

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KMUN!

Party with Coast Community Radio at the Ruins at the Astor on April 14

By RYAN HUME
FOR COAST WEEKEND

If you happened to be futzing with your radio dial in early April of 1983 you may have come across a mysterious broadcast at the south end of the FM band.

"We all smoke marijuana in El Paso," a man boasted above a playful country western groove. "We all take our trips on LSD."

These are the opening lines of a mostly forgotten song by the tongue-in-check Texas outfit Chuck Wagon and The Wheels called "A**holes from El Paso," one of many obscure tracks produced by independent record labels that would wind up in KMUN's coffers.

IF YOU GO

What: KMUN's 35th birthday bash

When: 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, April 14

Where: The Ruins at the Astor, 1425 Commercial St.

Cost: Free (donations welcome), open the public

Engineer Scott Wiles, on loan from KBOO in Portland, was testing the signal of what was to become a brand new radio station. According to Liam Dunne, who has been with KMUN since the start, Wiles instructed Dunne to

spin this specific record at 2 p.m. sharp from their nascent office in the Gunderson Building on Commercial Street as Wiles drove his truck up Megler Mountain to see if he could catch the signal.

Already many years in the making at that point, about two weeks later on April 17 the station would officially launch with Dunne declaring on air, "Welcome to the birth of a station." Then the packed studio broke into a sing-along atop of a recording of "Hallelujah."

"It was just a play on 'Birth of a Nation,'" Dunne recalled recently of his famous cold open. "This is the last time I want to see that published."

From these scrappy beginnings, KMUN 91.9 FM, which would later come to be known as Coast Community Radio, has matured into a fine adult and an important citizen of the North Coast. Many of the original programmers, including Dunne,



From left: Doug Sweet, Ann Goldeen and Ken Eiller cut the cake on April 17, 1983, the day of KMUN's official launch.

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Liam Dunne reads from a book by Dr. Seuss during his show at Coast Community Radio.

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Dave Quinton, Harriet Baskas and Barbara Hansel's daughter, Natasha