

# Fine tuning those 'drive time' disc jockeys



Star Photo by Steve Schluter

Among the morning radio fare is disc jockey Chris Edmonds of KDWB

(Bream, from Page 1B)

Station's syndicated news reports tend to contribute too many extra voices that distract from the identities of Huston and Berglund.

The strongest aspect about WLOL's morning show is that you're likely to pay attention to the music because the station plays several songs you won't be familiar with if you listen to its chief competitors, KSTP-FM and WCCO-FM.

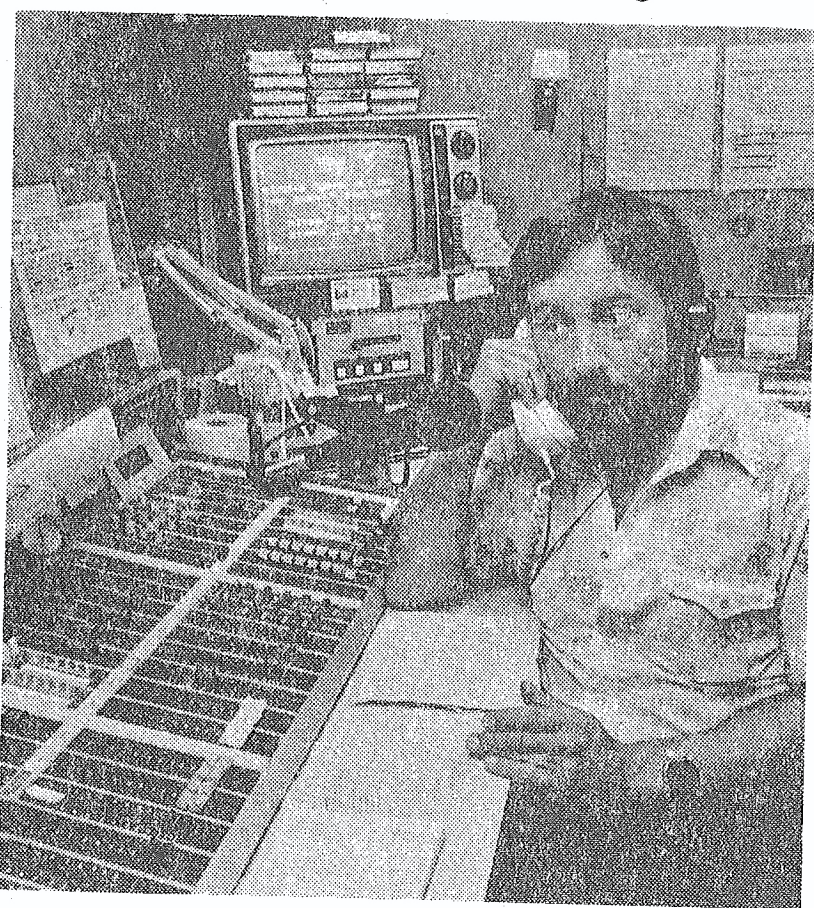
I didn't get much of an opportunity to evaluate Carl Lensgraf and Tim Russell's "Rude Awakening" show on WCCO-FM (102.9). Perhaps inspired by WCCO-AM's Steve Cannon, both disc jockeys specialize in characters like love-lorn adviser Ann Panders and rock critic Speedo Zolotone. However, when I tuned in recently I heard mostly long-winded weather and news reports and low-key music (James Taylor, Rupert Holmes, Seals & Crofts, Marty Balin—the Oak Ridge Boys' "Elvira" was the most energetic song I heard).

It seemed as if the weather and news reporters had higher profiles than Russell and Lensgraf, who have those great, golden voices that have been a trademark at WCCO FM and AM. In fact, often a half-hour would pass without the disc jockeys identifying themselves or their stations. (By contrast, the duos on KSTP and WLOL announce their names and station call letters about every five minutes.) Furthermore, Lensgraf and Russell have the good sense not to talk during the beginning of songs.

All told, though, WCCO-FM's morning drive show seemed more like a snore than a rude awakening.

If you want loud music to rustle you out from under the covers, tune in either KQRS-AM-FM (1440, 92.5) or KDWB-FM (101.3). Both stations play a similar-sounding mixture of good (Rolling Stones, Bruce Springsteen, The Who, Bob Seger) and bad rock (Rush, Styx and REO Speedwagon).

The best thing about KQ's morning show is the name: "The Yawn Patrol." The worst thing about it is disc jockey Lynn Wells. She has the most unnatural sounding voice I've heard on Twin Cities radio. She sounds so artificially up that she's perfect for reading those constant self-promotion announcements ("29 minutes of commercial-free rock," "classic rock for you," "coming up a double shot of Steely Dan") that KQ disc jockeys are re-



Star Photo by Jack Gillis

## Michael J. Douglas teams up with Chuck Knapp

quired to read. Moreover, she and Bo Roberts just sound uncomfortable together.

Without her, he'd probably make a more appealing morning disc jockey.

I promise you Chris Edmonds on KDWB-FM will get you out of bed in a hurry. If only to get up and turn off your clock radio.

Edmonds calls his show "Morning Sickness." It's an appropriate pun since his program will remind you of "Saturday Night Live" in the a.m. His is often the most tasteless and most adventurous show on local radio (too bad the choice of music isn't as creative and adventurous).

Edmonds offers a "Bad Joke of the Day" feature plus "Cheap, Trashy Show Biz News" and twice hourly "News, Weathers, Sports and Commentary from Around the World and Your Block Into Your Face."

He'll typically read a straightforward news item, make a snide comment and then you'll hear the crash of a cymbal. The other day he was talking about President

Reagan getting a cool reception at a speech. "Yeah," Edmonds interjected, "someone dumped a bag of ice down his pants."

On Monday, Edmonds pointed out how 149 years ago that day an explorer had discovered the source of the Mississippi River. Opined the disc jockey: "It's not hard to find an overflowing septic tank in Bemidji."

I turned off the radio, picked up the phone and called my boss to welcome her back.

**POP MUSINGS:** Kim Carnes will perform at the Guthrie Theater Aug. 16. Juice Newton will sing there Sept. 13. . . . Sue Ann Carwell gave a brief but encouraging performance last week at 7th Street Entry at Sam's. Steve Greenberg of Lipps, Inc., stopped by and so did Prince and members of his band. Prince said he would like to write songs for Carwell, who is scheduled to go to Italy this month to lip-sync "Let Me Let You Rock Me" on Italy's equivalent of NBC-TV. The single is hot in Europe and rates No. 81 on Billboard's U.S. soul chart.