

by Edith Lennon, N2ZRW, Editor

## Fresh Air From Freshmen, Plus Some Updates

New York's renowned Fordham University sends more out into the world than well-prepared young lawyers. It also emits the programming of WFUV, the non-commercial, listener-supported public radio station nestled near the bottom of the FM dial at 90.7. That little piece of MHz real estate provides an oasis for many a jaded metro-area radio listener—myself included—tired of being pummeled by the deadly sameness of the commercial radio fare offered as smorgasbord.

On the air since 1947, WFUV has enticed countless numbers of the weary *back* to one of modern life's simplest, and purest, pleasures: listening to the radio. It was listening to this station's eclectic mix in my car that prompted the series of phone calls that culminated in this month's cover story.

WFUV is a powerhouse. Pumping out 50,000 watts, it boasts an audience of nearly 300,000 listeners and ranks within the top Internet broadcasters according to Arbitron. As a National Public Radio affiliate, it's also immune to some of the funding angst that plagues so many other college stations (although the 2008 federal budget proposes \$147 million dollars in overall funding cuts to public broadcasting). It's lucky; some of its sister stations are struggling.

This month *Pop'Comm* takes an admiring look at several stations from across the country. Large or small, well funded or scratching out each dollar, they are determined to make a mark within broadcasting and a difference in their communities.

So as you gratefully (I mean, regretfully) pack the kids up, electronics and all, and ship them back to school, take a listen to what they're listening to—and creating. These young voices are the future of broadcasting.

### Odd And Ends

Our avid aviation fans are no doubt feeling the pain of "Plane Sense's"

*Popular Communications* invites your comments, questions, criticisms, compliments, article submissions—in a word, your thoughts. Write to me at editor@popular-communications.com.

absence these past couple of months. We feel it, too. Unfortunately, columnist Bill Hoefer is juggling several competing commitments at the moment and was unable to pull the needed material together. He's working on his next submission, however, so you'll soon have lots of high-altitude comms info in your hands again.

### Updates From August

Boy, news happens fast in these parts. Since our August interview ("Hurricane Hunter Tour") with National Hurricane Center Director Bill Proenza went to print controversy erupted around Proenza, mainly involving his very public attacks on superiors. His short and turbulent tenure has now screeched to a halt with his being reassigned and the appointment of Ed Rappaport as acting director. Lesson learned: don't create your own storms.

And in August's "Tuning In" we warned of a measure being presented to the New Jersey State legislature to prohibit the use of any "electronic communication device" while driving. Well, by way of an update, the bill was passed—with an amendment exempting hams. The exemption is a testament both to the undeniable public service amateur radio provides in so many instances and to the power of organization and speaking out. Here's to the hams of New Jersey, whose hard work and persistence prevented, at least part of, an ill-conceived proposal from becoming law.

More still needs to be done, however. Scannists, Cbers, and others are still subject to the ban, so let's not grow silent yet. Thankfully, WFUV's is not the only loud voice in the area.



## POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

### EDITORIAL STAFF

**Edith Lennon, N2ZRW**, Editor

(E-mail: editor@popular-communications.com)

**Tom Kneitel, W4XAA**, Senior Editor

**Richard S. Moseson, W2VU**, Editorial Director

(E-mail: w2vu@popular-communications.com)

### CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

**Rich Arland, W3OSS**, Homeland Security

**Peter J. Bertini, K1ZJH**, Restoration/Electronics

**Kent Britain, WA5VJB**, Antennas And Accessories

**Bruce A. Conti**, AM/FM Broadcasts

**Gerry L. Dexter**, Shortwave Broadcast

**Richard Fisher KI6SN**, Capitol Hill News

**Bill Hoefer, KB0ULJ**, Aviation Communications

**Tomas Hood, NW7US**, Propagation

**Shannon Huniwell**, Classic Radio

**John Kasupski, KC2HMZ**, Utility Communications

**Kirk Kleinschmidt, NT0Z**, Amateur Radio

**Ron McCracken, WPZX-486/KG4CVL**, REACT

**D. Prabakaran**, News

**Bill Price, N3AVY**, Humor/Communications

**Ken Reiss**, Technical/Scanning

**Bob Sturtevant, AD7IL**, Puzzles and Trivia

**Tom Swisher, WA8PYR**, Military Monitoring

**Jason Togyer, KB3CNM**, Cartoons

**Gordon West, WB6NOA**, Radio Resources

### BUSINESS STAFF

**Richard A. Ross, K2MGA**, Publisher

**Arnold Sposato, N2IQO**, Advertising Manager

**Emily Leary**, Sales Coordinator

**Sal Del Grosso**, Accounting Manager

**Doris Watts**, Accounting Department

**Melissa Gilligan**, Operations Manager

**Cheryl DiLorenzo**, Customer Service Manager

**Ann Marie Auer**, Customer Service

### PRODUCTION STAFF

**Elizabeth Ryan**, Art Director

**Barbara McGowan**, Associate Art Director

**Dorothy Kehrweider**, Production Manager

**Emily Leary**, Production Manager/Webmaster

**Hal Keith**, Technical Illustrator

**Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI**, Photographer

A publication of



CQ Communications, Inc.  
25 Newbridge Road  
Hicksville, NY 11801-2953 USA

Offices: 25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY 11801. Telephone (516) 681-2922. FAX (516) 681-2926. Web Site: <http://www.popular-communications.com/> Popular Communications (ISSN-0733-3315) is published monthly by CQ Communications, Inc. Periodical class postage paid at Hicksville, NY and additional offices. Subscription prices (payable in U.S. dollars): Domestic—one year \$28.95, two years \$51.95, three years \$74.95. Canada/Mexico—one year \$38.95, two years \$71.95, three years \$104.95. Foreign Air Post—one year \$48.95, two years \$91.95, three years \$134.95.

U.S. Government Agencies: Subscriptions to Popular Communications are available to agencies of the United States government, including military services, only on a cash with order basis. Requests for quotations, bids, contracts, etc. will be refused and will not be returned or processed.

Entire contents copyright © 2006 by CQ Communications, Inc. Popular Communications assumes no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts, photographs, or drawings. Allow six weeks for change of address or delivery of first issue.

Printed in the United States of America.

Postmaster: Please send change of address to Popular Communications, 25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY 11801.