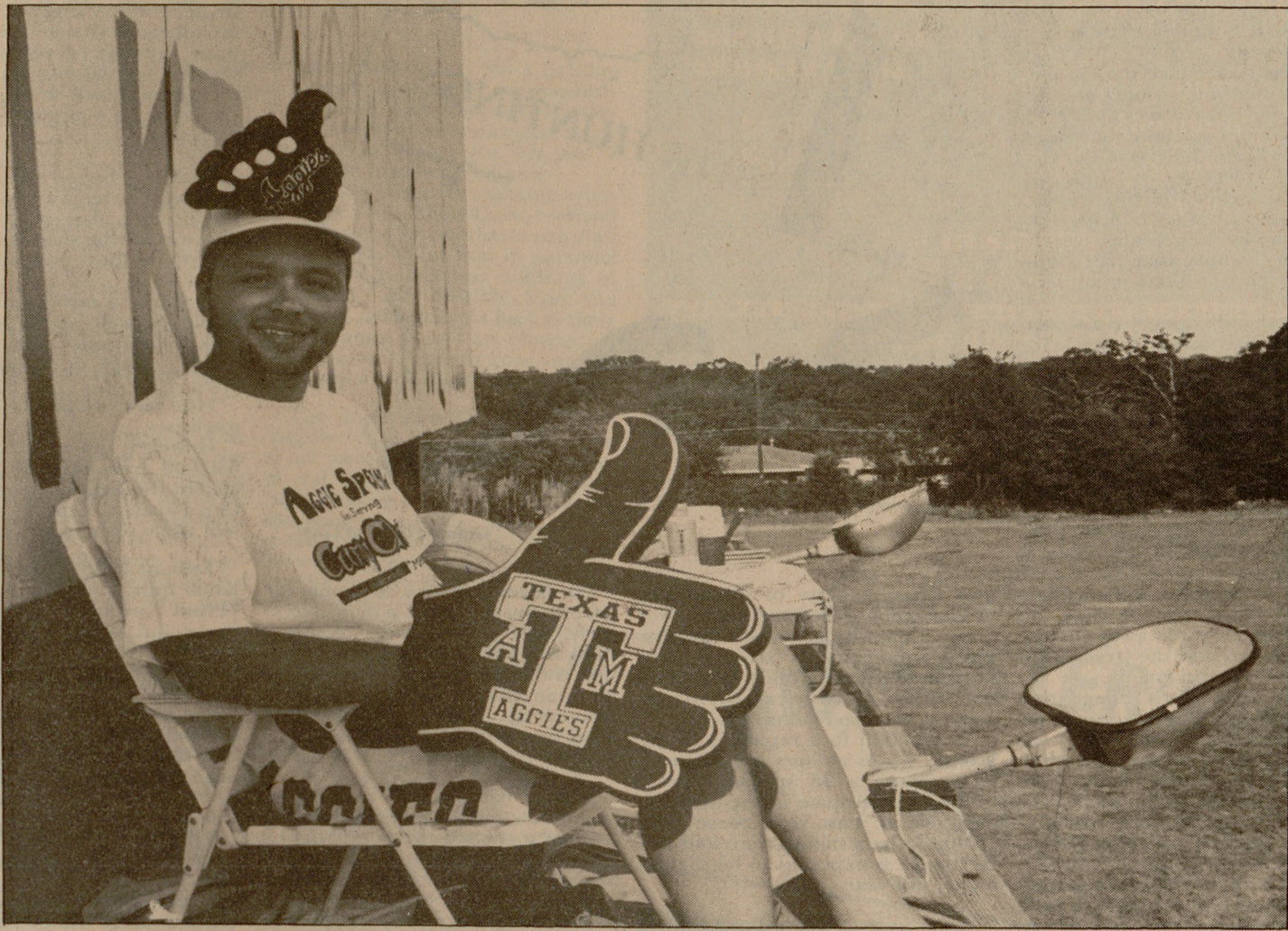


Local disc jockey pledges: I'm not leaving till Aggs win



Randy Davis, KTSR DJ, sits on the billboard until Aggies win.

Photo by Jay Janner

By Craig Sutherland
Reporter

ground using a garden hose.

After a few phone calls and a couple of pleas over the radio, Davis' roost now has many of the comforts of home.

GTE hooked up a phone; others have donated everything from a tent to a television set. Friends, fans, and several restaurants have brought Davis meals.

"This thing has just taken off," Davis says. "Everybody has been so helpful. I wish I could get my phone at home hooked up as fast as they did this one."

If the Aggies win on Saturday, Davis will have spent approximately 80 hours on top of the billboard.

If they lose, he says, he will stay there as long as it takes for A&M to post its first win.

A&M fans are known for their dedication to their school. However, Davis attended the University of Texas and says he only recently has become a fan of A&M.

"At first, it was real hard to understand all of the traditions," he says. "But I like schools rich in traditions. That's why I went to UT."

After Davis graduated from South Lake High School in 1982, he spent four years at UT, but left after landing his first job in radio in 1984.

"I didn't see the use in staying in college when I all ready had the job I wanted," he says.

Davis stayed at KEY1 103, an adult contemporary station in Austin, for two years. Then, he said, he left for Jackson, Miss. because he wanted to "find himself." While there, he worked for WYYN 96.3 before moving back to Texas in August 1987 and joining KTSR, another adult contemporary station.

Although Davis has always worked for radio

stations that play adult contemporary, he says it is not his favorite music.

