

A Tale of Two Anchors

By Margaret Claughton
THE BATTALION

Laura Wilson and Tony Cornett share the set of the KBTX newscast every night at six and ten. They sit side-by-side and with cordial smiles inform their viewers of the day's latest news events.

But tonight that standard six-inch space between them has shrunk to one and both look way too giddy to be discussing Rwandan refugees or the invasion of Haiti. Laura's hands are on the desktop, loosely clasped together. The third finger on her left hand catches the stage lights just right, and gives away the shiny new stone which symbolizes the reason for her bubbly smile.

Tony sits proudly next to her, surprisingly quiet for a newscaster. But words aren't needed to read the chemistry between these two. On the air, they are Cornett and Wilson, the dutiful newscasters ever concerned for their viewing audience.

But off the air, it's Tony and Laura, effervescent couple glowing with the excitement of their recent engagement. It all started when Cornett joined the KBTX staff in 1992. But it wasn't until he began co-anchoring with Wilson a year ago that things began to heat up.

"We've always had a great working relationship," Wilson said. "From the first time we worked together we clicked. News anchoring is like dancing. You have to find the right partner with the same rhythm."

But the two did not start dating until March, when Cornett finally got the courage to ask her out.

"I had told a good buddy of mine what I thought of Laura a long time before we started dating," Cornett said. "It took me a while to ask her out because I thought I should do it in a unique way. So if she said no, neither one of us would get embarrassed."

Cornett decided a letter would be the best method of asking Wilson out.

Less than two months later Cornett was carrying in his wallet a magazine cut-out of an engagement ring.

Wilson said she was pleasantly surprised by the sapphire ring Cornett chose because she had always wanted an unconventional engagement ring.

Cornett's proposal, Wilson said, was also a bit out of the

ordinary. While dressing for work and having a bad day, Wilson said Cornett came to her apartment. After convincing her something was missing from her outfit, Cornett produced

See Anchors, Page 4



Photo by Tim Moog/The Battalion

KBTX news anchors, Laura Wilson and Tony Cornett are planning to get married in March.

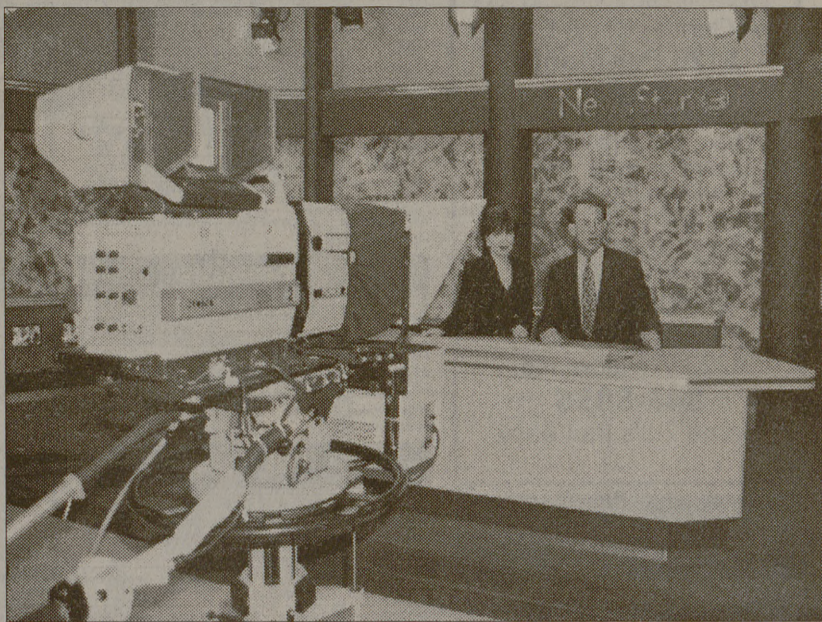


Photo by Tim Moog/The Battalion

Wilson and Cornett conclude their evening newscast Monday.

KANM provides the radio alternative

By Jeremy Keddie
THE BATTALION

From a small room in the Koldus Building, the sounds of alternative music come from KANM, a non-profit student-run radio station.

Broadcasting since Oct. 7, 1973, KANM is run by students who volunteer their time and can be heard 24 hours a day, seven days a week on cable 99.9 FM.

