

# Praise making its mark in Charlotte FM radio market

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the station.

Kwei-Cook said Praise is operated like an adult contemporary station, because the music that's played on the station could easily fit on 92.7.

"This is not just Shirley Caesar and the Mighty Clouds of Joy," said Stowe.

Kwei-Cook said Radio One's goal in Charlotte is to super-serve the adult market and having Praise gives the 25-to-48 year-old

demographic more choices.

When the opportunity came for Stowe to work at Praise, he said he couldn't pass it up.

"I'm a Christian and I have a passion for this music," he said, adding that when he worked for an adult contemporary station in Greensboro, there was a phenomenal response when gospel was played.

"Another reason the station is successful is because of the world we live in, people need a positive message," he said.



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# Minority vendors not getting Katrina contracts

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Commerce. "What they're basically saying to the minority in New Orleans is, 'We'll make it harder for you to find a job. And if you do, we'll make sure you get paid less.'"

The Department of Homeland Security, whose FEMA division handles most of the contracts, said it is committed to hiring smaller, disadvantaged firms. But many of the no-bid awards were given out to known players who could quickly provide help in an emergency situation, spokesman Larry Orluskie said.

"It was about saving lives, protecting property, and going to who you go to, to get what you need," he said.

The Labor Department also has said its decision to temporarily suspend affirmative action rules for first-time government contractors doing Katrina work was motivated by a need to reduce paperwork to speed emergency aid.

The Army Corps of Engineers has a better record on minority contracts, with roughly 16 percent of the \$637 million (euro534 million) in Katrina contracts going to minority-owned companies, according to agency records.

Businesses with more than 50 employees typically must have a written affirmative action plan if they are awarded contracts of more than \$50,000 (euro41,883).

But the Bush administration removed that requirement for three months, saying basic anti-discrimination laws would provide adequate protection.

At a recent meeting in Mississippi for minority businesspeople with federal contracting officials, Rep. Bennie Thompson said many of the 100 owners walked out in anger when told their best chance of getting work was to seek smaller subcontracts from the larger companies.

The larger companies include Kellogg, Brown & Root, a subsidiary of Halliburton Co., which Vice President Dick Cheney headed from 1995 to 2000; and AshBritt Inc., a Florida

company with ties to Mississippi's governor, Haley Barbour, the former chairman of the Republican National Committee.

The president has talked about small businesses being the engine of our economy, but when the time for sound bites is over his administration still uses the same backroom deals to take

care of their friends," said Thompson, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The situation has exacerbated racial sensitivities that already were heightened by the slow initial federal response to the New Orleans flood. Many poor black residents didn't get help for days.

Bush has met privately with NAACP President Bruce Gordon to discuss the racial component of the disaster. And Alford said he will get a meeting with Bush sometime soon to talk about improving opportunities for minority contractors.

On the Net:

FEMA contracting:

www.dhs.gov/openforbusiness.

# Yahoo! tunes to podcasting with new technologies

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Yahoo estimates that up to 5 million people currently listen to podcasts, which runs a gamut of topics. Everything from the president's weekly address to ordinary citizens ranting about their pet peeves are available on podcasts.

The potential market is much larger. Apple so far has sold more than 20 million iPods, accounting for about three-fourths of the MP3 players in the United States.

But the podcasting phenomenon remains a mystery to most of the country - something that Yahoo believes it can change by delivering more comprehensive search results and enabling users to store the podcasts in their computer's music players, including Apple's

iTunes and Microsoft Corp.'s Windows Player in addition to Yahoo's.

That way, people can listen to the podcasts at their convenience, even if they don't have an iPod or another portable device that plays MP3 audio files.

Besides the iPod, Yahoo's service also is compatible with the iRiver player, Dell Inc.'s DJ and Creative Technology Ltd.'s Zen.

Yahoo's service is built strictly for listeners. Unlike Odeo's site, Yahoo isn't providing any tools for creating podcasts, although there are plans to do so eventually, said Joe Hayashi, Yahoo's director of product management.

"This is all about discovery for now," Hayashi said. "Step One is all about growing the ecosystem."

# Microsoft business solution

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technology. The right PC and PDA can make a world of difference.

