

## Talk Show

### AN INSPECTOR REBUS STORY

Lowland Radio was a young but successful **station broadcasting** to **lowland Scotland\***. It was said that the station **owed** its success to two very different personalities. One was the DJ on the mid-morning **slot**, an **abrasive** and aggressive **Shetland Islander\***, called Hamish MacDiarmid. MacDiarmid **hosted** a phone-in, **supposedly** concerning the day's headlines, but in fact these were of relatively minor importance. People did not listen to the phone-in for opinion and comment: they listened for the attacks MacDiarmid made on just about every caller. There were occasional **fierce interchanges**, interchanges the DJ nearly always won **by dint of severing** the connection with anyone more intelligent, better informed, or more rational than himself.

Radiosender,  
der ... ausstrahl-  
te • verdankte •  
Sendeplatz •  
ruppig •  
moderierte •  
angeblich

heftig • Wort-  
wechsel • da-  
durch, dass er ...  
abbrach

Das Gebiet zwischen den Städten Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling, Perth und Dundee bezeichnet man als **Lowlands**. Es gilt als das wirtschaftliche und kulturelle Zentrum Schottlands. Die Lowlands liegen zwischen den Southern Uplands, dem südlichen Bergland, das bis zur englisch-schottischen Grenze reicht, und den Highlands, dem gebirgigen Hochland im Norden. Noch weiter im Nordosten, in einiger Entfernung zum Festland, befinden sich die Inselgruppen der Orkney- und **Shetland-Inseln**.

info



of people, Rebus **mused**, who got sand kicked in their faces. MacDiarmid's callers, on the other hand, were probably the ones doing the kicking ...

Perhaps it said something about the lowlands of Scotland that Penny Cook's show **was said to be** the more popular of the two. Again, people at the station talked about it with the **ferveur** usually reserved for TV programmes.

'Did you hear **yon guy** with the **bend in his tackle ...**?  
'That woman who said her husband didn't satisfy her ...'  
'I felt sorry for that **hooker** though, wantin' out o' the game ...'

And so on. Rebus had listened to the show himself a few times, **slumped** on his chair after **closing-time**. But never for more than a few minutes; like a bedtime story, a few minutes of Penny Cook sent John Rebus straight to the **land of Nod**. He'd wondered what she looked like. **Husky**, comfortable, come-to-bed: the picture of her he'd built up was all images, but none of them exactly physical. Sometimes she sounded blonde and tiny, sometimes **statuesque** with flowing **raven** hair. His picture of Hamish MacDiarmid was much more vivid: **bright** red beard, **caber-tossing\*** biceps and a **kilt\***.

sinnierte

galt als

Eifer

jenen Kerl •  
Sprung in der  
Schüssel • Nutte

zusammenge-  
sackt • Sperr-  
stunde •  
Reich der  
Träume • rau

wie von klassi-  
scher Schönheit  
• rabenschwarz  
• leuchtend

Bei den traditionellen Highland Games ist der **caber toss** eine der schwerathletischen Disziplinen. Das Werfen eines circa 5 Meter langen und bis zu 70 Kilogramm schweren Baumstamms erfordert enorme Kraft und Geschicklichkeit. Dabei ist nicht die Weite ausschlaggebend für den Sieg, sondern die Position des geworfenen Stamms. Das schmale Ende des Stamms, das der Wettkampfteilnehmer in den Händen hält, muss nach dem Wurf möglichst senkrecht nach oben zeigen.

Es ist üblich, dass die Teilnehmer der Highland Games im **kilt**, dem knielangen, karierten Schottenrock, auftreten.


 info