

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Pump up the volume

Students experience music business with disc jockey jobs

By ERIC AIKEN
The Battalion

Gabe Patterson sits at a small desk in a cramped room at the KANM radio station studio, surrounded by hundreds of compact discs. He sorts through several recent additions to the CD collection, looking for the music he likes to listen to and wants to play.

Across town, Nikki Mitchell prepares for her shift at KKYS by paging through entertainment magazines for potential on-air discussion topics. Mitchell's play list is

"I like being around people who are like-minded. They like music for the right reasons. Some people are too influenced by the media as far as what to like."

— Gabe Patterson
disc jockey and sophomore journalism major

tighter than Patterson's, so she can not be as creative with music choices. Instead, she shows her personality in her on-air discussion.

Patterson, a sophomore journalism major, and Mitchell, a junior journalism major, are among several students who are gaining on-air experience working at area radio stations.

"I like being around people who are like-minded," Patterson said, explaining why he likes working at KANM. "They like music for the right reasons. Some people are too influenced by the media as far as what to like."

In his position as KANM's urban-music disc jock-

ey, Patterson has free rein to choose the music he wants to play.

"I focus on quality," he said. "I'll play Eminem, because he's one of the greatest rappers ever, but I'll also play Jay-Z and the Black Eye Peas," he said.

Patterson tries to stay away from playing off the repetitive list of Top 40 music. KANM aims to provide alternative programming and to support local music. According to its Website, the station is dedicated to playing music that cannot be heard on other local stations.

"The goal of the station is to present an alternative to Top 40," Patterson said. "I'm a little more liberal with that rule because hip-hop has been commercial since I got into it."

"When I first got into it, (rap) was more about music and having fun. Now you have to dig through the formulaic, watered-down stuff."

Patterson said he found out about KANM at the Fall 2000 MSC Open House. He said he was the only person interested in playing hip-hop music, so the station gave him a show.

Nikki Mitchell found her position in a similar manner. A year ago, she answered an advertisement looking for help.

"I had absolutely nothing in the way of experience. I just answered the ad," Mitchell said.

Mitchell encourages potential disc jockeys to "definitely give more than (your employer) expects."

"Go above and beyond just doing the basics and keep impressing people," she said. "There is always someone after your job."

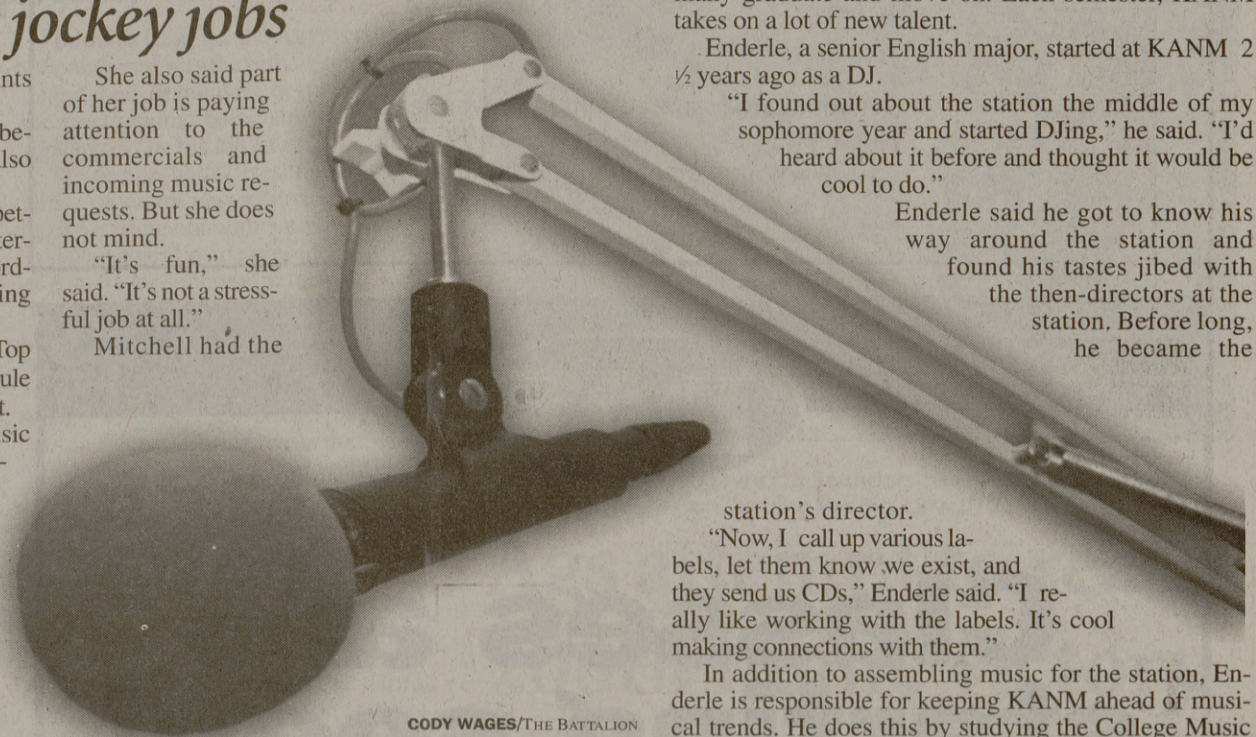
Mitchell said she loves music and loves her job, but she admits there is a little more to it than just playing records.

"I have to keep up with music and celebrity news so I have something to talk about on the air," she said.

She also said part of her job is paying attention to the commercials and incoming music requests. But she does not mind.

"It's fun," she said. "It's not a stressful job at all."

