

AOR: The Changing Of The Editors

Steve Feinstein makes his debut as R&R's AOR Editor, while Jeff Gelb assesses the state of the format in his swan song column. A double shot of AOR observation, next week in R&R.



Jeff Gelb Steve Feinstein

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WBCS Names Blake PD

WZZK/Birmingham Production Director and air personality Cliff Blake has been named Program Director at Great Trails Country-formatted outlet WBCS/Milwaukee. Blake, who previously programmed WFTQ/Worcester, replaces former WBCS PD Pat Martin (now PD at WRKR/Racine).

WMKE & WBCS GM John Dunn told R&R, "I searched long and hard for the right person. Cliff's tenure with (WZZK and WFTQ

owner) Katz and his ability to deal with people were what made the decision an easy one to make. I believe that he is going to be the tie-breaker for me in this market."

Blake commented, "The thing I am the happiest about is my return to management and the opportunity to work for somebody like John Dunn. The Great Trails people are a very successful group, and I'm proud to have been selected to be a part of their fine organization."

O'NEIL STEPS DOWN

Volpe Set To Program KGGI

John Volpe, former Production Director at KFI/Los Angeles, has been named PD at KGGI/Riverside-San Bernardino. He replaces Steve O'Neil, who voluntarily stepped down from the programming position to concentrate his efforts on his airwork and MD duties after a year and a half as PD.

KGGI VP/GM Don Davis commented to R&R, "I'm very excited about this change, and so is Steve, since he was the one who decided to step down. Steve did a great job

for us, and we're looking forward to John's arrival next week."

Volpe, who joined KFI 10 months ago, told R&R, "I think this is an incredible opportunity to work with (consultant) Jerry Clifton, whom I have a ton of respect for. The station is very solid, and musically I think it would compare to anything in L.A. This move is a great one; it still offers me a chance to compete with the L.A. stations, since they are pretty dominant in the Riverside-San Bernardino market." Volpe's past programming experience includes Assistant PD posts at B97/New Orleans and KOPA/Phoenix, as well as programming KOPA's AM sister station KXAM.

BEATS KTSA INJUNCTION

Curry Becomes PD At KITY

KITY/San Antonio has succeeded in hiring Kid Curry as Program Director, despite an attempted injunction filed by Curry's former employer and crosstown competitor KTSA. The court allowed Curry to work for KITY after establishing that he hadn't worked for KTSA for a year, the full term of his contract, and hadn't been paid all monies due him from this agreement.

KTSA GM Joe Ernest was not available for comment on the injunction. KITY GM Lee Taylor told R&R, "We don't expect any further problems with having Kid employed

CURRY/See Page 22

For The Record

On Page 40 of the recently published R&R Ratings Report two Oklahoma City stations were inadvertently left out of the Country Format Leader AQH rankings. KXXY should have been listed tied for 12th with its 7.5 share, while KOMA's 7.1 performance should have placed it tied for 19th nationally.

Additionally, WSEZ/Winston-Salem's 7.4 share should have been included, tied for 24th in the CHR AQH format leaders list on Page 42.

WGAR Taps Lanigan As PD

WGAR/Cleveland morning personality John Lanigan has been promoted to PD. He fills the vacancy left several months ago after the departure of Mike Scott. WGAR acting PD Mike Metzger has been asked to consider other opportunities within the station.

Lanigan joined WGAR for mornings 11 years ago, replacing Don Imus, now with WNBC/New York. Lanigan's background also includes air personality stints at KRLD/Dallas, KHOW and KTLK/Denver, KVOR/Colorado Springs, and five years in various programming positions at KDEF/

Albuquerque. "It's a feeling of panic!" he joked, adding seriously, "Being named PD again is exciting and will be a lot of fun. We've moved up our evening personality Steve Cannon to middays and have added jazz programming for evenings. I'm very happy about the appointment."

Kiel Upped To WMIL Operations Director

Doug Kiel has been promoted to Operations Manager for Country station WMIL/Milwaukee. He had been News Director for WMIL and sister AM WOKY.

WMIL & WOKY GM Mike Jorgenson told R&R, "Doug's background in programming, sports, on-air, and news makes him the perfect choice for this spot. He's a good administrator and a strong people guy."

