



An Original preview/ review section of

Wilmington

WLOZ: Low-Power FM still up in the air
by KRISTI SINGER

The Scene

The possibility of low-powered FM radio has become a hot topic in the media. Final decisions are still being discussed in court.

"The National Association of Broadcasting is...fighting the FCC. It's a threat to corporate and commercial radio because if you have non-commercial stations mixed in with large stations you're taking away listenership from them," said John Bundy, general manager of WLOZ.

Whether or not things will change is difficult to predict.

"I think eventually it will come into effect. It looks hopeful but it still might be awhile, a couple of years probably," Bundy said.

The benefits of low-powered FM (LPFM) would mean WLOZ could be heard throughout the city of Wilmington, gaining more support and listeners.

"A college town needs college radio. College radio is important, it's something different from the mainstream," Bundy said.

Student and community support will be beneficial to WLOZ when they apply for a LPFM license in May. They will be in competition with religious and non-profit organizations that want air space.

"We have to prove the educational and informative value of WLOZ," Bundy said.

Texas entertainment/media industry conference successful

by KRISTI SINGER

The Scene

Musicians desiring national recognition can take advantage of music conferences and festivals where industry bigwigs scout for potential artists. South by Southwest (SXSW), annually held in Austin, Texas is such a conference. It has gained international recognition as a melting pot for bands and the music/entertainment industry since its beginning in 1987.

Over the past seven years the private company SXSW, Inc. has combined film festivals and interactive media in addition to. The 10-day festival included over 190 films and 1,005 bands from all over the world.

South By Southwest 2000 took place March 10-19. The time was broken up into a film conference, film festival, interactive festival, music/media conference and music festival.

The Music Festival featured 5 days of shows with performances by John Paul Jones, Steve Earle, Cypress Hill and Sebadoh.

The Music Conference began with a lecture by E-Squared/Artemis recording artist Steve Earle. Demo listening sessions and one-on-one meetings with industry professionals from the SXSW Mentor Program were also available for musicians.

"Anything music industry oriented, they had a seminar on it," said bassist of local band 6 Sigma, Adam Granade, who

attended the conference with his band.

According to SXSW, Inc., the mentor program is designed to give musicians access to professionals who have agreed to share their time and experience. A&R, Columbia Records, EMI, Epic Records, Arista, Capitol Records, MCA Records and Dreamwork Records had personnel available. Meetings were available in 10-minute increments by appointment.

The demo listening segment was available for musicians to hear panelist's responses to their demos. The advice sessions are not considered auditions for record companies.

"Nothing in Wilmington compares [to the conference] at all," Grenade said. "The only way I can even compare it to North Carolina would be if every restaurant and every bar downtown had bands every night for a whole week from 1 in the afternoon to 2 in the morning," Granade said.

In Granade's opinion, the musical interest was different in Austin.

"The people are different there, total rock n' roll. Here, there's a much older crowd, there's not a lot of younger generation," Granade said.

Some big name bands, such as Fastball, made appearances at SXSW.

Grenade had the opportunity to meet a member of the Dead Kennedy's, the drummer of Metallica, and Chuck D of Public Enemy.

This was Grenade's second trip to SXSW. "It keeps getting better and better," he said.

King Konga plays Charley Brownz

by KRISTI SINGER

The Scene



Collage of King Konga members

Wilmington had the chance to experience a small part of Woodstock '99 when King Konga (Steve Cook - bass, Dan Hannon - guitar/vocals, Tony Lymon - percussion/mallet KAT, Skeeto - drums) played at Charley Brownz on Friday March 24th.

King Konga was featured on the "Emerging Artists Stage" at WoodStock '99 in front of 250,000 people.

The band has been compared to The Dave Matthews Band, Hootie and the Blowfish and Sister Hazel. *OnNashville* magazine says "Yes, these guys are that good, especially given that the raspy, Peter Gabriel-like voice of singer Dan Hannon beats Matthews' parrot squawk hands-down."

King Konga's unique sound combines funk, world beat and acoustic groove.

They made their debut release in 1994 with *Last Laugh*. Since 1997 they have sold over 15,000 copies of their second independent release, *monkey see. monkey groove*. Their latest accomplishment, *Halo* (1999), features seven new songs earning the description of "powerful, spirited and musically tight." *Halo* features appearances by Larry Chaney and Dave Harrison of the Edwin McCain Band. The disc is CD-ROM and DVD compatible, with video interviews, live performances, audio clips and lyric sheets. The disc was rated five stars out of five by Amazon.com.

Three King Konga members met while attending the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. The band was completed by drummer Skeeto from Detroit after an Internet search and over 700 phone calls.

King Konga is currently on their spring 2000 tour from March through June. They will perform nearly 50 shows in Louisiana, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina.

For more information on King Konga, check out www.kingkonga.com.

CD Pick of the Week

by JOSHUA HENSON & KRISTI SINGER

The Seahawk

Scott Carpenter & the Real McCoys' album *Dedicated Stroll* offers a walk on the rockin' side of life. This band is a must-listen for that rock n' roller in all of us, offering a sound for every taste bud in your ear. With a mixture of rockabilly to near punk, a little pop and even country, it's difficult to categorize this band under one genre.

The group consists of Scott Carpenter (vocalist/guitarist), Brian Daddis (drummer), "Little Joe" (bassist, vocalist) and Matt Smith (guitarist, vocalist). Together they create an impressive mix of vocals and instrumentals on this 1998 release.

Recorded at Sound of Music Studios in Richmond, VA, and produced by Armand John Petri, Scott Carpenter & the Real McCoys show off a polished sound on *Dedicated Stroll*. Critics call this fourth recording the best work. It tells emotional tales of relationships, love and broken hearts, taking the listener on a ride from happiness to heartache in one CD.

Some personal favorites are the title track, "Temperamental" and "Veronica." These tracks just have toe-tapping, almost honky-tonk rhythms. Close seconds would be "Come A Little Closer," "Come Out Swinging" and "Where Ya Gonna Go."

Coming from Brooklyn, New York, this band has opened for the Goo Goo Dolls and recorded four albums prior to *Dedicated Stroll*. *Live From Mohawk Place* (1996), *2 A.M. Tragedy* (1995), *Scott Carpenter and the Real McCoys* (1994) and *Scott Carpenter and the Orbits* (1988).

Scott Carpenter & the Real McCoys' music mixes variety with reality on *Dedicated Stroll*; it is definitely one for the collection. Check out Scott Carpenter & the Real McCoys on the web at <http://wnywebshop.com/scotsnd.htm>.

Student Voice

"Lisa Hill Productions is kicking ass. I say that because she's bringing in a lot of big bands and the more money she makes the better bands she can bring in. She's bringing in The Melvins, Hank Williams III and Agnostic Front," sophomore Myk Crouch said.

Lisa Hill Productions books bands for Ziggy's by the Sea in Atlantic Beach, Bessie's and Rockit's.