

## Symonds Adds WPXY/ Rochester OM Duties

### □ Danger ahead for PD post at Cox's CHR/Pop

Dave Symonds, who serves as PD for Infinity Broadcasting's AC WRMM-FM/Rochester, NY, has added OM duties for CHR/Pop sister WPXY-FM. Concurrently, WPXY Asst. PD/MD Mike Danger — who recently acquired the role of interim PD — has officially been named WPXY's PD. Both take on responsibilities previously held by Clarke Ingram, who left the company earlier this year and became PD for WJZZ/Pittsburgh last month (R&R 9/3).

"Over the last two months Dave has worked closely with Mike on refocusing WPXY, as well as developing our fall marketing campaigns," said GM Kevin LeGrett, to whom both report. "Dave's proven leadership, passion for the CHR format and ability to work with on-air talent will be a major resource for the station.

"Mike's musical ear, passion and dedication will provide '98 PXY' with the focus and leadership it needs



*It's All About Tracie*

Capitol artist Tracie Spencer celebrates her gold single "It's All About You (Not About Me)." Sharing in Spencer's Midas touch are Capitol VP/R&B Promotion Unice Rice (l) and David Linton, Capitol's Sr. VP/R&B Promotion and Marketing.

as we move into the new millennium. He joined the station in 1997 and has been an invaluable part of the station. Whether anchoring WPXY's nighttime shift or working as the MD or APD, Mike has been tremendously successful. Mike's programming skills and music industry relationships have always been a major asset for 'PXY. Now being able to tap into his vision and leadership will be

even more valuable for the station." LeGrett added that Danger will retain his noon-2pm airshift and will commence the search for a new APD/MD.

In other station news, WPXY has retained Bill Richards & Associates as its consultancy. The company will work closely with Symonds and Danger in all programming and music-related capacities.

## UPDATE

### Brake Becomes Dir./Communications For AMFM

Kristi Brake has been appointed Director/Communications for AMFM Inc., effective Nov. 1. Based in Chicago, Brake will serve as the liaison between AMFM's corporate staff and station employees. She will also contribute to a communications team that includes AMFM Radio President/CEO Jim de Castro and VP/Marketing Beverly Tilden, as well as outside public relations and advertising firms.

"As AMFM continues to grow, so does the importance — and challenge — of keeping our 12,800 employees informed," de Castro commented. "I'm counting on Kristi to make that happen. She has the energy and experience we need."

Brake joined AMFM from eNashville, a country music/lifestyle website start-up, where she served as Director/Editorial Content. Prior to that she was Sr. Manager/Marketing at Mercury/Nashville. Before spending time at Capitol/Nashville and Asylum Records, Brake was an Associate Editor at R&R.

### Winstar Buys SFX's Syndicated Prep Services

Winstar Radio Networks has purchased SFX Radio Network's syndicated prep services for an undisclosed price. Winstar already produces and distributes Sports and Urban programming, while its Global Media division serves as a syndicated radio ad sales group. Now it will establish "Winstar Radio Services" through its acquisition of SFX's radio prep services, which serve more than 500 affiliates and include daily faxes, e-mails and satellite transmissions that target Rock, Urban, Country and "youth" formats.

"Adding this service to our business is a key component of Winstar Radio Networks' overall growth in the radio industry and enhances Winstar Radio Networks' overall plans for syndication in the Internet environment," said Winstar President Michael Ewing.

SFX's parent company, SFX Entertainment, has focused mostly on concert promotion/production and venue operation since Robert Sillerman sold SFX Broadcasting's radio stations to Capstar in 1997.

### Cox/Tampa Trio Taps Tuuri As New VP/GM

WDUV-FM & WWRM/Tampa GSM Howard Tuuri has been elevated to VP/GM of the Easy Listening-AC combo, as well as Cox Oldies sister WFJO-FM. He succeeds Jim Prain, who leaves to start his own online sales training business.

"I'm very excited about having Howard aboard as GM," remarked Cox Group VP Rich Reis. "His success as WWRM GSM will be a great springboard for him to succeed in his new position. He and the VP/GM of our other four Cox/Tampa properties, Jay O'Connor, have already become great working partners in this important market."

Tuuri joined Cox/Tampa in 1994 as WSUN-AM, WCOF-FM & WWRM's Sales Manager. He became WWRM's GSM four years ago.

### NAC/SJ Returns To Albany On WZMR

Two weeks after Clear Channel's decision to discontinue the heritage NAC/Smooth Jazz programming on crosstown WHRL-FM, Albany Broadcasting's WZMR-FM/Albany-Schenectady-Troy has flipped from Pop/Alternative to NAC/Smooth Jazz. The new format debuted Monday under Director/Programming Pat Ryan, who will remain with the station in his present capacity.

Ryan told R&R the company's decision to adopt the NAC/Smooth Jazz format discarded by its crosstown rival was a simple one. "The public outcry in the two-week period when the Jazz station was off the air was tremendous. Every day a letter to the editor would appear in any of the region's daily newspapers. We signed on at 6am Monday, [10/18] and at 6:30am aired our first 'we're here' promo. We put my direct line on the air for listener comments, and the phone hasn't stopped ringing yet. We logged over 150 calls in the first 24 hours, and every call has been returned. It's amazing that they took WHRL off the air. Thank you, Clear Channel!"

Albany Broadcasting VP/Programming Michael Morgan added, "The opportunity knocked, and we were more than glad to jump into the format. It seems Clear Channel has all of the rock pie in the market, so we'll let them take that, and we'll use this as a good complement for our Urban, Soft AC, News and heritage CHR/Pop stations."

Although Ryan has a Rock programming background, he does have some experience in Jazz and began his radio career as the host of crosstown WQBK's former *Horizon* program. He went on to become PD of WKLL/Utica-Rome, NY and WBEC-AM & FM/Pittsfield, MA. Ryan is presently assembling an airstaff, which he hopes to debut on Monday (10/25), and is still building a music library. A forthcoming website will also feature audio streaming.

WZMR airs on 104.9 MHz and recently moved its tower into the metropolitan area from Johnstown, NY. The station will also receive a call letter change: Ryan would not state if the station would seek the WHRL calls.

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