

Radio Phone-Ins

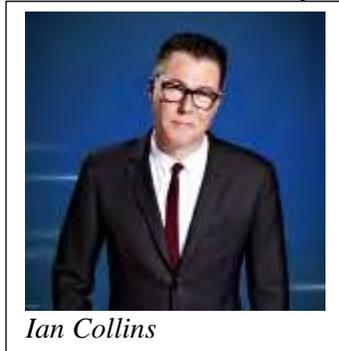
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I like listening to LBC. I don't often listen to the radio, as I prefer listening to my own music usually, but when I'm driving and I feel like tuning into the radio, LBC is my station of choice. Before a recent re-branding, the station's name was an acronym for 'London's Biggest Conversation' but since going national it now stands for 'Leading Britain's Conversation'. I like listening to the engaging debates, and I appreciate being kept up to speed with the important issues of the time. Each presenter is opinionated yet respectful and I admire how they speak with people with whom they often disagree, remaining polite yet fiercely holding onto their convictions. Since it's a call-in radio station, there are frequent invitations for listeners to call the station

and contribute their voice to the conversation. I must admit I have given into the temptation and called in half a dozen times in the past.



Ian Collins

Usually I've done so late at night, after driving home. Ian Collins presents his show between 10pm and 1am and whenever I've called into his show it has usually been at or around midnight. Tonight, travelling home from my young men home group meeting, he introduced a discussion about the power of prayer, and so I felt compelled to contribute my thoughts. After having parked my van at the driveway in front of my home, I turned off the radio and called the station's number and spoke to a producer who asked me what I wanted to say and then asked me to wait to be called back later. It was while waiting, having turned the radio back on to hear how the conversation was panning out, that I noticed a familiar voice speaking, and

it wasn't the show's presenter. Ian Collins was having a conversation with an old lady's voice, but this was the voice of an energetic and confident old lady. Her received pronunciation, coupled with her vocabulary that was not dissimilar from the Unificationist lexicon, reminded me of someone I know who lives in Maidstone. My suspicions were fuelled as their conversation mentioned a B&Q store in Maidstone they have both visited, and indeed they were confirmed when the show's presenter mentioned her name: Joan.



Joan Langrick

Joan Langrick is an incredible woman. She has many wonderful stories to tell about her social activism within the Unification Movement in the 1970s and 1980s. She also has quite a large tribe with many children, grandchildren and even great-grandchildren. She's a wonderful role model for how to grow old, remaining zealously passionate about the world. I have felt humbled by her concern for the welfare of all human beings whenever I have been in her presence. What an unexpected surprise not only to hear her on the radio but shortly before I was going to be invited to speak!

Joan's contribution to the conversation was quite technical – explaining the realities of the spiritual world, which is ironic because this was the topic of our young men's home group discussion – and she even mentioned that her understanding of how prayer works was informed by the teachings of the Unification Church. (Plugging the UC on national radio FTW!)

My conversation with the show's host was far more informal. Whenever we've spoken before we tended to banter rather than debate, and the same thing happened tonight. I enjoyed the stimulating discussion and I felt like I was able to convey the points I had quietly rehearsed in my mind while waiting to go live. I was pleased to hear other people calling in to say pretty much the things I believe. Ian mentioned how so many nice people tended to call in on this particular issue, which I suppose was a refreshing change from the heated political arguments that had preceded just moments before. I'm not sure how many people were listening to the show considering that it was after midnight, so it's hard to say what impression I could make on the country's population. Nevertheless I enjoy the experience of communicating what I believe to be true in a friendly and engaging way on national radio, especially as I believe it could prepare me for future opportunities when I may have the chance to communicate briefly about important issues to a wide audience.

So, thank you Ian Collins and your colleagues at LBC for taking my call!

Image Credits

<http://lbc.audioagain.com/>

<http://lbc.audioagain.com/presenters/12-ian-collins>

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