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THE HILLIER VIEW

Kevin Hillier wants radio to focus on respect, not ratings

t was 1984, the radio station was 3XY and the subject was premature ejaculation. Shocking stuff for its time in many ways, especially on a music radio station like 3XY, but the person talking to me about that subject was Bettina Arndt - a sex therapist, clinical psychologist, editor of Forum magazine, author and journalist.

It was the first of her weekly segments on my morning program and it was well publicised we were going to talk about some sensitive subjects. There was no pre-warning of coarse language, nudity, sex scenes etc, like you get now, but listeners knew what to expect.

As the host of the segment, I had a responsibility to make sure it was an adult conversation about an adult topic, which it always was. We had fun with it but everyone involved, including the audience members who rang in, knew what the boundaries were. It was meant to entertain and inform, not to titillate.

Here we are in 2018 and society's standards have changed and radio is a good example. Swearing on air is commonplace, the subject matter is open slather, from sexual experiences to bodily functions, and it seems any time of the day is fine for these to be discussed. I am fine with all of this only because one thing hasn't changed - there is still an off button. Live radio is unpredictable by its very nature, but most on air presenters know where to draw the line. Unfortunately last weekend that line was crossed, a presenter was sacked, and a furore erupted. The comment is indefensible, and the topic unbelievable, given it was part of a football preview show. Station management was commended for taking swift action but condemned for only sacking one of the presenters, when all were complicit.

As a parent, I am glad I wasn't listening in the car with my 13 year old son in the back seat. As a male, I am appalled that a group of men would talk about this subject in this manner on air or even off air, to be honest.

Finally, as a broadcaster, I am saddened by the lack of respect that many in front of a microphone these days show for their audience. We deserve better.

If you have any news or events, let me know at kevin@howdypartnersmedia. com.au



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Briefs

Firearms offences

Five men from Melbourne's western suburbs are expected to be charged on summons after an investigation into illegal hunting and spotlighting in the Wangaratta area. Police from the Game Management Authority interviewed the men, aged between 19 and 33, after a games officer seized a firearm about 1am on June 19.

Truck collision

Westgate Highway Patrol members are appealing for witnesses after a truck struck a bridge in Laverton North about noon on June 22. The truck was travelling along the Princes Highway when its second trailer struck the Dohertys Road overpass and was ripped off the truck's rig. Police would like to speak to anyone with dash cam footage or who witnessed the incident. Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000.

Holiday fun

Wyndham's libraries will host a variety of programs for children during the school holidays. Wyndham's learning city portfolio holder, Cr Josh Gilligan, said the Winter Holiday Escape program would include arts and craft classes, movie nights, Lego building sessions, games clubs and circus skills. Bookings required for all sessions, see wyndham. vic.gov.au/libraries or call 8734 2600.

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