"I prefer top 40," he says. "But I like a lot of the stuff we play at Star 92."

Because of the adult contemporary format, Davis' audience is mostly women, 30 to 40 years old. He says that at first, it was difficult to relate to women that age because he was only 20. But now at age 24, with a few years of work behind him, Davis says he is more comfortable with his audience.

He says that for him, the most important part of being a good disc jockey is just being himself. Davis is best known for his improvisations when he takes calls on the air.

"Hardly anybody does live calls anymore," he says. "It keeps me on the edge."

Davis attributes his on-the-air personality to his family.

"I was raised as an only child," he says. "When you're an only child, you've either got to be creative or psychotic. I guess I'm a little bit of both."

"My dad's a salesman. He could sell snow to Eskimos. He's where I get my b.s. 'My mom is very outgoing. So is my dad. That is why they're divorced now.'"

If Davis' humor reminds his listeners of David Letterman, it is not surprising, Davis says "Late Night With David Letterman" is his favorite television show.

"I'm a 'TV-aholic,'" he says. "I watch six hours a day, minimum. I watch Letterman first and foremost. I like Batman, and I watch Green Acres twice a day."

Davis will have plenty of time for television as he keeps his vigil in the nest he has built on the billboard.

It is 10 o'clock at night.

Randy Davis, morning disc jockey for Bryan College Station's KTSR, is stretched out across a lawn chair. He is dressed in a bathrobe and slippers. Although the sun set hours ago, he is still wearing dark sunglasses. It is strange attire for an interview.

It is all made stranger by the fact that the interview is taking place 35 feet above the ground on a billboard platform.

Wednesday morning, Davis set out to spark enthusiasm in Texas A&M football fans by climbing atop a billboard on Texas Avenue, next to the Townshire Shopping Center in Bryan.

Davis has sworn not to leave his post until A&M wins its first game. "When I first got up here and looked down, I was scared to death," Davis says. "But after about 30 minutes, I got used to it. I'm not bothered by heights. It's falling that scares me."

After losses to Nebraska, Louisiana State, and Oklahoma State, A&M opens conference play with its first home game of the season against Texas Tech on Saturday afternoon.

It is only the fourth 0-3 start in the school's history. Across the billboard is Davis' statement, "I'm not leaving 'til they win. Gig'em Aggies."

"It was going to say 'I'm not coming down 'til they win,'" Davis says. "But then someone pointed out I've got to come down to use the bathroom."

U Rent M has since loaned him a portable toilet.

He says he also plans to take his showers on the

'Father Knows Best' star reforms after drug addiction, time in prison

(AP) — Through the course of several years, Laurin Chapin went from America's perfect little sister on the 1950s TV comedy "Father Knows Best" to a drug addict and prison inmate.

Chapin — Kathy Anderson or "Kitten" to her TV father played by Robert Young — became a has-been at 14, married at 16 and a heroin addict by her early 20s.

She spent three years in prison and bore two children out of wedlock.

The show cast was almost a family, she said, and when the series ended suddenly, she wasn't prepared.

"They never even said goodbye," she said. "We left one Friday night and got a letter that we were not to return to work. It was total abandonment."

Today things are better. She has found solace as a born-again Christian and as a high school science teacher in this small central Texas town.

"In Killeen, of all places," said Chapin, 43. "It's neat. I'm not their

token actress. My friends here love me for who I am now, for what I do now, not who I was.

"I tried a lot of philosophies before I found the peace I'd been looking for," she said. "But when I did, my life changed. There was a boldness that I had not had before — the ability to say: 'This is where I have been. This is what I have come through.'"

Her once brown hair is strawberry blond, her face angular and unfreckled, her childhood chubbiness trimmed down now in tight jeans and T-shirt. But when she breaks into her cheek-splitting grin and pealing laughter the kid Kathy Anderson comes through loud and clear.

After the show ended, she tried to return to school, but it was a discipline for which she was unprepared.

"I never went to school longer than a month, and it was hard to acclimate, to talk their lingo and try to fit in, especially when you're a movie star, and the kids think you're conceited," Chapin told the Dallas

Times Herald. "They don't make friends with you, and I was an insecure child who didn't know how to relate to other children."

At home, Chapin's mother was a creative, classically trained pianist supportive of her daughter's ambitions. At the same time, Chapin said, her mother was a hard-drinking housewife who subjected her children to verbal abuse. She said her relationship with her father was even more turbulent.

To escape, at the age of 16, she married a classmate she had known only 30 days. During their marriage of only three years Chapin suffered seven miscarriages and became addicted to heroin.

"It was real easy for me to get into drugs, to try to deaden the pain of life, to take away the hurt I had been through," she said.

After seven years of heavy heroin abuse, Chapin was sentenced to prison for attempted forgery. "I floated in the real seedy side of life from 14 up to 26, caught up in the

free-sex, free-drugs, free-love society."

After three years in the California Institute for Women, Chapin entered a drug treatment program, spending a year with "The Family" Group.

"It helped me to build new strengths in myself and to realize I didn't need drugs in my life," she said.

Friends introduced her to Christianity, something she always had rejected, she said, because she believed Christians were squares. But she said the religious experience transformed her.

"I had lived in fear, in low self-esteem, but as I allowed Christ in, all those things that had made me afraid and ashamed were softened and released and healed."

She has shared that message through numerous speaking and television appearances, including one that landed her an invitation from a Temple pastor who asked her to head his women's ministry.

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