At the same time, WMIL has hired Mitch Morgan as morning man. Morgan moves crosstown from Country competitor WBCS; his replacement at WBCS is WMIL afternoon personality Jay Michaels. WMIL's new afternoon man is Ron Jones from WJEZ/Chicago.



A GOLDEN TOAST — WFIL/Philadelphia President/GM Bruce Holberg (left) and recently-appointed PD Jay Meyers (right) toast the return of "The Boss," as WFIL unsaddled its Country format for gold hits last Friday night (9-2). Closing appropriately with Mac Davis's "Texas In My Rearview Mirror," and following a three-hour Elvis special, WFIL inaugurated its return to popular music with Martha & The Vandellas' "Dancing In The Street." Using the slogan "The Boss Is Back," WFIL is featuring its original 1968 jingles and "boss" personality Jim Nettleton for mornings.

FM TO A/C, AM OLDIES

WGH-AM & FM Take WNSY Calls

COMM COR Inc., new owners of WGH-AM & FM/Norfolk, changed the stations' call letters to WNSY-AM & FM last week, announcing new formats for both facilities as well. WGH-FM, the market's only Classical outlet, has donated its library of 22,000 classical albums to WHRO/Norfolk, a non-commercial station, and has adopted an A/C format, calling itself "Sunny 97." WGH (AM) has switched from A/C to Oldies, with Dan O'Brien continuing to program the facility.

WGH President/GM Don Kidwell explained to R&R, "We are leaning toward A/C in the purest sense, very similar to WLLT/Cincinnati and WSNY/Columbus. I will be handling the programming myself for the time being, but will eventually appoint someone. Reaction has been spectacular to the new format, and the public has enthusiastically responded to our donation of equipment and our classical library to WHRO so that classical music can continue to be heard."

Two staffers, John St. John and Phil Beckman, have moved from the AM to the FM, and Tony Macrini has left WNVZ/Norfolk to do afternoons at Sunny 97.

Bisceglia New Arista National Singles Director

Arista Records Director/National Adult Contemporary Promotion Rick Bisceglia has been promoted to National Singles Director. In his new capacity, Bisceglia will add CHR promotion to his A/C responsibilities.

Commenting on the appointment, VP/Promotion Don Jenner said, "I've known Rick for many years, and promoted records to him while he was in radio. I've watched him grow into one of the strongest young promotion executives in our industry, and I'm confident Rick will play an important role on our new promotion team."



Rick Bisceglia

Bisceglia joined Arista in 1981 as A/C National Promotion Manager and was promoted to the A/C Director's chair last spring. Prior to Arista, he spent a year handling national secondary promotion for Ariola Records following three years at WXLO/New York (now WRKS). Bisceglia told R&R, "I'm thrilled to be working with a leader as energetic as Don Jenner. My plan is to help maintain Arista's successful headline artists while looking forward to breaking new acts."

WMJQ Switches To CHR Approach

AOR-formatted WMJQ/Rochester converted to a CHR approach Sunday (9-4). The five-year AOR is retaining its call letters, but is calling itself Q92. PD/MD Dave Luczak stays on, as does the present staff, with Don Michael Gerard coming aboard for mornings from KOGO/San Diego.

Luczak told R&R, "All summer long we've been making a slow transition in this direction, adding a lot of tunes that lean CHR. We had increased listenership over the past few months, so we decided to go into it whole hog. We feel real positive about

it, and listener reaction is overwhelmingly positive, which is surprising. That's attributable to the fact that we got the audience to this point slowly but surely." Luczak also expressed confidence that Q92 could beat existing CHR competitors WPXY and WHFM.

The station made a rather unusual transition to the new format, running a continuous loop cart announcing "big news" at noon for five hours Sunday morning before finally explaining the change and playing "1999" by Prince.

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 Washington Bureau: 818 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20006, (202) 496-4990
 Vice President: JONATHAN HALL
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 Sales Representative: VIVIAN FUNN
 Office Manager: CHERYL SOMERS
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 Nashville Bureau: 1610 18th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212, (615) 292-8982, 292-8983
 Bureau Chief: SHARON ALLEN
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