

It's 'Supermouth' -- CHUM's mile-a-minute verbal acrobat



JACK (SUPERMOUTH) ARMSTRONG
Hired from Boston station to find himself in legal tangle

By PETER HARRIS
Star staff writer

The first time I heard CHUM's new disc jockey Jack (Supermouth) Armstrong—not to be confused with Jack (Wheaties) Armstrong—I immediately formed an unflattering mental picture of him.

In case you've never heard him, Armstrong is the mile-a-minute disc jockey CHUM last month hired away from a Boston station WJEX and immediately found itself embroiled in legal action.

WJEX sued CHUM and Armstrong and obtained an Ontario Supreme Court injunction to stop the Toronto station from using Armstrong on the air. This week the lawsuit was settled and the injunction dissolved, leaving Armstrong free to soar to new heights of verbal acrobatics.

Anyway, I imagined him to be a red-haired (for some unfathomable reason) slightly built, pasty-faced, edgy kind of little guy, because that's exactly what he sounded like as he steamrolled his way through the evening slot on CHUM, running roughshod over commercials, telephone quizzes, public service announcements and record lead-ins.

Irreverent is the only way to describe Armstrong's approach to absolutely everything he does on air.

I met him yesterday, and much to my surprise found him to be a fairly easy-going, 32-year-old North Carolinian who is built like a college halfback and whose dark hair is worn in a modified Beanie cut. He is almost a compulsive

talker but that's the only similarity to his on-air personality and even then, in conversation, he is much more low-key.

Armstrong feels his non-stop style appeals to teenage listeners because "they seem to have a built-in stress and strain today from struggling to keep up with everybody around them. They can't take a dull moment; they want excitement, something weird, and that's why I use the style I do. They're all under this stress... that's the way their lives move."

He regards radio as a good instrument for measuring society. "Because of the competition, stations have to reflect public taste and changes in taste. I don't think the stations cause the changes. If they don't change, the people lose interest in them and go to some other station."

The conversation got around to the subject of the generation gap and Armstrong commented: "People think that if you're under 12 you're an idiot, but that when you turn 21 you automatically become a responsible citizen...."

"It is necessary for the adult community to realize that teenagers are people. You can't just humor them, you've got to channel them into something useful. If you don't utilize youthful minds properly they'll turn to something else. Adults have got to take time to relate to young people or you'll have an open revolt on your hands."

Teenagers today, Armstrong said, "are very hip; you can't talk down to them. As soon as you regard them as

adults they'll act like adults. These kids are ready to take responsibility, if people would let them.

"Sure, there are a bunch of dum-dums—motorcycle gangs, a few long-haired hippies—who are bad news but I think that most of the kids realize they are bad news."

"It's far better to work with teenagers than against them, mainly because there are too many of them and I wouldn't want to have them against me."

But, while he has nothing but the highest regard for the intelligence and potential of today's teenagers, Armstrong feels there's one thing they don't understand.

"Kids accuse adults of being materialistic but they don't really know what it's like to have to earn a living. That's their drawback... They'll understand this, but first they've got to be given responsibility."

As far as his own future is concerned, Armstrong takes a realistic viewpoint and figures he has four to six years left as a night disc jockey, a special breed in the world of rock stations.

"I don't know of any good night jocks who are older than 28. After that, you want to get out or maybe drop back into an afternoon or morning slot."

He hopes to stay in Toronto because "I'm fed up with moving." After getting his start in Chapel Hill, N.C., where his father is a professor at the University of North Carolina, Armstrong began moving around and, before coming to CHUM, worked for stations in other parts of North Carolina as well as in Atlanta, Cleveland and Boston.

