



• We Listen To Radio •

August 9, 1996 \$ 4.95 Volume 3 • No. 33

## ROCK HIGHLIGHTS

### MAINSTREAM

#1

#### STONE TEMPLE PILOTS

Trippin' On A Hole In A Paper Heart (ATLANTIC)

★★★ AIRPOWER ★★★

METALLICA • Ain't My Bitch (ELEKTRA/EEG)

### NEW RELEASES

SHERYL CROW • If It Makes You Happy (A&M)

STEVE EARLE • Hard Core Troubadour (WARNER BROS.)

OCEAN COLOUR SCENE • You've Got It Bad (MCA)

SCHLEPROCK • Suburbia (WARNER BROS.)

SOUTHERN CULTURE ON THE SKIDS • Firefly (DGC/GEFFEN)

YOU AM I • Purple Sneakers (WARNER BROS.)

### MODERN

#1

#### PRIMITIVE RADIO GCDS

Standing Outside A Broken Phone Booth... (ERGO/COLUMBIA)

★★★ AIRPOWER ★★★

SUPERDRAG • Sucked Out (ELEKTRA/EEG)

DAVE MATTHEWS BAND • So Much To Say (RCA)

### NEW RELEASES

THE CARDIGANS • Lovefool (MERCURY)

TRACY CHAPMAN • New Beginning (ELEKTRA/EEG)

SHERYL CROW • If It Makes You Happy (A&M)

THE CURE • Strange Attraction (FICTION/ELEKTRA/EEG)

JACKOPIERCE • Trials (A&M)

OCEAN COLOUR SCENE • You've Got It Bad (MCA)

SEBADOH • Ocean (SUB POP)

WILD COLONIALS • Charm (DGC/GEFFEN)

### TRIPLE A

#1

#### PRIMITIVE RADIO GODS

Standing Outside A Broken Phone Booth... (ERGO/COLUMBIA)

★★★ AIRPOWER ★★★

JOHN MELLENCAMP • Key West Intermezzo (I Saw You First) (MERCURY)

## Is Competition Turning Market No. 220 Into 'Burlington Rock City'?

by John Loscalzo

With the flip of WGFB Burlington, Vt., to modern WBTZ (the Buzz), market No. 220 has become one of the most competitive rock arenas in the country. That's made even more fascinating by the fact that a little more than a decade ago, there were no locally originated FM rockers in the market. For years, listeners tuned to heritage rocker CHOM Montreal—an hour away—for their rock fix until WIZN (the Wizard) signed on in the early '80s.

Since then, WIZN has been the dominant rock station, scoring consistently in the mid- to high teens 12-plus. Now WIZN, which just launched WBTZ as its duopoly partner, is in the center of a five-way rock battle that includes recently launched modern WXPS (the Pulse) and its classic rock sister, WCPV (the Champ), as well as triple-A WNCS (the Point) Montpelier, Vt. In the recently released spring Arbitron ratings, WIZN was up 16.8-17.2, while the Champ was up 3.1-6.7. WNCS went 2.6-3.3 12-plus.

What kind of small market spawns a five-way rock war and a two-way modern battle at a time when stations in larger markets are getting out of

head-to-head modern competition? WIZN PD Steve Cormier likens Burlington to "a metropolitan area you'd find outside of Boston in some ways. Half the people that live here are from out-of-state. The line I use is, 'The best thing about Burlington is that it's so close to Vermont.' So while farmland is a short drive away, 'Burlington is like its own metropolitan area. It's got seven or eight different colleges, [including] the University of Vermont."

The area was also the launching pad for independent U.S. congressman Bernie Sanders, who is known for his socialist politics. That he was elected personifies the "fuck the rules" attitude of the people of Vermont, Cormier says. "We're not going to put up with what everyone else wants us to do. We're going to do what we want."

### TOO MANY PLAYERS?

Even against this backdrop, however, Cormier calls Burlington "the most oversaturated market in New England. There are more signals in this market than Montreal. The bottom line is people aren't going to survive."

One nonsurvivor was triple-A WEXP,

*Continued on page 6*

# Semisonic

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# RADIO ACTIVE

## More On Mega-Sales; Burns Adds Stripes

In this week's mega-sales shocker, American Radio Systems announced its \$655 million acquisition of EZ Communications, putting the group at 96 stations in 20 markets. EZ president/CEO Alan Box will remain with the new company as executive VP. EZ will have to sell three of its Sacramento, Calif., outlets—KQPT, KSSJ, and KMJI. In other mega-sales news, Jacor Communications has reached an agreement with the Justice Department's antitrust division allowing it to proceed with its acquisition of Citicasters as long as Jacor spins off top 40 WKRC (Q102) Cincinnati.

