

'Hey mom'

Radio station lets amateurs host own show

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

Where are Johnny Fever and Venus Fly Trap when you need them? Or Wolfman Jack — what's radio without Wolfman Jack? But everything else seems to be in place at the WDTX-FM 92.5 studios as another edition of "Hey Mom, I'm on DTX" is about to go on the air.

The "Hey Mom" show is the brain child of WDTX general manager Jim Harper, in which local amateurs get to host their own radio show between 9 and 10 p.m. on Thursdays. The guest disc jockeys even get to pick their own records to play.

So if Frankie Yankovic is what keeps you dancing, then Frankie Yankovic it is.

There are only two requirements. First, the person has to give the call letters before and after a record is played.

"(And) keep it clean," added Karen Dalessandro, a WDTX deejay who coordinates the show and guides the guest host through the hour.

IN THE STUDIO, the walls are adorned with snapshots and memorabilia of such notable rock performers as the Pogues, the Curo and De-Peche Mode. And records? There's enough to keep disc collectors in eternal happiness.

Of course there's the control board with enough instruments that would get a DC-10 off the ground. And right in the middle of it all is the microphone, which seems bigger than a bread box.

Yes, that's the object in which one's voice travels and is transmitted to all of the tricity area and the free world.

At that point, a person wonders why he didn't just spend his Thursday night at the bowling alley instead.

But it seems there are people who will bust more than pins to get on the show. Since the "Hey Mom" show appeared last November, Dalessandro said she's been flooded with letters.

At first Dalessandro received an



Karen Dalessandro of WDTX (right) shows Larry O'Connor how to operate the control board before the "Hey Mom, I'm on DTX" hour Thursday. O'Connor was able to play 12 of his favorite

average of eight letters a day from people asking to be on the show. Some really want to get on the air.

"THEY SEND audition tapes, send resumes, use poetry and bribery," Dalessandro said. "I received a letter from a guy who taped five \$1

bills together and wrote his letter on the back on them."

A lot of the requests, as expected, come from college-age people since the station plays a considerable amount of new wave material. Others, though, come from dentists, attorneys and police officers.

songs, along with doing the weather and giving away an album on the show.

Even ministers write, trying to get on. Dalessandro likes the diversity. She tries to vary the show by having people of different ages and backgrounds hosting each week. Local celebrities like Channel 4 newscaster Margie Reedy, Channel 7 newscaster Rich Fisher and Detroit

police Inspector Gil Hill have all been on.

"It's neat because everything is different each show," she said. "There's the teen-agers who giggle, and then there's the adults who really do a good job."

On this night, there's no giggling.

DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Instead sheer panic sets in when Dalessandro introduces the host. Paul Simon might sing about the sound of silence, but guest disc jockeys have nightmares about it. The sound of one's own voice, though, is just as frightening.

AFTER THE FIRST song is introduced, Dalessandro talks to you to make sure you haven't passed out.

"Everybody starts off kind of nervous," she said. "Then about after 20 minutes, they want to take over the show."

That was something the host wasn't even considering. He was just trying to get the color back into his face.

A song from an Irish folk band, Clannad, starts and the phones light up. The production intern, who's handling the switchboard, said there's a deluge of calls from people who want to know who the group is and what the song is about.

An Englishman who's visiting Detroit calls and tells the host where the Clannad song is from. The "Theme to Harry's Game," as it turns out, is from a made-for-television movie in Britain.

Another person, Herschel Poger of Westland, calls and wants a song dedicated to him. No problem, except the next song is "Give Blood" by Pete Townshend.

Dalessandro has the host do the weather and give away a Journey album. All of a sudden the person is beginning to like this thing called radio.

He starts to remember to say "this is 92.5 DTX" before the records, and even ad libs between a couple of commercials.

But the clock says 9:50 p.m. meaning time to get in a few last dedications before the next segue (radio talk).

The show runs a little over the 10 p.m. mark, but who cares? The host envisions having his own radio talk show. Why just radio? Why not television?

After 60 minutes on the air, he knows why not.

club circuit

UNIVERSITY ARTS GUILD, a social and cultural group for singles over the age of 35, invite newcomers to its meetings that are scheduled twice a month in the members' homes.

Interested persons can obtain details by writing to University Arts Guild, P. O. Box 800, Birmingham, 48012.