To keep the station running, station manager Robert Anderson appointed more than 150 volunteer students to work as disc jockeys and alternates. Anderson said that at times, it can be a difficult task to maintain the station.

"Since people aren't getting paid, sometimes it's not a priority," Anderson said.

Firsttime disc jockey Orlando Rodriguez, a mechanical engineering technology major, started at KANM last Saturday. His show, "Tricentric Mobocracy," features alternative rock and rap. Rodriguez said he had anxiety attacks at the beginning of his first show.

"At the beginning I didn't want to speak," Rodriguez said.

"I said to Brian (his partner), 'You say something.'"

Rodriguez said things smoothed out after a while, and that the experience was good for him.

Rodriguez said he applied at KANM looking for a new way to get involved with A&M.

"I thought it would be a new experience, different from organizations and other clubs where you have to be an officer to really have a say," Rodriguez said.

The disc jockeys at KANM are committed to diversity in their programming, and have 66 shows throughout the week, said Roger Rippey, program director. He said he chose the disc jockeys on the basis of experience, seniority and originality of their proposed program format. The majority of the programs consist of alternative music, covering mostly everything not considered Top 40 programming.

"The deejays can play Top 40 artists but only songs that are from a different rotation," Rippey said.

Rippey said KANM's programming is extremely diverse. "Estrogen and Excess," features bands that include women. "Replugged" features "music

that would suck on MTV Unplugged." "The Tejano Show" features Spanish rock 'n' roll. "Bargain CDs: they are for you" features CDs which can be found in resale music stores, and "Fishing with the Locals," consists of Texas bands.

But not all of the shows deal strictly with music.

"Tea Time" features poetry readings, while "Science Fiction Hour" consists of science fiction stories.

With few expenses, the station spends most of its money on improving the quality of the studios and music library.

Rippey said the station has thousands of CDs and 10,000 records. KANM also publishes a magazine, *The Alternative*, which is distributed throughout the community. The Alternative includes movements in the alternative scene, reviews, interviews with performers and the station's top requested songs.

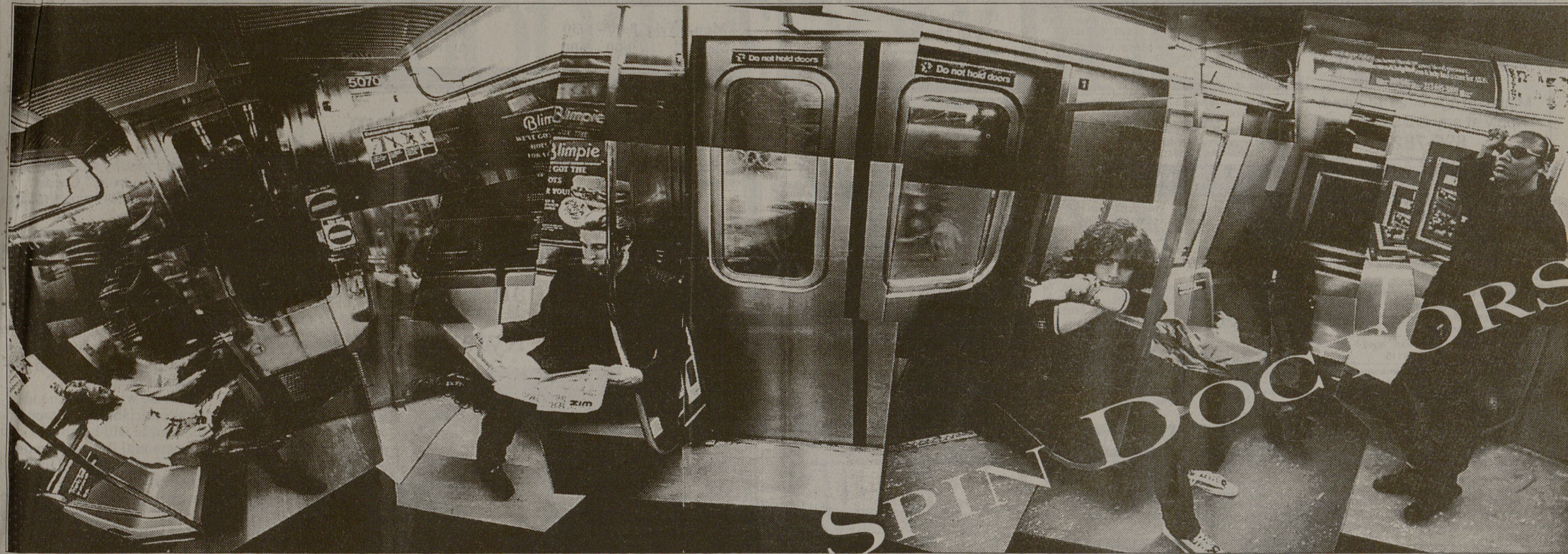
Aside from producing a variety of shows, KANM also conducts promotions with bands. Last week, it sponsored JACKOPIERCE's concert at Rudder

