

# WTRG, 100.7 FM, spins classic rock in the Triangle

By **JIM ZOOK**  
Editor

Point of information: Radio listeners tuning in to 100.7 on the FM dial Aug. 14 were not listening to a fickle disc jockey aimlessly spinning the fight songs of the Triangle's three major universities.

Featuring an adult-contemporary format, WTRG-FM signed on the air last week and offers area listeners yet another choice to turn to for rock'n'roll.

WTRG, whose call letters are derived from "The Triangle" area,

will feature "classic hits" programming with music from the mid-1960s through 1980, said Johnathan Crawford, the station's general manager.

"People ask us to describe our radio station," Crawford said. "We like to describe it as a mixture of Motown, The Big Chill, Woodstock, Saturday Night Live, Animal House, Beverly Hills Cop and David Letterman. We just believe that it is a format that evokes feelings in people."

The station's initial 24 hours of

broadcasting apparently caught people's attention. Crawford said that approximately 1,100 calls poured into the office asking why the station repeatedly played the fight songs from UNC, N.C. State and Duke.

"Those are three of the best songs from this area," Crawford said. "They're not often heard on the radio, so we decided to play them. It got a lot of media attention."

At 4 p.m., Aug. 15, "Time Won't Let Me," a 1960s classic by The

Outsiders, opened regular broadcasting.

The station has studios based in Rocky Mount and Raleigh.

Crawford said that WTRG beams its signal via a broadcast tower located in Middlesex that is 2,000 feet tall, the tallest allowed by the Federal Communications Commission. That broadcasting capability sends out the station's signal more than 100 miles. Crawford said he has heard from listeners outside the Triangle area, noting that calls have come in from "listeners 50 miles south of Norfolk (Va.)."

Crawford said this is his first station to build "from the ground up." He has been with other adult contemporary or album-oriented radio stations in Chicago, Milwaukee and Des Moines, Ia.

WTRG is owned by Capitol Broadcasting Corporation, a Mobile, Ala.-based company making its second venture in North Carolina. WLVK, a country station in Charlotte, is also a Capitol holding.

The corporation also owns stations in Mobile, Birmingham, Ala., Charleston, W.Va., Louisville, Ky., and Nashville, Tenn.

## Old stars come out for PBS rock 'n' roll hour

By **ROBERT BARR**  
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — What becomes a legend most? Modesty, in many cases, and some of the names rounded up for "Fabian's Good Time Rock 'n' Roll" have much to be modest about.

The special airs Saturday on public television stations, which hope to take the money and run. If public TV has rock, it must be fund-raising time, and that's what this show is about.

"Fabian's Good Time Rock 'n' Roll" was made a year ago as the first show produced specially for pay-per-view television.

It's ugly video, probably one of the dimmest and least professional presentations you'll see this side of public access. With nothing else going for it, the hour rises and falls on the music. Does it ever.

Fabian is as out of tune as he was when Dad wore a ducktail. His rendition of "Like a Tiger" may make a few sentimental hearts flutter, but it leaves no clue to his past popularity.

The singer is a weirdly awkward stage presence, reminiscent of Richard Nixon in the days when he was shopping the new Nixon around on "The Tonight Show" and "Laugh-In." He's got a sharp haircut, though.

Wisely, Fabian lets other stars dominate: The Coasters sing "Charley Brown" and "Poison Ivy," the Crystals sing "He's a Rebel" and "Da Doo Ron Ron."

## Actor tryouts for fall plays

PlayMakers Repertory Company, the UNC Lab Theatre, and the Department of Dramatic Art will hold open screening auditions for all students interested in performing in fall productions by the three organizations. The auditions will be held Saturday Aug. 23 from 2 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. in Paul Green Theatre. Interested persons must sign up for an appointment in Graham Memorial Hall Room 104 before 5 p.m. on Friday Aug. 22. Those auditioning should prepare a memorized selection from Shakespeare and a memorized contemporary selection, with the total audition time not exceeding 5 minutes.

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and Little Anthony whines, "Tears on My Pillow."

Lou Christie, with a haircut that makes him look like a smarmy Shetland pony, prances around as if you must, simply must, be awfully glad to see him. "You thought I was gonna be 300 pounds and bald, huh?" he tells the audience.

It takes Bo Diddley to do it right, dispensing with the inane hi-there-remember-me stuff and simply rockin'.

No one ever did more with one chord than Bo Diddley, and the raw, throbbing energy of his well-worn repertoire is as infectious now as it was 30 years ago.

For the record, Diddley works up to a three-chord ditty that proclaims, "you never get too old to rock 'n' roll." At least he hasn't.

He's one of those pioneers whose contributions were never properly

recognized or compensated, but he's outlasted a lot of people who stole his act. The best tribute to the man with the square guitar is the way the back-up band swings in behind him. With Christie, they loafed.

The program might well have ended with Diddley, but there's a big surprise left. Chubby Checker, Mr. Twister, is still fat and still in good voice as he dashes through a frantic set including "Good Golly, Miss Molly," "Pony Time," "Sce-nicruise," "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On," and, of course, "The Twist."

The special finishes with everybody singing Chuck Berry's "Johnny B. Good."

That's fitting. The Bo Diddley beat, the Chuck Berry songs, will be remembered a long time after the last shattered copy of "The Gypsy Cried" is tossed out.

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