

Tuesday, August 9, 1988/THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER EXTRA 23

Beatles a hit with young fans

Teens program own radio show

BY EMIL WILBEKIN
The Cincinnati Enquirer

A program of Beatles' music is broadcast every week by two teen-agers who weren't even born at the time of the British Invasion.

Dan Gettelfinger, 17, of Finneytown, and Kevin Westendorf, 15, of Springfield Township, broadcast an all-Beatles program, *The Absolutely Complete Beatles*, every Tuesday from 8 to 10 a.m. on WAIF, 88.3 FM.

Gettelfinger is the disc jockey and Westendorf programs the music. The two met last year at school and decided to combine their expertise.

The Roger Bacon students make a good team: Gettelfinger knew about radio and Westendorf knew about the Beatles.

"I met Gary Burbank, at WLW, when I was in the fifth grade," Gettelfinger said. "When I saw Gary, I

wanted to be a disc jockey." When he was in the ninth grade he submitted a program idea to WAIF, which was accepted, and became a disc jockey there.

Westendorf is a Beatles fanatic. "Two years ago I heard the Beatles on a Nike commercial. I got hooked on the song 'Revolution.' I took up the Beatles as a listening hobby.

"I have acquired a lot of knowledge about the Beatles through reading. I have most of their albums on record, tape or compact disc. I am buying the rest as rapidly as possible."

The program covers the Beatles' music from their American arrival in 1964 to the group's break-up in 1970.

"We play a lot of their obscure or filler music," said Gettelfinger, whose radio name is Dan Gett.

This is the first summer for the show. Gettelfinger for the past two years had been doing a local rock show for WAIF. It wasn't doing well because he couldn't get enough new music for the show.

"I put in a proposal to switch to an older rock 'n' roll show," Gettelfinger said. "I told the station I had access to old rock, including the Beatles. They suggested the Beatles program."

Westendorf, whose radio name is Kevin West, said the show started out slowly. "We were playing songs that we thought people wanted to hear.

Now "we delve into Beatle music that people don't normally play."

People call in and ask to hear the unfamiliar songs.

"A lot of people call in and say, 'Hey, that's cool. Play it again,' and these songs weren't the hits."

Raymond Imlay, program director at WAIF, said the show "gets a lot of positive response."

The duo inserts humor about the Beatles and their lyrics between songs. "The Beatles were pretty witty, so we thought the listeners would like some light humor," Westendorf said.



The Cincinnati Enquirer/John Curley

A commercial for athletic shoes inspired Kevin Westendorf, left, and Dan Gettelfinger to try the all-Beatles radio program.

Station has alternative format

WAIF, 88.3 FM, is an alternative radio station that broadcasts a variety of programs from rock to reggae, from rap to religious.

The 15-year-old station is in the Alms Hill Apartment building, on Victory Parkway in Walnut Hills.

It is owned by Stepchild Radio of Cincinnati Inc., a nonprofit corporation. The station operates 24 hours a day in the summer and between 4 p.m. and 7 a.m. the rest of the year.

Public donations, fund-raisers, and pledge drives are the major support for the station. WAIF also receives money from federal grants.

— EMIL WILBEKIN