



Ernie Freeberg



Joan Muldoon

Photos by Tom Gribbin

## WMPG Returns to the Air Waves

by Mark Higgins

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And so, WMPG has now got 50 watts. About time. But what's it going to be, Ernie?

College radio has more freedom than any other media at this time, and its commercial potential is ever increasing. But, more importantly, it is a taste-maker, willing to break new and controversial bands, and can afford to thumb their noses at those robot "hip" (hep?) stations. (Recognize yourself here, BLM?)

I am totally in favor of staffing WMPG with 19-year-old psychotics from Presque Isle, people whose tastes run to equal parts of UB40, Third World Fear, and Myron Florin and his Harmonica Gestapo. When I tune in, I want to hear new songs, I want to be offended, amused, disgusted, but mostly affected. Clearly this can only be accomplished by rabid freshmen DJ's from the "come and get me" school of FCC compliance.

Better give the listeners what they want, Ernie baby. Hell, they're our airwaves too. Do you really want to become some ugly BLM clone? I hope not. Those suckers have become so slick they coat themselves with Crisco before they go on the air.

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by J.M.A. Hauser

After months of false starts, staff reorganization and general high anxiety, USM's student-run radio station, WMPG 90.9, returned to the airwaves Sunday.

As the on-air moment approached, a sense of nervousness mixed with optimism was apparent. The irreplaceable Joan Muldoon, last year's station manager, hosted the first segment of Sunday's show. Despite spinning records, adjusting dials, reading meters and answering phone calls from friends and listeners, she appeared exuberant and unflappable.

Several minutes into the broadcast, the station received its first call from a listener. Roy Ouellette, chief technician for MPBN, who donated much of his time over the summer to prepare the station for broadcast, was standing in the studio as Muldoon took the call. With a look of mock horror, he said, "I thought for a minute he said it sounds good on his TV."

Station manager Ernie Freeberg, hired by the student senate to upgrade

the often uneven presentation of the station, says WMPG will begin broadcasting at 25 watts. He plans to increase power 5 watts a week until they reach 50 watts. "It all depends on what kind of interference problems we run into in the next few days. We're not anticipating any. If that's the case, we may go a little more quickly."

The station conducted tests in recent weeks to check for interference. There were no problems. If problems do arise, the station would have to provide filters for residents experiencing interference. The cost for a filter is less than \$5.

Don Connors, WMPG technician, says he and Ouellette rebuilt the station's 25-year-old transmitter this summer. This week will be the first time the rebuilt transmitter has been used for more than three consecutive hours, but neither Connors nor Ouellette anticipate problems.

Freeberg plans to broadcast a wide range of programming, including reggae, progressive rock 'n' roll, jazz, and classical music, as well as educational programming.