. She seems to be very picky. I mean, it's not like she's Oprah.

FLOYD: Well, she is Oprah to a lot of folks around here. People like to know what's going on in their own back yard.

VERLENE: Some of the things she covers seem outlandish, don't you think?

FLOYD: Heck, no. There's lots of strange stuff happening around the world. There's no reason our little town shouldn't be the same way. It's just like my mother always says, "If you want to be amazed at how stupid people can be, just look over your back fence."

(Raydene enters, carrying a newspaper. Sits in a chair in the interview area and starts reading the paper.)

RAYDENE: Morning, Verlene, Floyd.

VERLENE: Good morning, Raydene.

FLOYD: (To Raydene.) Good morning. Miss Mildred's set is all ready for the show.

RAYDENE: That's good.

FLOYD: And I've got the production notes right here.

RAYDENE: Great. (Indicating newspaper.) Did you read this about the guy over in Pine Ridge who is suing a neighbor for killing his cat? Seems the cat jumped onto the neighbor's bug zapper while trying to catch a moth and got electrocuted.

VERLENE: That's terrible. The poor cat.

RAYDENE: I bet that was an awful stink, what with all that fur burning.

FLOYD: I remember one time I was over at my friend Willard's place for a barbecue. He had auto-start on the barbecue, and he lit it without lifting the hood. Shortly after, we heard this cat meowing. We looked all over but couldn't find it. Then we smelled burning fur. We checked the barbecue, and sure enough, there was the cat.

VERLENE: Was it okay?

FLOYD: It was fine with a little bit of mustard and ketchup.

VERLENE: Oh, no! You didn't!

FLOYD: No, we didn't. I'm just joking. I'm sorry, Verlene. I didn't mean to upset you.

(Mildred enters, carrying papers and sits in the interview area.)

MILDRED: Good morning, everyone. You all seem to be in good spirits today.

RAYDENE: Floyd was just sharing a new recipe with us.

VERLENE: *(Curtly.)* If you'll excuse me, I have to work on my newscast. *(Exits.)*

MILDRED: *(To Floyd.)* What's her problem?

FLOYD: I think I got a little too carried away on a cat story.

MILDRED: Is it good enough to use on the show?

RAYDENE: No, I don't think the cat lovers out there would be too pleased.

MILDRED: Since when have we ever been concerned about the feelings of any special interest group?

RAYDENE: I'm always sensitive to people's feelings.

MILDRED: Oh, right. That's why you booked the ladies from the diet club and the gourmet cookie guy on the same show.

RAYDENE: I didn't know he was going to bring so many samples.

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MILDRED: Well, it sure ruined a good interview. Those gals were so distracted they could hardly talk. Their club went belly-up after that show.

RAYDENE: Just like a bunch of beached whales.

MILDRED: *(Sarcastic.)* Now there's the sensitive and caring Raydene who everyone knows and loves.

RAYDENE: It's a joke.

MILDRED: The diet club ladies weren't laughing.

RAYDENE: Well, at least the cookie guy was happy. He probably picked up some new customers that day.

MILDRED: So did the crisis center. I heard that the ladies went to Barney's after the show. What started out as a cup of coffee ended up with Barney running out of fried chicken.

RAYDENE: A little controversy on the show helps with the ratings, you know.

MILDRED: Don't start that again.

RAYDENE: All I'm saying is that we have to do everything we can to keep our audiences tuned in.

MILDRED: But we don't need to become weird like a lot of those big talk shows. Besides, there is a lot of strange stuff going on here off-air.

RAYDENE: There's always something strange going on here.

(Raydene and Mildred look at Floyd, who is cleaning his ear with a pencil.)

MILDRED: It's not that kind of strange. It's a feeling I have...like something big is going to happen.

RAYDENE: WBOR is a small station in a small town. Big things don't happen in small places.

[END OF FREEVIEW]