

## Radio Talk Shows

*By Hap Hansen*

Lots of people break rules, some intentional, some inadvertent, but there are also 'wannabe' rule breakers, who will go as far as they can to test rule breaking limits.

Today, some of the rule breakers are callers to radio talk shows. Unfortunately, the individuals in charge of the radio microphones are opinionated, arrogant, egotistical and overbearing. They love to argue with, and embarrass, callers and urge them to break the rules of whatever subject they're calling about. They love it when callers bring up 'wannabe' rule breaking ideas that many times are too far-fetched to be believable by anyone but themselves.

Here are some questions, comments and rule-breaking ideas I have heard on some call-in talk shows: "Why should I have to license all four of my cars when I can only drive one at a time?" "Who cares what gets dumped in the river, because the water purifies itself every ten feet anyway?" "My kid is smart. Why won't anybody give him a job? Just because he dropped out of high school as a sophomore shouldn't make any difference." "How come the city came out and made me quit building the corrugated metal shed I was adding on to my house? This is America! I should be able to build anything, anywhere, anytime on my property that I want to!" "You've got to do something about my neighbor's three dogs. They keep barking all night at my twelve cats!" "Why can't we get a loan to buy a house? I know we've declared bankruptcy twice, we've been sued for late pays and my wages have been garnished. But we've changed!"

And so it goes. Perhaps there is some value for the callers in getting things off their chests that their friends and neighbors are tired of hearing about. Perhaps there is some value to talk show listeners as they discover their lives are fuller and more interesting than those of most callers. And perhaps there is some value to the radio stations, as they provide a forum for malcontents to air their grievances and hear discussions about why some people want to break the rules.