If you are thinking about starting a business, or just want to try to make your existing operation smoother, take a look at Microsoft Office Small Business Edition 2006. It has a healthy dose of the old familiar Office tools with a full measure of new, easy to use features. There are some prerequisites. You need to be running Windows 2000 or XP with service pack 2. If you are running XP and have been keeping up with your Microsoft updates, this shouldn't be a problem, but if not, Service Pack 2 comes bundled into the package. The installer will apprise you if it needs to be loaded.

Let's start with the tried and true, Microsoft Word. It retains all the functionality you are used to with the increase capability and layout debuted in Office 2003. The same applies to Excel and PowerPoint. Office 2006 also comes with Publisher and Access in addition to the enhanced Outlook, featuring the Business Contact Manager. Now one tool can handle both your private and business contacts and email without getting them mixed up or requiring you to figure out some way to retrieve your business contacts out of the combined database. Microsoft has even improved the fonts so that small fonts look clear on smaller screens.

This is very helpful if you are transferring files from desktop to laptop or PDA. If you use the automatic email alert, unlike previous versions of Office, this one informs you of e-mail's arrival by giving you a small preview window in the lower right corner of the screen instead of the splash in the middle of your screen that destroys your train of thought.

If you are an avid Office user most of these features are familiar to you.

The real gem in Office Business Manager Edition 2006 is the Small Business Account tool. This gives new meaning to the phrase new and improved. If you have used other accounting programs from Microsoft or anybody else for that matter, including Quicken, you owe it to yourself to give Accounting 2006

a try.

The key is integration. For example, proposals and ledgers can be easily converted into invoices. All the programs within the Office Suite can share information. Easily pull customer and/or financial data from Excel, combine it with inventory recorders from Access to produce specialized reports in Word. In other words, spend less time doing paperwork and more time actually running your business.

Accounting 2006 also makes it easy to outsource many time-consuming task such as payroll. Microsoft has partnered with ADP a leading provider of payroll solutions to offer a product call ADP Total Payroll; this allows you 24/7 access to your data while having ADP handle the actual processing and tax-filing.

Another handy tool for small business is Microsoft's Integrated Credit Card Processing. This software works with either your existing merchant account or can sign you up for the first time, allowing you to take credit card orders over the phone. On the flip side a partnership with BillQuick allows for time tracking, project management and billing support to help keep jobs on budget and on schedule. When combined with Account 2006, information can be exchanged via the Web, e-mail and PDA.

For your businesses' shipping needs there is ShipRush, with its plug-ins for FedEx and UPS. Small Business Account 2006 can also coordinate your parcel shipping needs. Now shipping information can be tracked, stored and processed from your invoice, sales order or other shipping forms. Speaking of forms and invoices, Microsoft can even assist with that.

A quick visit to www.mschecksandforms.com can give you help with the design of invoices, checks, labels, stamps, forms, applications and envelopes. These helpful tools and partnerships can really make your business stand out from the pack.

Fred Green Jr. is technical training specialist for a national communications company.

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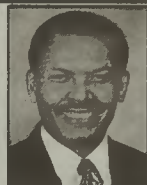
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In the excitement of finally discovering our passion for life, it may seem that this will be something that will happen quite easily. From our perspective, nothing could be simpler than achieving what we want. We cannot imagine any roadblocks to our dreams. From where we see things, nothing could be easier. To us it seems to be just a matter of time before we have what we have always wanted. We may feel that we can just let things take care of themselves.

For example, if it is starting a new business, we may feel that everyone will want the product or service that we offer. We cannot imagine why anyone would not be as thrilled with them as we are. Someone may have even told us that our product or service "virtually sells itself."

However, as times goes by, we discover that this is not true. Not everyone is as excited as we are about our product. For some people, no matter what you say, you will not be able to convince them that your product or service will benefit them.

For some of us, we may have thought that we could just sign up for something and the money would just start rolling in without our having to do anything. Some people would try to convince you that it is possible to be successful that way.

However, the way of Life is that you do not get something for nothing. We are told, "Give and it shall be given to you." The wisdom of Life is that if we plant, something will grow and we can reap a harvest.

In other words, if we want to be successful, we must be willing to invest whatever it takes to make our dreams come true.

There is no way around it. You have to do your part. You have to put in the work that is required to be successful. As one ancient thinker once said, **"Do not get weary . . . , for after a while you will reap a harvest of blessings."**

Do your part. Make your investment in your dreams and you shall reap a harvest of success!

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