

Music industry warms up to Internet ideas

By Jon Healey and P.J. Huffstutter
Los Angeles Times

Online jukeboxes providing thousands of songs on demand to subscribers. Internet radio stations that let users buy and download the songs they hear. Online music storage vaults that let users supply songs to their friends.

These are some of the services made possible by a spate of deals announced this week between the ma-

ior record labels and online entertainment and technology companies. The brief flurry suggests that the music industry's acrimonious relationship with the Internet is finally warming.

Insiders say the change stems from a mix of forces, including pressure from Congress and key court rulings that could sideline a formidable competitor.

Still, they caution that there's a gulf between an announcement and a real

service, just as there's a gap between what the labels are willing to do and what the public really wants.

"My sense is, it's still more about talking than about doing," said Bill Koenig of Cantamatrix, a company that helps protect copyrighted material online.

Nor is it enough just to win the labels' backing. Several online music services licensed by the labels have been hampered or derailed by other problems, including money short-

ages, shifting business models and troubles with the music publishers.

The five major label groups all have dipped their toes into the online music market, offering a small percentage of their songs for downloading. But before this week, they'd turned down virtually all proposals for distributing music in new ways through the Net.

Of the deals announced this week, the one closest to reality is a new set of Net radio stations from MTVi, the

online arm of Viacom's MTV, which are expected to be fully functional by the end of April.

These stations — grouped under the banners Radio MTV.com and VH1atWork Radio — enable listeners to buy downloadable versions of selected songs or CDs as they're playing. The supplier of the downloads is RioPort.com Inc., which spent several months winning distribution rights to songs from all five major-label groups.

Injuries

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"People are much more likely to get injuries of any kind when they're drinking," he said. "It's an epidemic problem with alcohol."

Young said that while he treats both men and women, men need treatment more frequently.

"Males are more often in a situation where they aren't in control of themselves," he said. "They think they're invincible."

Young said one of the most severe injuries he ever treated was a man who had been in a drunken fight at a party that ended in a riot. He said the student's neck was slashed with a broken bottle.

"The wound went down to his jugular vein," he said. "He could have been killed."

Dr. Paula Ciesielski, staff physician at the University Health Center, said she has treated students who have punched holes in walls and sprained their ankles. While

she said some of these injuries were probably the result of too much alcohol, she said she does not ask her patients outright if they were drinking, so as not to offend those who do not drink.

However, she said students who drink are more likely to hurt themselves because their judgment is impaired.

"Sometimes students drink until they blackout, so they aren't sure what happens to them," she said. "Most people have very good com-

mon sense, but when alcohol is involved they lose their inhibitions."

She said one reason students drink too much is because they model the behavior of their peers.

"If everyone's sitting around playing a drinking game, then everyone's going to drink," she said.

Ciesielski said one way students can restrain out-of-control drinking habits is by looking out for their friends. She said people are more likely to restrain their drinking if they are told to slow down by a friend.

But Ciesielski added she has hope that many students will learn to control their own drinking habits with time.

"I think the majority of people who get drunk once or twice and experience negative consequences probably won't continue to binge drink," she said.

But Hilles disagrees.

"I haven't changed a thing," she said. "I'll just use recyclable plastic next time."

Liability

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establishment could still be named in a lawsuit, Stubenvoll said.

Sometimes assessing what constitutes intoxication is a tricky matter.

Rennie's Landing manager Dan Geyer feels that the term "visibly intoxicated" is highly subjective, and that often patrons enter the bar after drinking elsewhere. After being at a bar for a while, the effects of previously consumed alcohol can hit hard, Geyer said.

In his tenure at Rennie's Landing, Geyer said that the bar hasn't been involved with any liability lawsuits.

Minnis' legislative aide Steve Minnis said SB 925 reaffirms the ideology that the individual must ultimately be held responsible for his or her actions.

Salem

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impressed by the content of that panel, because it was important for the legislators to hear the voices of younger generations.

"We shouldn't only be worried about us in our short-term effects," Morales said. "But we should be worried about our long-term effects."

Morales said he is still motivated enough to return for Monday's session.

Andy High, the student body president at Western Oregon University, said he was surprised to see so many business leaders testify, but he stressed that the hearing isn't over yet.

"I am excited that they extended it to Monday because then they can actually hear about what students have to say," High said.

And while Wednesday's meeting was in part intended to allow students the chance to voice their opinions on the OUS budget, it was also for business leaders, concerned citizens, and any other students who wanted to speak about the budget. With the exception of Watari, the two-hour period was filled with testimony by such parties.

ASUO State Affairs Coordinator Brian Tanner said despite Wednesday's college panel "shut-out" and the initial disappointed reaction, students will still have a chance to affect the legislators.

"We got a dose of the reality of how politics work," Tanner said.

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