TELEVISION during the weekend

♦ INDICATES A CHANGE FROM TV WEEK

TONIGHT

5:30 ③ Let's Sing Out ⑦ Movie The King And Four Queens, Clark Gable, Eleanor Parker.	7:30 ② Hazel ④ People Are Funny ⑥ News; Sports ⑧ Rat Patrol ⑩ Celebrity Billiards ⑫ Tarzan ⑭ The Wild, Wild West ⑯ Off To See The Wizard	9:00 ⑦ Man In A Suitcase ⑧ Movie Under Capricorn, Ingrid Bergman, Joseph Cotten. ⑩ Hollywood And The Stars ⑫ Merv Griffin ⑭ Miss New York State Pageant ⑯ The Guns of Will Sonnett	11:10 ① Pierre Berton ③ Viewpoint ⑤ Metro Final ⑦ Night Metro ⑨ Tonight Show ⑪ Joey Bishop Show ⑬ Movies Curse Of The Mummy's Tomb, Terrence Morgan, Fred Clark, Also, Mr. Sardonicus, Guy Rolfe, Oscar Homolka.	12:10 ① Movie Divorce Italian Style, Marcello Mastroianni, Daniela Rocca. ③ Perry's Probe ⑤ Movie Separate Tables, Burt Lancaster, Rita Hayworth.
5:55 ① News 6:00 ③ Dick Van Dyke ⑤ Pierre Berton ⑦ ④ News; Sports 6:30 ② ③ ④ News ⑥ Hi-Q 6:52 ③ Sports Report 7:00 ③ The Day It Is ⑤ Petticoat Jctn. ⑦ Summer Brothers Smothers Show	8:00 ④ Five Years In The Life... ⑥ Cimarron Strip ⑧ Movie ⑩ Get Smart ⑫ Star Trek ⑭ Gomer Pyle	10:00 ② Big Valley ④ Judd For The Defence 11:00 ③ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ News	11:40 ① Movie The Uninvited, Ray Milland, Ruth Hussey.	3:05 ③ Newscap

SATURDAY

12:00 ③ Cousin Bill ⑦ Movie Alexander The Great, Frederic March, Richard Burton ⑨ Cool McCool ⑪ The Beatles 12:30 ① Lacerose ③ Roller Derby ⑤ You and Your Family ⑦ Championship Bowling 1:00 ③ Canadian Bowling ⑤ Rural Review 1:30 ② Car & Track ④ Opportunity Line ⑥ Happening '68 2:00 ③ Wrestling ⑤ Major League Baseball ⑦ Movies The Parson And The Outlaw (1957). western) Anthony Dexter, Also, The Return Of October, Glenn Ford, Terry Moore. ⑦ LSD Special	2:30 ② Calgary Stampede ⑦ Movie The Giant Behemoth, Gene Evans, Andre Morell. 3:00 ① Outdoor Unlimited 3:30 ① Detective's Diary ⑦ Golf 4:00 ③ Canadian Fisherman ⑤ Dennis the Menace ⑦ After Four 4:30 ① The Outdoorsman ③ Wide World of Sports 5:00 ③ Moby Dick ⑤ Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea ⑦ NFL Action ⑨ Women's Bowling ⑪ Wide World of Sports 5:30 ③ Frankenstein Jr. ⑤ Celebrity Billiards 6:00 ③ Audubon Wildlife Theatre Mary Jane Dockeray, naturalist and lecturer, describes the wood ducks on a quiet	6:30 ③ ⑤ Sounds '68 ⑦ Soccer Oakland Clippers vs Toronto Falcons. ⑨ The Flintstones ⑪ I Dream of Jeannie ⑬ CBS News ⑭ Movie The Triumph Of Michael Strogoff (1964, drama—2h) Curt Jurgens, Capucine. 6:45 ③ News, Weather ⑤ As We See It 7:00 ③ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ Singalong Jubilee	8:30 ③ Movie 55 Days At Peking, Charlton Heston, Ava Gardner. ⑤ Gunsmoke ⑦ My Three Sons ⑨ Lawrence Welk 9:00 ③ ⑤ Movie The Errand Boy, Jerry Lewis, Brian Donlevy. ⑦ Hogan's Heroes 9:30 ① The Saint ③ Petticoat Junction ⑤ Hollywood Palace 10:00 ③ Garrison's Gorillas	10:30 ① Movie Darby's Rangers, James Garner, Etchika Choureaux. ③ Movie Legend Of The Lost, John Wayne, Sophie Loren. 11:00 ③ ⑤ ⑦ News 11:15 ③ Night Metro ⑤ Local News 11:30 ③ News ⑤ Steve Allen Show 11:35 ③ Movie A Fever In The Blood, Efron Zimbalist Jr., Angie Dickinson. ⑤ Movie Psycho, Anthony Perkins, Janet Leigh. 12:00 ③ Movie Desire In The Dust, Raymond Burr, Martha Hyer. 1:46 ③ Movie His Majesty O'Keefe, Burt Lancaster, Joan Rice. 3:27 ③ Newscap
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SUNDAY