Top 40/modern WDCG (G105) Raleigh, N.C., PD Brian Burns adds OM stripes for G105 and album WRDU. Andy Holt, PD of oldies sister WTRG, is named OM for that station and classic rock WZZU. G105 promotion director Chris Edge gets promo duties for all four SFX stations.

Debbie Morrell joins the NewCity Orlando compound from the GSM seat at classic rock/70s combo WCKG/WYSY Chicago as GM of sister outlets WHOO/WHTQ/WMMO, replacing Mark Warlaumont.

Modern WXDX Pittsburgh names p.m. driver Ali Castellini PD, replacing Cris Winter, who returns to album sister WDVE as part of Paulsen and Krenn's morning show, replacing Dani Coates. Recently named WRZX (X103) Indianapolis morning host Wenck reunites with another WNRQ alumnus, as former promotion director Vanessa Wilde will be Wenck's morning co-host. WRZX morning show assistant Elizabeth Chanley goes to morning news at country WFMS.

WGIR Manchester, N.H., names WRCN Long Island, N.Y., PD Tim Sheehan to that post, replacing Todd Thomas, now at WVIC Lansing, Mich. WRCN promo director Mike Grayeb exits for New York-based Diamond Promotions. Classic rock KOCP Oxnard, Calif., PD Dan Garite is now programming sister top 40 KCAQ.

As Clear Channel closes on album WARQ Columbia, S.C., PD/mornings Austin Keyes exits. Call him at 310-390-8655. APD/MID/p.m. driver Susan Groves is interim PD.

Classic rock KTGL Lincoln, Neb., PD Jim Steel adds OM duties at KTGL and album sister KIBZ.

Classic rock WAXQ (Q104.3) New York adds former New Jersey Devils play-by-play announcer Chris Moore as morning sidekick. Their P/T lineup: Pat Butler, Greg O'Brian, and Julie

Slater from Q104.3's hard rockin' days; Mark Coppola from crosstown WXRK's classic rock staff; and Janet Bardini from Shadow Traffic. Former WAXQ a.m. driver Trent Tyler is now album KMJX Little Rock, Ark.'s p.m. driver, replacing Sam Reynolds.

Paxson Broadcasting has purchased the Ron and Ron Network, moving the show to south Florida in January '97, with Paxson managing their syndication, including some Paxson signals.

Modern WPLY (Y100) Philadelphia names modern WMMS Cleveland APD/MID Doug Kubinski MD, and KRBE Houston creative services director Andy West joins as production director.

Album WONE Akron, Ohio, MD/evening jock Erin Carmen exits... Album WIXV Savannah, Ga., LMA's crosstown R&B outlet WSGF and rescues two radio vets from the sidelines: Joe Kleon for overnights and Mark Jones for P/T... Album WPDH Poughkeepsie, N.Y., P/T Drew Van Allen inherits the overnight spot... Classic rock WEFX Norwalk, Conn., ups P/T Bob Bayne to a.m. driver, replacing Dale Reeves, who leaves to concentrate on voice-over work... Modern KEBC (95X) Oklahoma City taps former KRZZ Wichita, Kan., staffer Jill Gleeson for its air staff... Modern WXSR Tallahassee, Fla., P/T Jason The Intern takes late nights and morning co-host Napoleon exits.

Classic rock KTGL Lincoln, Neb., PD Jim Steel adds OM duties at KTGL and album sister KIBZ.

Triple-A WMVY Martha's Vineyard, Mass., a.m. driver Matt Basile joins triple-A WMAX Rochester, N.Y. The station also picks up classic rock WZLX Boston weekender/promotion coordinator Michael Gateley for nights... AC WLTF Cleveland promotion coordinator/part-timer Laura Lee joins triple-A WXKR Toledo, Ohio, for middays... Album WRXK Fort Myers, Fla., ups midday jock Susan Stone to MD and night jock Matt Mangus to APD/p.m. drive; overnighter Max moves up one daypart, leaving overnights open... WROX Norfolk night jock Niki Neal exits.

Modern XETRA (91X) San Diego's Malcolm Ryker drops middays to focus on the creative director post, servicing Jacor stations across the country. Robin Roth moves to middays from local host of the Howard Stern feed and is replaced by P/T Craig Just Craig... Triple-A WXRV Boston overnighter Manny Glin moves to nights.

## We Monitor The Debut Of MTV's M2

by Sean Ross

Had a chance to see MTV's M2 channel yet? Airplay Monitor got a look at the new channel Aug. 2—a day after M2 signed on with a one-hour simulcast on MTV. Here's what we saw:



M2 is still, according to its creators, a work in progress. But in its first days, the 24-hour, all-video channel is, as promised, broader musically than MTV and still identifiable as an MTV product. M2's logo is a variant of MTV's, with a "2" at the lower right of the channel's trademark "M" and the words "music television" reversed below the M—as if seen backward in a mirror. Many of the new channel's promos show the MTV logo flipping around to become the M2 logo.

