# An NPR editor accuses the network of institutional bias

*This is* Hot Pod*,* The Verge*’s newsletter about podcasting and the audio industry.*

Hi, everyone — I’m starting off today with some big news to share: next week will be my last at *Hot Pod* and *The Verge*. Before coming here, all I wanted was to cover the podcasting industry, and I still can’t believe I managed to get a job doing just that. Even when the news was bad (which, let’s be real, was often), I was buoyed by the passion and innovation of this community. It’s been a real privilege getting to know so many of you.

I’ll have a few more stories coming out before I leave as well as some final thoughts on the state of the industry. My colleague Jake Kastrenakes has a note below with more information about the newsletter moving forward.

As for me, I know this is the part where I am supposed to say, “I’ll have more to share about my new job soon,” but ~twist~, there is no new job! I am taking some time at home with my 11-month-old before moving on to the next thing. He is a good little man, if also a menace.

Hey, everyone — Jake here. I wanted to give you all an update on *Hot Pod* ahead of Ariel’s last day. It’s been a delight reading Ariel’s editions of this newsletter over the past two years, and I’m excited to see what she does next. We’re going to miss having her around.

We won’t have a new writer in place by next week, so we’re planning to put *Hot Pod* on hiatus while we figure out next

steps. *Hot Pod* has been an important fixture in the podcasting world, and we value the community we've helped bring together in this space. You'll be the first to hear our plans for the future of the newsletter.

Now, back over to Ariel for the day's news.

Today, debate about NPR's political leanings after an explosive essay by a former editor was published in *The Free Press*. Plus, Spotify links up with Substack and SiriusXM adds to its true crime roster.

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- **Substack** podcast listeners, rejoice! You can now listen to your subscribed shows on **Spotify**. As it did with Patreon last year, Spotify is allowing users to link their Substack accounts so they can listen to their free and paywalled podcasts on the platform.
- The former staffers of **WAMU / *DCist*** are forming a worker-owned outlet and seeking name suggestions. There does not appear to be an audio element to the new publication, as of yet. WAMU shut down *DCist* last month.
- The **Interactive Advertising Bureau** announced its annual Podcast Upfront, which will take place on May 9th. The event will feature presentations by Wondery, iHeartMedia, WNYC, and more. You can check it out here.
- **Castbox** released a ranking of conservative hosts on its app. No surprise, Ben Shapiro was number one with more than 585,000 subscribers, followed by Jordan Peterson (415,000) and Dan Bongino (119,000).

- ***Death, Sex & Money***, which was canceled by WNYC and picked up by Slate, will debut its new season on Tuesday, April 16th.
- **Conan O’Brien** did an interview with *The Hollywood Reporter*. He is (understandably) grateful that he made his deal with SiriusXM before the podcast market took a turn.

https://www.theverge.com/2024/4/11/24127729/npr-berliner-podcasts-spotify-daily-wire