BIRMINGHAM-BLOOMFIELD-TROY SINGLES meet for an "Astrology Dance" from 7:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Friday in Northfield Hill, Crooks Road at 1-75 in Troy. Admission is \$3 at the door.

The group also has scheduled a "Night Moves" dance party from 7:30 p.m. to midnight Wednesday, Aug. 13, in Somerset Inn, Big Beaver Road and Coollidge, Troy.

Admission is \$3 at the door.

FARMINGTON PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK meets at 7:15 a.m. Friday for breakfast and a program in Farmington Community Center, on Farmington Road north of 10 Mile.

Member Jan Dolan leads the program called "Ideas for Quick and Easy Ways to an Artistic Flower Arrangement for the Career Woman."

an." Dolan is a Farmington Hills City councilwoman, a member of Greater Detroit Flower Arrangers Guild, Farmington Garden Club and is a national accredited master flower show judge.

Reservations for non-members is \$5.50, taken by calling Farmington Community Center, 477-8404.

WOMEN AGLOW FELLOWSHIP, Farmington Chapter, meet at 6:15 p.m. Monday, Aug. 11, in Sweden House, in Farmington Plaza, Grand River west of Orchard Lake Road.

The meeting is open to all church women in all surrounding areas without charge. Speaker for the evening is Beverly Glenn, a musician, composer and recording artist, who ministers in both song and word. She has appeared on every major Christian television network and has had successful tours in Europe, one which was broadcast live.

Outgoing president Sally Rousstaux will be turning over the gavel to Judy Haney for the 1986-87 term in September.

Other incoming officers will be Tony Olson, Wyn Hartom, Kathy Warren, and Mary Anspach.

In October, some of the members will be traveling to Milwaukee, Wis. for the Allgiew U.S. National Conference.

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN IN SALES meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12 in Somerset Inn, Troy.

Speaker for the evening is Anne H. Spencer, founder of Infinity Institute and president of World Congress of Professional Hypnotists. Her topic is "Power of the Mind — You Can Do Anything."

This meeting is open to non-members who can make reservations by calling Dolphine Palkowski, 445-8235, or LuAnn Houseman, 473-8211. Fee for non-members is \$15.

FARMINGTON KIWANIS CLUB meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12, for dinner and a program in Farmington Elks Lodge on Orchard Lake Road, north of Grand River.

Connie Soma, executive director of Michigan Coalition for Safety Belt Use, is the after-dinner speaker. She will talk about the coalition's renewed effort to get more drivers to use safety belts. Soma's Lansing office estimates that 43 percent of today's drivers are regular users of

safety belts.

Guests are invited to make reservations with Lloyd Smith, 474-2431.

All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to: Club Circuit, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. The information must arrive before noon on the Monday before Thursday publication.

Office of Aging receives grant

The State Office of the Service to the Aging (OSA) has received a \$50,140 project grant from the Administration on Aging (AoA) to establish standards, guide the development and improve the quality of guardianship service programs throughout Michigan.

The project is funded from June 1, 1986, through May 31, 1987. Project activities will be cooperatively directed by OSA, the Court Administration Office and Department of Mental Health and Social Service.

"Properly performed guardianship programs assist older persons in planning for services to meet their needs," said OSA Director Olivia P. Maynard. "The proposed development and statewide dissemination of guardian standards would provide

protection against exploitation and neglect of older persons."

A Guardianship Task Force convened by the Court Administrators Office in 1985 found a serious problem with obtaining guardianship service for low income older people. The task force also found that individuals acting as guardians require training in order to properly perform their duties.

"The Guardianship Project," said Maynard, "would serve to alleviate these problems by establishing these needed standards as well as by acting as a guide to develop and improve the quality of guardianship service programs throughout Michigan."

Michigan is currently without standards to ensure the quality of existing guardianship services. JG30

Ladies Day is Aug. 13 at Orchard Lake Schools

Ladies Day, an event that attracts about 700 women to Orchard Lake Schools campus and raises about \$50,000 every year, is set for 3-9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13. Since 1970, the committee has given more than \$1.5 million to benefit the schools at Commerce and Orchard Lake roads.

Farmington area residents on the committee this year are Barbara Glinski, Stella Wades and Stephanie

Stolnicki.

The event begins with Mass and is followed by cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, with strolling musicians who provide easy-listening entertainment. The five-course meal is catered by Gourmet House.

Tax deductible tickets are \$75, available by calling Orchard Lake Schools at 682-1885 during regular business hours.

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