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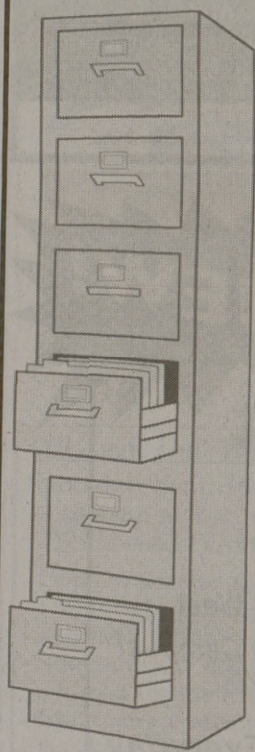
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## On the Air

### KANM gives students alternative to 'repetitive'

BY STEPHEN WELLS  
The Battalion

A young man steps into what will be his home for the next two hours—a small room, about the size of a walk-in closet. There are no windows, and the room is a rat's nest of old albums, CDs and broadcasting equipment.

He clears his throat, says a few words into a microphone and begins playing a track by a band his listeners have probably never heard and may or may not like.

He is a DJ at KANM and he would not have it any other way.

KANM radio can be heard on Cable radio 99.9-FM and 1600-AM. To most, the station just means "the student radio thing."

Kyle Kovel, KANM public relations director and a junior computer science major, said the radio station is for the benefit of the disc jockeys as well as listeners.

"This isn't a job," Kovel said. "We actually pay to work here, since we have dues. I give \$25 a semester to be a part of this."

The job of KANM is not just to give a student resume experience or to teach broadcasting to a journalism major.

Kristen Palme, KANM music director and a senior biochemistry, genetics and psychology major, said the station tries to give College Station residents a taste of different kinds of music.

"We want to offer people music they can't usually get here in town," Palme said. "We also want to provide a couple of hours for

artistic expression. We offer an artist's outlet gallery for the unknown artist."

Do not expect to hear a Matchbox 20 song when tuning in.

Majed Azouqah, KANM assistant music director and a junior electrical engineering major, said KANM is the place to listen for undiscovered talent.

"Personally, I get sick of the music that gets played [in B-CS]," Azouqah said. "You hear the same dumb song 300 times a day. What's the fun in that? Overexposure will kill a good song."

Ryan Boone, a sophomore accounting major, said sometimes popular music is the best choice for a radio station.

"Why tune in if you don't know the artist?" Boone said. "You listen to the radio and hope they play your favorite song. These songs are popular because a lot of people like them."

Ultimately, the decision of what kind of music to play rests on the DJs shoulders.

"The DJ gets full control over their show," Azouqah said. "The only restriction we give them is to try not to play a Top 40 song, or do some things that might offend some listeners."

There is always a drive to recruit more DJs, even if KANM already has enough to cover their airtime, from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m.

"We usually end up with 120 to 130 percent more DJs than we need at the beginning of the semester, but as the semester goes on, the number goes down," Kovel said. "We're always looking for more DJs."

If a student does not want the responsibility or does not have the time for a regular show, KANM offers other options.

"We're always looking for somebody to fill in for someone if something happens," Dailey said. "These are fully trained people to help out when we're in the booth."

Michael Dailey, KANM and a junior computer science major, said he can DJ for as long as he wants to.

He said they can add-listeners for the perfect show in their booth.

"You can spend as little as 15 minutes on your show," Dailey said. "The more time you want to spend, the more time you want to spend on your show."

As in every aspect of college life, being a successful radio station is a matter of time and effort.

"It can be a lot of work," Dailey said. "It does get stressful sometimes, but it's worth it."

Some students may disagree. They are missing some of the best experiences of college life.

Steven Livingston, KANM representative and a senior psychology major, said students who think broadcasting should come with a price tag.

"If you can do better, come on," Livingston said. "We love it."

## Rounders rolls its way to top of box office

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The gambling drama *Rounders* played its cards right to lead the box office going into the fall season, but summer releases including *There's Something About Mary* dominated the Top 10.

*Rounders*, relying on the drawing power of Matt Damon as a reformed card shark drawn into a deadly game, had \$8.8 million in ticket sales during the weekend.

The only other debuting film in the Top 10 was *Simon Birch*, which opened in fifth place with \$3.3 million, according to industry estimates Sunday.

Everything else on the list came out during the summer.

*Mary*, the raunchy comedy that rose to No. 1 after eight weeks, fell back to second place with weekend sales of about \$8 million.

It retains broad audience appeal because at its core it is a warm love story with an interesting heroine, said Tom Sherak, chairman of the 20th Century Fox domestic film division.

"She's nice, she's warmhearted, she's everybody's girl next door," Sherak said. "And one joke

after another makes it funny, and people want to laugh."

The summer holdovers also included *Armageddon*, which closed in on the \$200 million mark in gross sales as it tied with *How Stella Got Her Groove Back* for ninth place, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.

"A summer film doesn't know summer's over if it's a good film," Paul Dergarabedian, president of Exhibitor Relations, said.

The strength of the holdovers could make it tough for the more than 140 movies set for release in

the fall season, which begins this weekend.

Fall is when studios usually put out more than half of their Oscar-contending films.

But this year, films such as *Simon Birch* had already cropped up as blockbusters.

With summer usually being a slow week for smaller films, *Simon Birch* to go without facing competition, he said.

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