Mitchell had the



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

good fortune to be in the right place at the right time. It can be difficult to break into radio, particularly on-air jobs, without previous experience. One of the many advantages of college radio is that on-campus radio jobs can be easier to find.

"Come in and fill out an application," said Scott Enderle, KANM's music director. "You'll probably get a show. We don't have enough DJs right now."

There is a high turnover rate for student DJs because

many graduate and move on. Each semester, KANM takes on a lot of new talent.

Enderle, a senior English major, started at KANM 2 1/2 years ago as a DJ.

"I found out about the station the middle of my sophomore year and started DJ'ing," he said. "I'd heard about it before and thought it would be cool to do."

Enderle said he got to know his way around the station and found his tastes jibed with the then-directors at the station. Before long, he became the

station's director. "Now, I call up various labels, let them know we exist, and they send us CDs," Enderle said. "I really like working with the labels. It's cool making connections with them."

In addition to assembling music for the station, Enderle is responsible for keeping KANM ahead of musical trends. He does this by studying the College Music Journal and other trade magazines.

"We definitely try to avoid even stuff that gets played at other so-called alternative stations," Enderle said.

KANM DJs play a wide variety of music, with guidelines directing the amount of commercial music per show. This ensures that the DJs are exposed to a lot of different music.

Exposure to a range of music is only one of the perks of working at a radio station as a college student. The biggest perk is experience.

Teen tries to mimic 'Jackass' stuntman

TORRINGTON, Conn. (AP) — The father of a 13-year-old boy, hospitalized with second- and third-degree burns after mimicking a stunt on MTV's high-rated show "Jackass," police said. The fire grew out of control and burned the boy's legs and hands before it was extinguished, officials said.



LIEBERMAN

Jason Lind was severely burned Friday night when he and a friend poured gasoline on his feet and legs and lit him on fire while imitating a stunt on MTV's high-rated show "Jackass," police said. The fire grew out of control and burned the boy's legs and hands before it was extinguished, officials said.

Jason remained hospitalized Monday in critical condition in the burn unit of Shriners' Hospital for Children in Boston.

"I don't want another parent to go through what I went through — when you see your son laying on an emergency room

table with his skin falling off, and he's apologizing to you," Eric Lind, the father, told WFSB-TV on Monday.

The MTV program also drew fire from Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., an outspoken critic of media violence.

"MTV is an enormously influential force in the world our children inhabit, and with that power and the right to exercise it comes a certain level of responsibility," Lieberman said Monday. "I intend to make clear to the network's owners that we expect more from them."

Jason's 14-year-old friend was arrested Saturday and charged with reckless endangerment. Police would not identify the suspect because he is a juvenile. Another teen who looked on was not charged.

"Jackass" features an array of pranks and stunts. In Friday's episode, show creator Johnny Knoxville donned a fire-resistant suit hung with steaks. He then lay across a makeshift barbecue while his cast mates shot lighter fluid onto the grill to fan the flames.

One of the teens said Jason volun-

People in the News

teered to re-enact the stunt, which took place in one boy's back yard.

MTV spokeswoman Tina Exarhos said the show includes written and verbal disclaimers stating, "The following show features stunts performed by professionals and/or total idiots under very strict control." The producers "insist that neither you or anyone else attempt to re-create or perform anything you have seen," the warning says. Exarhos said the warning is repeated by Knoxville.

Barrymore, Hopkins win Pudding award

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Drew Barrymore and Sir Anthony Hopkins are this year's recipients of woman and man of the year awards from Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals.



BARRYMORE

They will receive the traditional brass Pudding Pots next

month, university officials announced Monday.

The Hasty Pudding awards are presented to performers who have made a "lasting and impressive contribution to the world of entertainment."

Barrymore will lead the traditional parade through the streets of Harvard Square on Feb. 8. Hopkins will appear Feb. 15 at the opening night of the comedy troupe's annual theatrical production, *Fangs for the Memories*. Both performers will participate in roasts of their careers.

Barrymore, 25, has starred in *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*, *The Wedding Singer* and *Charlie's Angels*.

The 63-year-old Hopkins won an Oscar for his role as Hannibal Lecter in the 1991 thriller *The Silence of the Lambs*.

He stars in the sequel, *Hannibal*, which opens in theaters nationwide on Feb. 9.



HOPKINS

George Clinton loses rights to own music

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A judge has ruled American funk music star George Clinton can't keep the rights to music he wrote in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle ruled on Monday that Clinton signed away the rights to the music, which Clinton claims is worth more than \$100 million, to Michigan-based music publisher Bridgeport Music in a 1983 contract.

Hinkle also barred Clinton from profiting from the songs, written between 1976 and 1983, saying the singer did not disclose them in a 1984 bankruptcy filing as possible future income.

The 60-year-old singer argued in a lawsuit filed in 1999 that he never signed a valid contract and that he also lost money from rap music artists sampling his old songs, but not paying to do so.

A Tallahassee-area resident, Clinton founded the popular funk group Parliament, which later changed its name to Funkadelic.

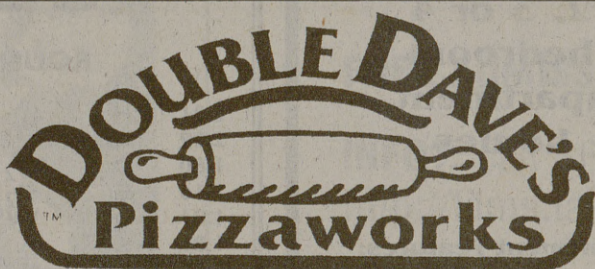
Free 5K Fun Run!

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