

*David Lowe statement*

*AFTER more than 32 years of programme-making for the BBC and UK Independent Local Radio, I have hung-up my headphones for the last time. Why? Because I made a silly mistake. Yes, I know we all make mistakes, but where political correctness is concerned in UK today, there is no room for excuses or forgiveness. That said: let me stress here, I have no quarrel with anyone at the BBC in the West and South West. However, I do have issues with a repressive system that encourages wholly disproportionate reactions to innocent errors of judgement.*

*On April 27, I featured an 82 year old recording, one I've heard hundreds of times over the years, and even featured occasionally on my programmes. Unbeknown to me, however, that recording by Ambrose & His Orchestra of "The Sun Has Got His Hat On" contains a line of lyric that includes one of today's 'forbidden' English language expressions ... the "N" word! You've got to listen very carefully indeed to actually hear it but, yes, it is there on the recording.*

*I was alerted to my error by an email from the BBC management who had, in turn, received a complaint from a listener who, by his own admission, never listened to my programmes, but just happened to switch-on his radio sometime after 8 pm on Sunday April, 27.*

*Suffice it to say, the listener in question was "horrified" by what he heard, and added, "I hope that someone in authority will deal with Mr Young appropriately." (He referred to me as David Young throughout his email, a copy of which was forwarded to me with the BBC complaint alert). By the way, I know of no other complaint. Of course, there may have been others, but none have yet come to my attention via post, email, Facebook, Twitter or on my Blog.*

*Nevertheless, I admitted my mistake immediately after listening closely to the 'offending' track. I then apologised to my BBC managers, and offered to apologise to the listeners at the beginning of, and again during, my programme on May 11. Alternatively, I offered to fall on my sword.*

*A series of emails between myself and the BBC ensued over the following few days, including one which stated, "We would prefer that you don't mention anything about last week's broadcast." In the end, the BBC wrote to say, "Regrettably ... we will have to accept your offer to fall on your sword to resolve the situation."*

*Sorry folks, but I made a stupid mistake and I was left with no other option but to fall on my sword. In closing, however, let me say this: it has been an honour to entertain you for so many years, and I thank each and every one of you for your support for my efforts.*

Kind Regards

David Lowe

