

THE LEAKED MEMO

John Coate to KZXY board, c. Oct 9 2013, printed in the AVA, excerpted. The entire memo is available at the AVE and elsewhere at greenmac.com:

.....I guess they think this work is easy, or that if we just let the ultra-left political people have their way, even more money will flow into our coffers. All we have to do is get rid of me, Mary and NPR and then install Christina and Sheila as the local news people, join forces with KMEC, allow the listeners to vote on programming or have a committee make the decision, and stage more open lines type programs so that Sister Yasmin and Jeff Wright and the other regular callers can even further express the true will of the people while bashing what would by then be the former KZXY management.

In truth, Doug and his group are just yet another iteration of the same battle over KZXY that are the same people who tried to physically take over the station in the early 90s, they are the same people who screamed at us in Fort Bragg in 2009. They are the same people who vote for King Collins (who was only elected to the Board the one time he was unopposed). That are the ones who say we aren't "transparent" because, from what I can tell, we haven't allowed them to force us to get rid of NPR. In short, despite whatever the argument du jour may be (this year it is not following regulations and policies), at its heart the motivation is political.

Despite our still heavily left-leaning programming, we still as a station do not take the correct side in most political debates so that listeners can always hear "the truth." As for the mission statement, "programming and operational philosophy...controlled by the membership" means things like a professional staff with volunteer programmers, a mixture of music and talk, national and local programs. And sure the membership, via the Board does control that.

But it also says that we are "open to all" and we "reflect the rich diversity of the county" and we seek to "foster communication among all groups in the county." We on this staff take that very seriously and we strive for a station that doesn't take sides and does not favor any given faction.

In my view, Doug and his group are most unhappy with the fact that we do this and do not favor a slant that gives even more airtime to their side of an argument. As for the PAC (Programming Advisory Committee) and programming policy, that was created specifically to help Mary resist the pressure to change the programming in order to better satisfy this same group of people and their friends who now claim that it is being used for a purpose opposite of its reason for existing in the first place.

This is a crazy rewriting of history. Ask anyone who was there for all of this: Johanna, Kathy Bailey, Diane and many other who have fought this same battle again and again for years. Doug is totally and dangerously wrong on this point. Meanwhile, no complaint about music, none about the physical infrastructure. It's all a political battle. And one they have never won. Do not cave in to this."

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