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Volume 1, Issue III



News and Information about Buffalo Broadcasting

RF Newsletter

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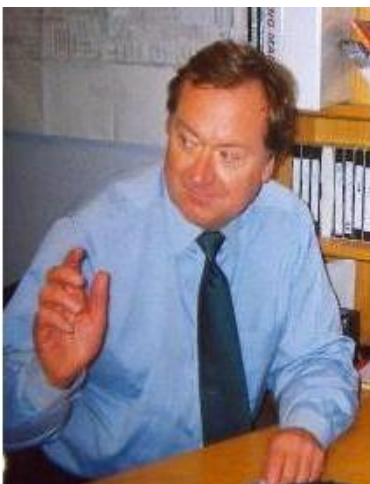
Our Biggest Event of the Year

It's the signature event of the year for the Buffalo Broadcasters Association. It's the 12th annual Buffalo Broadcasting Hall of Fame induction, Tuesday, September 23rd, 5:30pm, at the WNED TV studios. See the article inside for more .

Also in this edition of the newsletter, we'll recognize some award winning work by television and radio journalists in Buffalo. J.R. Reid shares some memories of the old WINE and the birth of WYSL AM & FM. We'll have details of a bill signed by Governor David Paterson that eliminates the non-compete clause in our industry. Plus, we'll have our regular features — Comings and Goings and Industry News.



Remember, to make sure your station's news is included in our newsletter, you need to send any news releases — or simply a note — to me at mscott@wbfo.org.



Remembering Tim Russert

It was a Friday afternoon in mid-June when the stunning news arrived in our newsrooms — Buffalo native and "Meet the Press" host Tim Russert had died at the NBC studios in Washington from a heart attack. Much has been written and said about Tim. Suffice it to say that he set a high standard for journalistic integrity and fairness.

The Buffalo Broadcasters Association is memorializing Tim with a special scholarship to a deserving college student who is embarking on a career in journalism. The Hall of Fame article inside has details on the first recipient.



Industry News

The Arbitron radio ratings, 12+, for the Buffalo market in Spring 2008 finds WYRK in the top spot with an 11.8 share, followed by WBEN at 10.2. Also in the top ten are WGRF, 7.5, WBLK, 6.6, WJYE, 6.3, WHTT and WKSE, 5.4, WTSS, 4.5, WEDG 4.4 and WBUF, 3.7. Here are additional ratings, including a newsletter exclusive look at public station ratings. WGR ranked 11th in the spring book with a 2.4, followed by CKEY, 2.2, WLKK and WNED-FM, 2.1, WBFO, 2.0, CHWO, 1.8, CHTZ, 1.3, WWWS, 1.2, WNED-AM, 1.0, WDCX and WXRL, .9, WWKB, .8, CILQ, WHLD, WLVL and WUFO, .6 and WBBF and WECK, .4.

WIVB's News 4 won every newscast in the July sweeps. WGRZ's Channel 2 News earned second place, coming closest to Channel 4 at 11pm at just one rating point behind. WKBW's 7 News was in third place in the local news ratings.

WEDG has dropped syndicated "Opie and Anthony" from its morning drive line-up. Rich Genzler, known as the Bull, has taken over. Genzler is part of the announcing team for Buffalo Bills Radio broadcasts on WGRF. Shredd and Ragan, who were moved to afternoons when WEDG opted for Opie and Anthony, will continue to be heard at 3pm where they have enjoyed ratings success.

Comings and Goings

Ellen Crooke is leaving as news director of Channel 2 News this month. She has accepted the same position at another Gannett-owned station, WXIA Television in Atlanta.

Maria Genero, host of Channel 2's "WNY Living," is leaving the show, effective September 27th. She will be succeeded by Janet Snyder, WKSE Radio morning host and the former co-host of the short-lived "Your Today in WNY."

Jack Armstrong, the former coach of the Niagara University basketball team, is co-hosting a daily sports show on Toronto radio's "The Fan" 590 from 2 to 4pm.

Jim Brinson, who spent part of this summer as a part-time talk show host on WGR, has left to take a television job in Yuma, Arizona.

Channel 4's Paul Peck and former Bills Kicker Steve Christie are handling play-by-play and color duties respectively for University at Buffalo Bulls football broadcasts on WECK. WGR's Howard Simon is doing play-by-play for Bulls telecasts on Time Warner 13.

