

Turn Your Radio On for Radio Turn-ons

In the old days of the early 1980s, about the only progressive radio programming in Maine was a few widely spaced programs on Maine Public Radio. But no more. Programs that are considered public service and even politically and socially progressive are beginning to appear not only on other non-commercial stations but occasionally even on commercial ones.

The Maine Progressive has not done an extensive survey of such programs, but here are a few listings in different parts of Maine recommended for your listening enjoyment:

WMPG in Portland-Gorham is proud of its "eighteen years of daring to be different," and it would like to be different to a larger audience with a hoped-for power increase to 1,000 watts. The station (90.9 FM) continues to offer an eclectic mixture of music and public affairs programs.

"Afro-Jazzy" (9-11 AM on Thursdays), "Hip Shake" (blues, 9:30-midnight on Thursdays), "Proud Voices" (Jewish/Israeli, 9-11 AM on Tuesdays), "Textures" (world music, 1-3 PM on Tuesdays), "Womyn's Music and Comedy Festival" (noon-3 PM on Sundays), and South African news and music (6-7 PM on Saturdays) are a few of the many unique music programs. Listeners can also enjoy Pacifica News (8:30-9 AM on Mondays and 5:30-6 PM on Tuesdays), the Great Atlantic Radio Conspiracy (11-11:30 AM on Saturdays), the Cambodian Hour (9-11 AM on Saturdays), and "Sparks from the Trolley" (music and culture of the USSR, 7-8 PM on Mondays).

For a program schedule, call 780-5415 or write WMPG, 38 College Ave., Gorham 04038. If you have an idea for a program or are an aspiring DJ, they would like to hear from you too.

WMHB (90.5 FM) is a college station counterpart at Colby College in Waterville. Like the Portland-Gorham station, WMHB is a mix of musical styles and college-community hosts. Jazz (11 AM-2 PM) and Reggae (6-10 PM) on Mondays, New Age (2-6 PM) on Saturdays, and blues (6-10 PM) on Sundays are a few feature attractions. Call 872-8037 for a complete schedule.

The Astrological Forecast, with Annanur Spencer, is heard each weekday at 6:20 AM on WMCM (93.5 FM) in Rockland.

As mentioned last month, Salt Pond Community Broadcasting and its station WERU (89.9 FM) will soon be on the air. If you are interested in a schedule or can help out the station in any way, contact WERU, 2 Newworld Plaza, S. Blue Hill 04615, 374-2489.

Carl Solander's "Alternate Takes" on WALZ (95.3 FM) and WMCS (1400 AM) in Machias from noon to 6 PM on Sundays continues to offer an amazing variety of music, poetry, storytelling, and many other undiscovered talents in or near Washington County. Native American music and stories will be featured on the April 17 program, beginning at 2 PM. The station also features some other unusual programming. Call 255-8321 for a complete listing.

Finally, here's a program that is not being broadcast but perhaps should be. "insideOUT" is the "international gay and lesbian radio magazine," now available free to public radio stations through the National Public Satellite Radio Network. MPBN could carry it, according to Northern Lambda Nord, PO Box 990, Caribou 04736, 498-2088 (gay-lesbian phonenumber). They recommend a card or phone call to program director Les Myers, 65 Texas Ave., Bangor 04401, 941-1010.