See KANM, page 4



Photo by Tim Moog/The Battalion

Disc jockey Matt Edel, a senior civil engineering major from Austin, works with the sound levels during his radio show at KANM Monday afternoon.



By Rob Clark
THE BATTALION

After weeks of trying to score an interview with the Spin Doctors, time was running out. The press people kept saying "Oh, geez, they just aren't doing any interviews right now."

Oh well, no big loss, right?

But it's Friday afternoon, and someone tells me there's a phone call for me.

"Hello, this is Rob."

"Rob, are you ready to interview the Spin Doctors?"

Oh yeah, hey no problem. After I picked my chin up off the floor, I tried to compose myself. But with no prior notice, I wasn't exactly prepared.

Time to wing it.

The band manager tells me the lead singer, Chris Barron, is all set to be interviewed.

"Hey, I'm your friendly neighborhood lead singer," he said, settling my nerves. I tell him this will be a totally spontaneous interview, as I had no idea I

Spinning over the

would get the interview. "That's OK, I never know what you guys are gonna ask me," he replied. "It's good to be spontaneous." The Spin Doctors are currently on tour with the Gin Blossoms and Cracker. After the huge success of the band's first album "Pocket Full of Kryptonite," which spawned smash hits "Little Miss Can't Be Wrong" and "Two Princes," there was speculation the band would suffer from the "sophomore slump" with its second effort "Turn it Upside Down." But Barron said they ignore such criticism. "We just blew it off really," he said. "You learn to go about your business. We play music, rather than worry about a bunch of talk." But the first album's success was welcomed by the band. "It was great selling tickets, selling records,"

Barron said. "We were so ecstatic, to tell you the truth." Barron said that on the new album, they tried to keep the same formula as the first while still experimenting.

"We really did a lot of the same stuff, and we tried to keep it really spontaneous," he said. This spontaneity included recording the first track "Big Fat Funky Booty" on the first take.

But after only two or three minutes on the phone, Barron said he had to do another interview.

Damn, now I can't ask him if he'll ever play Shaggy in the film version of "Scooby Doo."

But I managed to get another band member on the phone. Anthony Krizan, the new guitarist for the Spin Doctors, has just joined the band on the road.

Krizan said he always enjoyed the band's music but never pictured himself in the band.

"I'm honored to be playing with them," he said.

And after only performing a few shows with the band, Krizan said it is quite an experience when the lights go up and the crowd roars for the Spin Doctors.

"It's rewarding," he said. "It's like a high, a nat-

ural high. It makes you feel good, you just dig it."

Krizan brings a blues and funk background to the band, having once played in a nine-piece funk band. Krizan also has songwriting experience, having written the Lenny Kravitz hit "Stand By My Woman," and four songs on the new John Wailes album.

And the recent whirlwind chain-of-events won't stop there for Krizan and the band, as they are opening for The Rolling Stones on selected dates on the "Voodoo Lounge" Tour.

The chance to open for the band which is widely regarded as the greatest in history is a dream come true, Krizan said.

Much of the Spin Doctors success is due to MTV, who adopted the videos for "Two Princes" and "Little Miss Can't Be Wrong" and put them on maximum rotation. Krizan said exposure on MTV can only help an up-and-coming band.

"It's good," he said. "It gives more people a chance to see the band. MTV is a great thing."

But Krizan said nothing will ever replace the power of a live performance.

"This band is kickin' live," he said.