On-air promos and drop-ins for M2 are primarily live-action, as opposed to the animated logos that helped make MTV famous. Promos include a group of teens talking about how

they've had to go to CDs to hear the music they wanted, as well as P-Funk guru George Clinton talking about what alternative music means to him. The chief positioner in the hour we monitored was "24 more hours of music television."

Like MTV at the time of its sign-on 15 years ago, M2 went back for a lot of older videos on "shoulda-been" hits, in addition to currents that hadn't made the main channel yet. There were also theme sets; for example, bands from Minneapolis followed by a set of bands from Boston.

M2 signed on Aug. 1 with Beck's "Where It's At." Here's an hour from Aug. 2: Soul Asylum, "Cartoon"; Jayhawks, "Blue"; Goo Goo Dolls, "Long Way Down"; Of' Dirty Bastard, "Shimmy Shimmy Ya"; Metallica, "One"; Belly, "Feed The Tree"; Aerosmith, "Eat The Rich"; Electronic, "Get The Message"; Tracy Bonham, "Mother, Mother"; Cars, "My Best Friend's Girl"; Screaming Trees, "All I Know"; Don Henley, "The Heart Of The Matter"; Lyle Lovett, "Penguins"; and Customers, "Bastard Before Me."

M2, at present, is running commercial-free. Its three VJs are Matt Pinfield of "120 Minutes," KPNT St. Louis' Kris Kosach, and Rolling Stone's Jancee Dunn.

## Group-Heads Panel Tops Radio Seminar

More special guests have been announced for the Billboard/Airplay Monitor Radio Seminar, scheduled for Sept. 5-7 at the New York Sheraton.

Jimmy de Castro of Evergreen Media, John Gehron of American Radio Systems, Bill Figenshu of Viacom, and Steve Goldstein of Saga are among the panelists confirmed for the Sept. 6 session, "Group Heads: One Of These Men Owns Your Radio Station," the sequel to last year's "One Of These Men Will Own Your Radio Station" panel. Thanks to the Telecom Act and



the resulting land rush for radio properties, we felt it was best you met these gentlemen now—before you meet them at your next staff meeting.

KYSR (Star 98.7) Los Angeles PD Dave Beasing and consultant Randy Lane have been added to the modern adult vs. triple-

A panel, scheduled for Sept. 7. Other rock panels include "Modern Rock In Changing Times," to be held Sept. 6, and "Album Rock Looking For Its Roots," to be held Sept. 7.

"Four Stations, One PD, And A Telecom Bill: So Who's Listening To The Music?" scheduled for Sept. 6, is an all-format session that will focus on what happens in the Telecom Act era of consolidation in which one PD makes music and programming decisions for several stations. Programmers who oversee more than one station in multiple formats and the record promoters who work with them will discuss the challenges.

The "All Format Market Leaders Panel" will be held Sept. 7. The leading stations in major markets will gather to talk about what they have in common.

Other seminar highlights will include breakfast at the Hard Rock Cafe, live artist showcases, Sean Ross' incredibly difficult music-trivia contest, and more, capped by the Radio Awards dinner Sept. 7.

More panelists, moderators, speakers, and special events will be announced here throughout the month. For registration info, call Maureen Ryan at 212-536-5002.

KEVIN CARTER

## Just A Song Before I Go, Part III



Garbage stopped by modern WMMS Cleveland to prove it really exists. Pictured, from left, are event coordinator Withe Thompson, the band's Duke Erikson, staffer Matt Sorren, the band's Shirley Manson, and former MD Doug Kubinski (now MD of WPLY Philadelphia).

## Teen, Not Margarine



Imperial Teen paid a visit to MJI Broadcasting recently. Pictured, from left, are the band's Jone Stebbins and Will Schwartz, MJI's Meridith Gottlieb, and the band's Lynn Perko and Roddy Bottum.



## CHEET SHEET

BY MARK MARONE

### A Tonic For The Drag Of '80s Rock

"I love classic rock," exclaims **Tonic** vocalist/guitarist **Emerson Hart**, whose debut album on Polydor/A&M, "Lemon Parade," was, by his own admission, influenced by **Bad Company**, the **Eagles**, and **Led Zeppelin**. "But I also love classical music. I love old Irish music. I love melody, and I love music." Despite these diverse tastes, **Tonic** wields tunes that are more at home with classic mainstream rock of the past couple of decades, at times even venturing into '80s rock—a decade of which the band members claim not to be very fond. "The drag about the age we are is that my primary musical years were during the '80s, which was the most musically devoid decade," says guitarist **Jeff Russo**. "When I was in New York, all the music I would listen to was music from when I was 9 or 8, [recorded] in the '70s, because all the '80s was pretty awful. Even now, I look back on the '80s and high school and I get kind of embarrassed at some of the music I was listening to."

