

Campus radio looking for voices to fill the airwaves

By Ed Carson
Oregon Daily Emerald

The sun is shining, school is out, so there's no better time than now to be cooped up in a tiny office without windows.

Now that campus radio, KWVA 88.1 FM, is finally on the air, there are a number of positions open for students interested in radio broadcasting. KWVA is looking for 20 disc jockeys and three format directors.

Of course, a student can't walk in on Monday and expect to go on the air Tuesday. Becoming a disc jockey is hard work, and no one is guaranteed air time.

"Not everyone is made to be on the air," said KWVA Programming Director Jon Thomas.

Interested students must attend weekly DJ meetings every Tuesday night at 7. Prospective DJs have to be trained how to use the equipment. They must sit in on other DJs' shows and produce a demo tape before they can go on the air.

If and when new DJs are judged ready, they are put in the late night show from midnight

'I want to be in broadcasting. This is definitely a step toward a career.'

— Chandra Foote,
KWVA assistant general manager

to 2 a.m.

DJs at KWVA say all the effort is definitely worthwhile. "The Screamer," DJ for the heavy metal show every Wednesday from 9 to 12 p.m., said he "wouldn't trade being a DJ for anything in the world — except for maybe a job at a record company."

Format directors don't sit behind the microphone, but they do decide which songs will be played. They specialize in a particular style of music, such as rap or hard rock, and are supposed to be the foremost authorities in that genre.

When new compact disks arrive at the radio station, they are given to the appropriate format director. The director reviews the CDs and rates each song. The best tracks go on the "A" list. Because DJs are required to play a minimum number of "A" songs, the format directors have a big influence on

what is played.

KWVA Music Director Steve Woodward, who supervises the format directors, says students should have a good working knowledge of the style of music they're applying for. KWVA needs students who are well versed in R & B, New Age or Jazz.

Students who apply during the summer will have a three-month advantage over others who apply in the fall, Thomas said.

Working at a college radio station can also provide hands-on experience for a future career in radio broadcasting.

"I want to be in broadcasting. This is definitely a step toward a career," said KWVA Assistant General Manager Chandra Foote, who also does the morning show weekdays from 7 to 10 p.m.

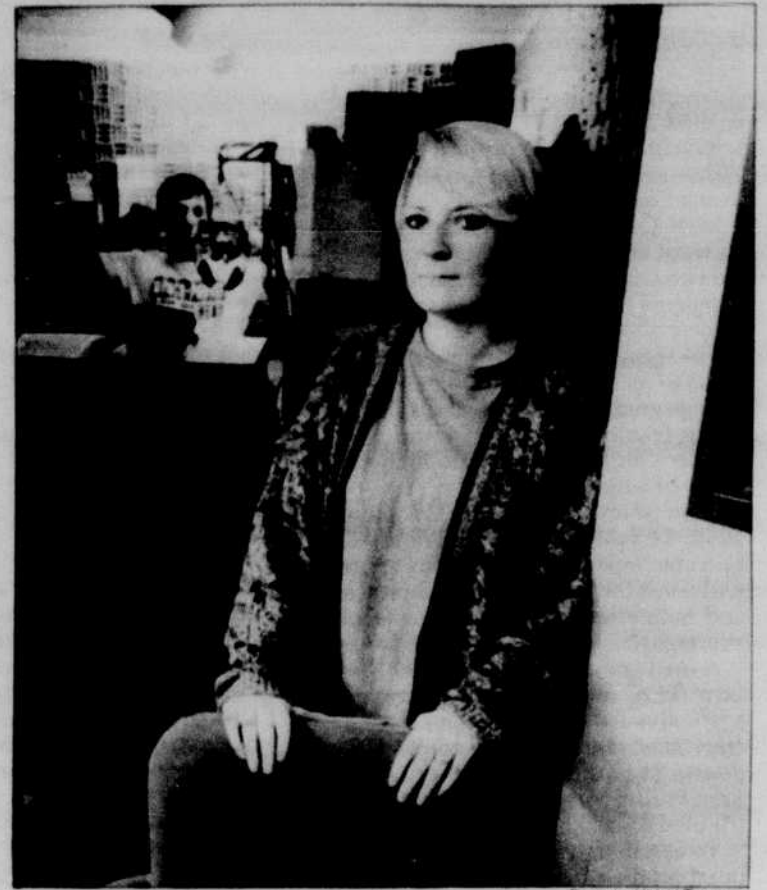


Photo by Hideki Tomeoka
KWVA General Manager (and punk music director) Alyssa Jensen is looking for more DJs to take the controls of the new FM station.

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