And Bill Prendergast, a nationally-recognized contract engineer, has been named director of engineering for Entercom's Buffalo cluster.

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Buffalo Broadcasting Legends To Be Enshrined in Hall of Fame

By Steve Reszka and Don Angelo

For the 12th year the Buffalo Broadcasters Association (BBA) will induct Western New York legends into the Buffalo Broadcasting Hall of Fame. It is a diverse class that features a number of firsts for the Hall of Fame as an ordained priest, blind broadcaster and a former Miami Dolphins player will be enshrined.

ESPN Football Analyst Ron Jaworski heads this year's class along with former WGRZ-TV weatherman Barry Lillis, radio news/sportscaster Art Wander, WKBW-TV Program Director John Disciullo, broadcast engineer Bill Stachowiak and sportscasting pioneer Roger Baker. Please see our June newsletter at the Buffalo Broadcasters Association websites for brief biographies of this year's inductees.

WIVB weatherman Don Paul and WTSS host Sue O'Neil will serve as masters of ceremony.

In addition to the inductions, the BBA is announcing the creation of the Tim Russert Medal of Merit, which will be awarded to a journalism student from one of Western New York's colleges at the Hall of Fame ceremony. The first recipient of the Russert Award is Amanda Hartman, a recent graduate of Brockport State College. Amanda is entering the Masters program in journalism at the Newhouse School at Syracuse University this fall.

"I feel that Amanda has much in common with the ideals that Tim Russert has set before us," said Lois Ringle, a Hall of Fame Buffalo broadcaster and member of the BBA's board of directors. "Amanda has not only pushed herself to do exemplary work, she also mentored her fellow students, creating workshops to teach other students how to write stories, shoot, edit and create graphics."

Amanda will receive the Russert Award along with a \$1,000 scholarship courtesy of the Wardynski family of Buffalo.

Another highlight of the Hall of Fame ceremony will be recognition of WKBW-Television, Channel 7, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2008. The station is planning an employee reunion on Hall of Fame evening.

The Buffalo Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held Tuesday, September 23rd, at the studios of WNED-TV in Buffalo. Cocktails and dinner begin at 5:30pm. The ceremony starts at 7pm. Tickets, \$40 for BBA members and \$50 for the general public, are available at 716-873-2233.



Amanda Hartman

And the Envelope Please...

By Mark Scott

Each broadcast news department in Buffalo radio and television was recognized for journalistic excellence in recent months.

Buffalo radio and TV was well represented at the New York State Associated



(Left to Right): Matt Pearl, Leah Militello, Steve Schnepf, Barbara Burns, Jim Ranney and Mark Scott

Press Broadcasters Association awards banquet held in Saratoga Springs in early June. In the radio competition, WBFO won more awards than any other station in its division, which consists of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Albany-Schenectady. WBFO received seven awards, including three first place citations. WBFO Assistant News Director Eileen Buckley was part of a first place tie for best interview for a conversation she had with the Capozzi family, following word of their son Anthony's release from prison after he served more than 20 years on a wrongful rape conviction. WBFO News and Cultural Affairs Reporter Joyce Kryszak received a first place award in the best feature category for an in-depth report on a Buffalo program where recent college graduates live together and volunteer their time on community projects. And WBFO News received a first place award for best news special for a one hour conversation with NPR's Dina Temple-Raston on her investigative book on the Lackawanna Six.

Winning six awards, including three first place, was WBEN. The NYSAPBA honored Senior Reporter Barbara Burns with its Art Athens Award for General Excellence of Individual reporting. Barbara also received a first place award in the best sports coverage category for her Sabres Profiles. Barbara, and her newsroom colleagues, Steve Cichon, Dave Debo, Tom Puckett and Steve Schnepf, were honored with a first place award for continuing news coverage for the station's reporting on the Kevin Everett injury.

WNED-AM won two awards, including the other first place award given in the best interview category. News Director Jim Ranney was honored for his interview titled "Corporal Dunham: War Hero."