12:15 ③ Living Word 12:00 ③ Reach for the Top ⑤ Italian Album ⑦ This Is the Life ⑨ News ⑪ Movie Gunfight At Red Sands, Richard Harrison, G. R. Stuart. 12:15 ③ Living Word 12:30 ③ Films ① Outdoor Unlimited ③ Movie Forty Guns, Barbara Stanwyck, Dean Jagger. ⑤ Face the Nation ⑦ NFB Showcase ⑨ Father Meehan ⑪ Spectrum ⑬ U. of Buffalo Medical Roundtable 1:15 ③ Gardening 1:30 ③ Country Calendar ⑤ This Space Age ⑦ Crossfire ⑨ Movie Abbott And Costello Meet Frankenstein. Abbott and Costello.	2:00 ③ Music In Miniature ⑤ Spectrum ⑦ Movie Normandy Squadron, Marc Cassot, George Riviere. ⑨ Challenge ⑪ Time for Adventure ⑬ Camera on Canada ⑤ Meet the Press ⑦ Issues & Answers New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller. 3:00 ③ Soccer ⑤ Let's Sing Out ⑦ Upbeat ⑨ The Perfect Match ⑪ Favorite Martians ⑬ Dating Game 4:00 ③ Robin Hood ⑤ Checkmate ⑦ Time for Americans 4:30 ③ Tiny Talent Time ⑤ Lassie 5:00 ③ News; Man Alive ⑤ Gentle Ben	5:30 ③ Eric Sykes ⑤ Daniel Boone ⑦ Of Lands and Seas ⑨ Family Affair ⑪ Movie Sword Of Sherwood Forest, Richard Greene, Peter Cushing. 6:00 ③ Disney ⑤ 21st Century 6:30 ③ Disney ⑤ Animal Kingdom ⑦ News 7:00 ③ The Group ⑤ The Monkees ⑦ Flipper ⑨ NFB Presents Twenty-four Hours in Czechoslovakia is a film record of NHL star Stan Mikita's visit to his native land. ⑪ Love On A Rooftop ⑬ The Champions ⑤ The High Chaparral ⑦ Mission: Impossible ⑨ Spotlight On... Malka and Joso 11:00 ③ ⑤ ⑦ ⑨ ⑪ ⑬ News 11:15 ③ Night Metro ⑤ Local News 11:30 ③ Great Music ⑤ Steve Allen Show ⑦ Movie The Undercover Man, Glenn Ford, Nina Foch. ⑨ Movie The Trials Of Private Schweik, Peter Alexander, Rudolph Prack. 11:35 ③ Movie Secrets Of Women, Anita Bjork, Karl Arne Homsten. 11:40 ③ Best of Probe 1:36 ③ Newscap
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MONDAY

12:00 ③ Luncheon Date ⑤ Let's Talk About It ⑦ Jeopardy ⑨ News ⑪ Bewitched 12:30 ③ Search for Tomorrow ⑤ Bugs Bunny	12:45 ③ The Flintstones ⑤ Mike Douglas ⑦ Treasure Isle ⑨ The Guiding Light 12:58 ③ News 1:00 ③ Luncheon Date ⑤ Photo Finish ⑦ Meet the Millers ⑨ Dream House 1:03 ③ Movie The Golden Horde, Ann Blyth, David Farrar. 1:30 ③ ⑤ As The World Turns ⑦ Mike Douglas ⑨ It's Happening 1:55 ③ Children's Doctor	2:00 ③ Bonnie Prudden ⑤ Days Of Our Lives ⑦ Many Splendored Thing ⑨ Newlywed Game 2:25 ③ News 2:30 ③ Coronation Street ⑤ The Defenders ⑦ People In Conflict ⑨ The Doctors ⑪ House Party ⑬ Dating Game 3:00 ③ Take Thirty ⑤ Magistrate's Ct. ⑦ Another World ⑨ To Tell The Truth ⑪ General Hospital 3:25 ③ News	3:30 ③ ⑤ The Edge of Night ⑦ Popeye's Playhouse ⑨ It's Your Move ⑪ You Don't Say ⑬ Commander Tom 4:00 ③ BBC Classics ⑤ Robin Hood ⑦ Perry's Probe ⑨ Matches & Mates ⑪ Secret Storm 4:30 ③ The King's Outlaw ⑤ Gilligan's Island ⑦ I Love Lucy ⑨ Merv Griffin	④ Truth or Consequences ⑦ Wild Bill Hickok 5:00 ③ Belle and Sebastian ⑤ Man from U.N.C.L.E. ⑦ Movie A Case for P.C. 49, Brian Reece, Joy Shelton. ⑨ Marshal Dillon ⑪ Trail-Dillon ⑬ Movie Passport To China, Richard Basehart, Lisa Gastoni. 5:55 ③ News
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Complete television and radio listings for each day of the week, together with articles and photographs, are available in magazine form in Star TV Week, distributed free with The Star each Saturday.



INTERNATIONAL NOMADS. Richard Burton and wife Elizabeth Taylor have four houses around the world. 'Home' is Switzerland, but it can hardly be

called a home. They only spent six weeks there last year. Burton quit Britain to escape crushing tax burden. His heart is there but purse strings dictate home.