Russo remembers when he felt the fire of inspiration. "I was sitting in a friend's house on [eastern Long Island, N.Y.'s] Shelter Island listening to **Pink Floyd's** 'The Wall,' and this song came on called 'Mother,'" he says. The former drummer, who had been playing instruments since the fourth grade, had until then never given serious thought to songwriting or a career as a musician. "We were all stoned, I was 17, the guitar solo came on, and at that moment, I had this revelation. I had to be a guitar player in a band."

Hart and Russo made separate pilgrimages from the East Coast to Los Angeles about five years ago. Soon after arriving in L.A., the two met in the pool hall where Hart worked. When they met, Hart and Russo discovered not only that they had mutual friends in New York, but they had both dated the same woman. **Tonic** began at Cantor's Kibbitz Room, the open-mike night at the bar of the famous kosher-style deli. "When I moved to L.A., it was a totally different scene," Hart says. "For me, L.A. was where I was really exposed to all different kinds of music."

One of the most difficult tasks for songwriters often lies in finding musicians who aren't already involved with projects of their own. In light of that, meeting **Dan Rothchild** should have amounted to nothing more than a casual encounter for Hart and Russo. The fledgling duo found Rothchild performing his own material at a local café after having just finished producing **Better Than Ezra's** debut set in his living room. When Hart and Russo mentioned that they were looking for a bass player, Rothchild recommended himself. The son of noted **Doors** producer **Paul Rothchild**, he put his production work on hiatus. His studio expertise aside, **Tonic** unanimously chose to work with **Jack Joseph Puig**, whose work with **Jellyfish**, the **Grays**, and the **Black Crowes** the band members admired; they convened at Oceanway Studios in early '95. Puig kept the band's perspective fresh by not allowing the musicians to take home tapes of the day's work. "He took what we wanted and magnified it 1,000 times. He really let us go where we wanted to go," says Russo.

The first single, the midtempo, melodic "Open Up Your Eyes," was a self-affirmation Hart needed to write during the dark days of his divorce. "I was tending to drink too much and letting things weigh me down, not focusing on things like my health and the people around me and taking care of those people and being good to other people."

## Releases And Notes

Originally planned as a companion disc to **Nirvana's** "Unplugged" set, "From The Muddy Banks Of Wishkah," which is the name of the river that runs through **Kurt Cobain's** hometown, Aberdeen, Wash., will be released Oct. 8. The 16-song set consists of recordings from "Seattle to Springfield, [Ill.], from London to Amsterdam, from venues ranging from small American clubs to the Reading Festival." Confirmed on the set list are "Polly" and "Breed" from London, 1989; "Drain You," "Smells Like Teen Spirit," "Been A Son," "Lithium," and "School," from the world tour in the winter of 1991; and "Scentless Apprentice," "Sliver" and "Heart-Shaped Box" from the 1993-94 *In Utero* tour. The album was mixed with **Andy Wallace**.

Former Talking Heads members **Chris Franz**, **Tina Weymouth**, and **Jerry Harrison** have put together a band called **the Heads**. "No Talking, Just Head," out Oct. 28 on MCA, is a collection of new music composed by Franz and Weymouth and will feature 12 guest vocalists including **Ed Kowalczyk**, **Johnette Napolitano**, **Shaun Ryder**, and **Deborah Harry**.

**Aerosmith** and its manager of 12 years, **Tim Collins**, have parted ways. The band responded to speculation over the split by saying, "Any inferences that members of the band have backslied into drug abuse is ludicrous."

PUBLISHER: MICHAEL ELIS  
EDITOR: SEAN ROSS  
MANAGING EDITOR: JOHN LOSCALZO  
MAINSTREAM ROCK/TRIPLE A CHART MANAGER: ANTHONY COLOMBO  
MODERN ROCK CHART MANAGER: MARK MARONE  
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**KEMA**  
**KPOI**

**WNFZ**  
**WHTG**  
**WEER**  
**WEJE**  
**WDST**

**WDOX**  
**WJSE**  
**KHLR**  
**WERX**  
**WNTX**

**KQXR**  
**KBBT**  
**KTEG**  
**KJEE**  
**WRXS**

**Debuting @  
#9-Crow's Nest/Chicago  
#21-Tower/Chicago**



**LIVE**

**AUG 17**  
**SEPT 1**  
**SEPT 2**  
**SEPT 5**

**Chicago**  
**Houston**  
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**New York**

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