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And the Envelope Please, Continued

On the TV side, WGRZ's Channel 2 News won three first place awards and a total of five overall in the 2007 NYSAPBA competition. The WGRZ staff, including Scott Brown, Chris Gallant and Andy Desantis, received a first place award for best news special/documentary for "They Made a Mistake," a documentary on the wrongful conviction of Anthony Capozzi. Channel 2 Reporter Matt Pearl won a first place award in the best feature category for "Two Families, One Heart." Matt was also honored with a first place best sports coverage award for "A Swimmer's Passion."

WIVB's News 4 won four awards, including two first place citations. Senior correspondent Rich Newberg was honored with a first place for best interview for his interview with Lynn DeJac. And the News 4 staff received a first place award for best continuing coverage for its overall reporting of the Lynn DeJac case.

WKBW's 7 News received a special mention in the NYSAPBA competition.

But the honors don't stop there!

WIVB's News 4 team of Newberg, chief photojournalist Mike Mombrea, photojournalist Dave Hutchinson and ENG truck operator Mike Micoli received the prestigious Sigma Delta Chi Award in the category "Breaking News in Television Journalism for 2007." The team was recognized for its coverage of the release of Lynn DeJac from prison after she served 14 years for a murder she didn't commit.

The judges in this national competition said: "Excellent coverage. Good use of visuals. Very effective, compelling account."

WBFO received an award in the only national competition for public radio journalism sponsored by Public Radio News Directors, Inc. The first place award, called the PRNDI (prin'-dee), was given to WBFO in the best talk show category for its conversation with Dina Temple-Raston about her book on the Lackawanna Six, "The Jihad Next Door."

And two Entercom radio stations are finalists for the prestigious Marconi Awards sponsored by the National Association of Broadcasters. WBEN is the running for best news/talk station of the year. WGR is competing for best sports station of the year. The award winners will be announced at the NAB's annual banquet in Austin, Texas on September 18th.

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The Birth of WYSL AM-FM

By JR Reid

There I was...my first night on the air on WYSL AM & FM. It was a Sunday night at the 13 South Cayuga Street, Williamsville, studios — a place I had actually hung out at for years ever since WINE moved from its studios on Niagara Falls Blvd. in Amherst. It was the place where I had gained my interest in radio broadcasting. I remember I was about 12 years old and from my bedroom window on Brighton Road in the Town of Tonawanda, I could see the tower lights of the station less than a mile away. One day I decided to satisfy my curiosity and over to the station I went. I remember being invited in by this gorgeous woman whom I later discovered was "Poopsie" on the radio. The lovely Miss Lee Howe was to become this teenager's secret love for many years to come, and she was also partially responsible for me getting hired later at 1080 & 103.3.

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I remember meeting Phil "Hernando" Todaro, Jim Fagen, Roger "Ochichella" Christian, Brad Steiger (the program director), Dick Spaulding and so many more. All of my spare time was spent at the station just watching, learning, and thinking how great it would be to someday be sitting behind that microphone. After school and on weekends, that's all I would do with every minute of spare time I had. And I'm sure those working at the station soon became tired of seeing the kid hanging around again! But no one ever told me to leave. Everyone was more than accommodating and courteous. Some weekends I would be asked to help sweep up around the studios and help remove some of the garbage, and I would dispose of much of the trash out to the back. This was before the open burning prohibitions and there was a big 55 gallon barrel where the burning took place. And oh, what I would find in that garbage — old ET's (electrical transcriptions) which, before carts, were used to record commercials and promos for playback, plus old promo 45s, advertising materials and copies of music logs.

When I wasn't hanging around the WINE studios, I had built my own studio in the basement, with the help of my father (who later probably wished he hadn't helped after he heard some of the music I was playing — the music of my time — Rock and Roll). I would practice for hours doing my "show" and trying to emulate all of my favorite on-air personalities. And then came the record hops. Several other local kids also had an interest in radio and music, so we decided we would form the WINE Jr.'s (as long as it was alright with the station) and we started to do record hops around the area under the station's moniker.