The Burtons -- home is where the next jet speeds them to

By TIM HEALD
Special to The Star

LONDON — Eleven years ago Richard Burton went into voluntary exile in Switzerland. "I decided to do what millions of my fellow-Britons have done in the last four or five centuries," he said, "to go abroad and seek my fortune."

This week his "exile" was rather less voluntary; he was "fired" from the film he has been making in London, *Laughter in the Dark*.

His reason for quitting Britain was, of course, to escape the crushing burden of tax. He said: "After 10 years of unremitting hard labor, I found I had roughly 2,000 pounds (\$5,200) in the bank and a two-room apartment in Hampstead."

"And I thought: What's going to happen if I suddenly cease to be in demand? You can't go very far today on 2,000 pounds."

What he will do now is anyone's guess. When I met him on a film set recently, he was surrounded by the usual trappings of stardom. A circle of henchmen who tend not to argue. His American agent who arrived for lunch in a monogrammed shirt and called him "Rich" throughout. And the white Rolls-Royce.

Burton went through a mocking routine with this. It was a birthday present, he said, but he couldn't remember if it was from him to Elizabeth or vice versa.

Anyway it arrived on his birthday so it was probably a present to him.

One senses that he's a bit dissatisfied with even so rich and successful a life.

Nothing explicit—just a feeling that life wasn't offering enough challenges at the moment.

In one scene he had to appear in a doorway and fire three rounds of blanks. "This," he said, disregarding the adulation of the long-haired film people in jeans, "is what Elizabeth calls money for old rope."

He and Liz have four houses now. Two in Switzerland, one in Mexico, and what he calls a "tumble-down farmhouse" in Eire. Not to mention the celebrated yacht.

Switzerland is "home." His books and his old clothes are there. That's where the children are based. "It's marvellously central," said Burton. "Nowadays you can get from Geneva to New York in seven or eight hours, Geneva to London in nothing flat."

Even so "home" is hardly home. Last year they spent six weeks there. With their commitments they have to lead a nomadic life.

"We did think, about four or five years ago, of coming back here to live. It was a house in Kent which Elizabeth virtually grew up in. We actually started to negotiate for it and then found it was impractical because most of the films we'd contracted to do were in various parts of the world—New York, Africa, Italy."

"We thought: It's ridiculous to go to the expense of buying this vast house and never be in it. So we still haven't made up our minds whether to come back permanently. Maybe when I've retired."

He may be an exile but still thinks of himself as British and retains his passport. "Welsh first, I think. British afterwards! I've given up putting Welsh on all those forms you have to fill in. It always puzzles people. I'm forever drawing maps."

"So to avoid a lot of unnecessary explanation I put down I'm British. Unless I'm a bit drunk. Then I put down Welsh and to hell with them."

He says it's more comfortable to live abroad. And warmer. And he can always whip across the border to Grenoble to watch some rugby football and send spy reports back to Wales.

Oddly, he misses London more than Wales. "I wake up in the middle of the night with my gums aching for a walk through London. And those dusty brown squares. There's a feeling, an ambience you can't create anywhere else."

"A pub for instance. I don't mean you have to be a drunkard. It's just the conviviality."

"I suppose I still have the provincial excitement about London. I remember the first time I came. I was 14 or 15, during the war. And all those wet, gleaming streets, and taxicabs and Paddington Station. I still have a slight breathlessness when I've been away from London for a long time."

"And I'm afraid I still feel a bit of a romantic when I see the white cliffs of Dover and all that."

Burton is suspicious of national pride, but admits he has it. "If I should die think only this of me, that there's some corner of a

foreign field that is for ever 'England,' one wants to say," he said, sounding incredulous. "There shall be in that rich earth a richer dust concealed... It's a bit arrogant, isn't it?"

The heart may still be here but it's the purse strings which dictate. "I wouldn't much like the thought of paying these exorbitant taxes. You pay 60,000 pounds (\$156,000) a year tax and keep about 5,000 (\$13,000) pounds. Then suddenly you find you're out of work."

"Recently a friend told me that a very distinguished actor of his youth came up to him in a pub and said: 'I wonder if you could oblige me with the loan of half a bar? I find I'm at loggerheads with my banker.' I don't want to have to do that."

"I've often considered if somebody with some compassion for the so-called artistic professions can't do something about it. Say, when I'm out of work, when I'm 50 years old, they pay me back a little of the taxes paid in. And I don't mean the dose."

"If you're used to earning 30,000 pounds (\$78,000) a year it's very difficult to drop to 12 pounds (\$31.20) a week, isn't it? Especially if you happen to be rather well known. I can't see Elizabeth travelling by subway, can you?"

In a way both he and his wife have forfeited their nationality. They're international property. He may talk of coming back and settling, but it seems more likely that he'll never settle anywhere.

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