

# Irreverence, Intrigue, Ingenuity on the Net

by Alan Haber

**ALEXANDRIA, Va.** It has been a wild, wacky couple of weeks here at the plush, spacious, generally hipper-than-it-has-a-right-to-be *Haber Space* Global Headquarters, what with the mandatory post-NAB period of getting used to being back on *terra firma* (read: off airplanes for awhile).

There has also been a flurry of activity on the Web that has caused me to nearly overload and stare with vacant eyes into my computer monitor as I look at some psychology professor's photos from his vacation in Switzerland for the 99th time.

Oh yeah, that's the problem. I've been goofing off. Oh, well. I'm back. And I've got a whole buncha stuff to share with you, not the least of which is this month's Neat-o Site of the Month.

Neat-o Site of the Month? Yeah, neat-o. It's not just "neat" anymore. In honor of this month's winner, I've decided to rechristen the "Neat Site of the Month" the "Neat-o Site of the Month." Believe me — when you lay your eyes on Sanford, Maine, classic/contemporary rocker WCDQ-FM's Web site at <http://www.wcdq.com> "neat-o" will be about the only thought that will spring to mind.

WCDQ, known as Mt. Rialto Radio,

pulsates with "Real Rock 'n' Roll." The station's cool site is heightened by a generous dollop of irreverence and peppered by a good measure of marble (in the background, that is).

The offbeat station profile begs more questions than it answers, making the site seem mysterious. For example, reading through the profile, you'll discover that WCDQ broadcasts "from its fog enshrouded peak, 24,000 centimeters above the glittering lights of the city floor." You'll also discover that the station is "near the border, visible only on crystal-clear winter mornings."

You'll also find out that this is one station that means business. According to the profile, the station is "an eclectic, creative brew of the history of rock and blues, served up live 24 hours a day by people who would not work anywhere else. (And probably couldn't get another job.)"

Site visitors can click on four large custom metallic buttons and look at the offbeat station profile, find out about the station's specialty programming, link to a number of "Elegant Sites" and find out about the station's DJs.

By the way, each of the "Elegant Sites," which includes Ticketmaster Online, the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame, and the Boston Red Sox, can be linked to by clicking on some very cool custom buttons that feature colorful logos.

All of this graphic elegance doesn't come without a downside, however. The graphics take a while to load, and I can see how this would turn some people off. Nevertheless, the wait is worth it, and site visitors will be rewarded if they hang in there during the lengthy downloads.

(T.J. Marks, who designed and created WCDQ's site, told me by e-mail that this situation "will be resolved soon.")

Undoubtedly, my newly christened Neat-o Site of the Month!

Since last month's column, I also ran



into WAZY-FM's Web site at <http://dcwi.com/~wazy/wazy.htm>

The station is playing "Hits of the '80s and '90s" in Lafayette, Ind. A dynamite design job, with lots of custom (although perhaps a bit too large) graphics and a refreshing sense of humor; for instance, among the large clickable buttons on the home page is one that asks you to "Meet the Airstaff" — and features a photo of the Village People!

I learned a valuable lesson while visiting the Web site of Haverford (Pa.)

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# Web Site Artistic Design and Programming, 1995

LAFAYETTE'S FIRST RADIO STATION ON THE WEB!



"HI, YOU'RE CALLER NUMBER 995 SINCE JULY 10, 1995."



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Page 222 We can do you...



This area is still under some construction.

This page has some of the cool technical stuff about 96 WAZY and should be of interest to any of you who have and interest in radio, audio, electronics or like to take things apart to see how they work.

## Bang! Zap! Pow! Poof! Crackle! Hiss!

In August of 1993, lightning hit the 96 WAZY tower causing damage to the main antenna, coax transmission line and the transmitter. The station was on its 5000 watt backup transmitter and antenna for 7 days.

During this time, we got some neat pictures which show what it takes to take a station off the air and then to get it back on.