There was even a strip mall plaza a short distance away that had a "mom and pop" five and dime store — Jones'Variety — and Mr Jones would invite us to actually do remotes from the front of his store. These "remotes" traveled the distance the loudspeakers would take us! The devastation happened when the WINE studios moved to 13 South Cayuga Street in Williamsville — 10 miles from home. That's where my bicycle, walking and even hitch-hiking skills came



The Birth of WYSL AM-FM, Continued

into play. The distance would not keep me from my goals. And there came my great association with George "Hound Dog" Lorenz. Just about every Saturday I would make the trip to Williamsville, knock on the door and became the telephone answerer, errand runner and awestruck observer of the Grandfather of Rock and Roll "The Hound." That opportunity to watch and learn from Mr. Lorenz proved to be a learning experience that I could never put a price on and could never earn enough to ever repay. A separate article would be necessary to truly do justice to my association with the Hound Dog! And then another devastation — Gordon McLendon would buy WINE and change the calls and format to — BEAUTIFUL MUSIC. NOOOOOO! WYSL AM and FM was born, with Dick Harmon, J. Tyler Dunn, Roger Baker, Rick Bennett, Jack Wydra and so many others. And the ever lovely Lee Howe as well. I kept my association with the station, and when I finally turned 16, I was offered a part-time weekend job to work on Sunday nights from 6 to midnight.

We had the Schaffer Automation System — ten Ampex play back decks each with 10 1/2 inch reels of tape. Temperature updates and brief weather forecasts were recorded by the board operator and placed on a McKenzie cart to be cycled into the format. And on the half hour I would have to pause the automation and live read three news headlines ripped from the teletype wire, along with a brief weather capsule and the present temperature. I would have to sign off the AM (that was sunrise to sunset — or as the Hound used to say we would "run down at sun down") and continue with the FM until midnight, then sign off the FM and prepare all of the tapes on the machines for Monday morning sign on.

My first night, everything went well right up to sign off! Now, to rewind the Shaffer Automation system and get it ready for the morning. Picture 10 Ampexes rewinding on six racks all at the same time. All put away and all the morning sign-on tapes cued and ready to roll. Great. I'm out of here! All of a sudden "Good Morning" blasted from the speakers as the automation mysteriously came alive all by itself and I couldn't shut the damn thing off!!!! After about an hour of trial and error, I discovered what I needed to do to remedy the situation, and I was on my way home-my first day of broadcasting under my belt.

Later during my Sunday night broadcasts, I remember mispronouncing a word in the newscast, then said it correctly after saying "I'm sorry." The studio door opened when I had finished. This older man whom I had never seen before and was there doing some engineering duties told me in a very announcer-like voice to never, ever apologize if I made a mistake on the air like that — always say "rather" or "or" but never say you're sorry. I was later to discover that man was Gordon McLendon himself! And I never forgot his message.

Just about every Saturday I would make the trip to Williamsville, knock on the door and became the telephone answerer, errand runner and awestruck observer of the Grandfather of Rock and Roll "The Hound."

Governor Paterson Signs Bill Eliminating Non-Compete Clause

By Mark Scott

Radio and television broadcasters in New York will no longer have to wait to get another job.

Governor David Paterson has signed a bill that bans a common contract provision known as the non-compete clause. It prohibited radio and TV station employees from taking jobs with competitors in the same market during a set period of time.

Buffalo Broadcasters

Association

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Williamsville, NY 14221

“Broadcasters, like other members of the media, play an important role in our democracy by providing the public with critical news and analysis that help us shape the ongoing discourse about the future of our society,” Paterson said. “The contract provisions we’re banning placed an unfair burden of these professionals by limiting their ability to move to other employers within the same market or within a certain time period.

“With the approval of this bill, we hope to empower broadcasters with greater independence as they pursue employment options.”

The new law was welcomed by the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. According to a statement on the union’s website, “these non-compete provisions (were) fundamentally unfair to broadcast employees and (did) not serve any legitimate employer interest.”

The law firm of Proskauer Rose LLC released a report obtained by “Broadcasting and Cable” magazine, suggests the new law means “less leverage” for employers. An attorney for the firm says both employers and employees will need to educate themselves on the intricacies of the new legislation.

We're on the
web...www.Buffalobroadcasters.com

In Memoriam...

Tim Russert, NBC News, member Buffalo Broadcasting Hall of Fame, June 2008

Carrol Walter, WIVB and WNLO Television, June 2008

Ron Hunter, formerly of WGRZ Television, June 2008

John Krieger, formerly of WIVB Television, July 2008

Paul Norton, formerly of WKBW Television, August 2008