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# NKU student DJs give 'other' station an eclectic mix

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

**HIGHLAND HEIGHTS** - Northern Kentucky University's student radio isn't on the air - it's in the ether.

WRFN can be heard only online at [www.wfrnradio.com](http://www.wfrnradio.com). That hasn't deterred the station from offering a schedule with a variety of programming. That ranges from shows such as "Wake Up Call with the Polish Dutchman," which plays TV themes and classic rock, to "Radio Truncheon" where music like Gogol Bordello, an Eastern European gypsy punk band, can be heard.

"It's more like a club in a way - people who like to listen to music and play music," said Kaira Simmons, a junior history major who serves as the station's general manager. "It's fun. It incorporates a lot of my personal interests. It's definitely a family atmosphere."

ADVERTISEMENT Beth Coyle, a sophomore English major from Highland Heights, has been hosting Radio Truncheon for two years.

"I like introducing people to different bands and types of music they aren't used to," she said. "A part of me hopes that by playing 'odd' bands that more will develop or at least the ones that exist will be appreciated."

Like many of the DJs at the station, she responded to a flyer posted on campus.

Simmons said getting involved is fairly easy.

Students just need to "Come in and give us a show plan of what you want to do," she said. "Tell us what you would do and how it would fit in. Most people just come in, play some tunes, enjoy it and talk about them."

One of those answering the flyer was freshman Luke Stegall from Sandy Hook.

His program "Something/Anything?" has been the most-listened-to program this semester. His inspiration is the late BBC radio DJ John Peel, who is credited for promoting many unknown bands to his audience.

"I love music and my main hobby is finding new tunes, and when you get as obsessed with bands as much as I do, you want to spread the word around," said Stegall. "Ever since I found out that DJs could really get people noticed, I've wanted to help people hear about really good stuff that's not near the mainstream. Kind of righteous, but whatever."

Gail Brown, NKU's manager of student media services, advises the students.

"WRFN is completely student-run without a lot of support from the university and with basically no money," said Brown. "I think as an adviser it's great experience for their résumé and job searches."

WRFN has no relationship with the over-the-air station WNKU.

Aaron Sharpe, assistant general manager of WNKU, explained the mission of his station is community outreach. "We bring attention to the university to people who are otherwise unfamiliar," he said. "WNKU wasn't formed as a training ground for students, although we do a lot of work with students."

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