

WABX-FM: IT'LL EXPOSE CREATIVE POP

New Sounds of Hip Radio in Detroit

Dear Miss Alterman:

In a recent column you wrote about a really groovy radio station in San Francisco, KMPX. You said you thought Detroit needs that kind of station—I agree!

I'm tired of radio stations that play the same songs over and over . . . The stations seem to want all the songs they play to sound just alike, and last about 50 seconds so they'll have more time for advertisements and the disc jockey's remarks . . .

Is anyone trying to start a station like KMPX here? Who can do something about it? And most of all, what can I do?

Linda Ferguson
Harper Woods

BY LORAIN ALTERMAN
Free Press Teen Writer

Well, Linda, if you were fiddling with the FM radio dial on Saturday, maybe you hit upon 99.5 and heard Arlo Guthrie singing.

And you probably said to yourself, "I must be dreaming. Some of the grooviest to-

day music on Detroit radio. Not Bobby Vinton's "Please Love Me Forever" for the umpteenth time."

Those sounds of artists like Arlo Guthrie, the Siegel-Schwartz Blues Band or Joni Mitchell taped at the Living End weren't just a good dream. They were part of a new program every Saturday from 6-8 p.m. on WABX-FM called "Troubador" emceed by ABE station manager John Small who is turned on and tuned into the creative sounds of pop.

At the age of 30, John is supposed to be lost to what's happening today, according to the latest teenybop propaganda. He doesn't wear beads or pass out flowers and his hair doesn't cascade down his back.

In short, to those hung up on outward appearances John may look conservative. But mentally the man is together and he thinks creative pop music needs exposure.

As John says, "No one else wants to just let loose and program music like this in Detroit. It's difficult for record distributors and artists to get this played. Other cities have matured, and it's about time Detroit did the same."

IN THE PAST WABX HAS



Loraine Alterman:
Pop/pourri

been a good music station meaning an abundance of Andy Williams, Ray Conniff Singers, Henry Mancini and Dick Keelan, taped at the Living End. This is fine for those who like it, but there are already too many good music stations in town. Of course, WABX also has had Jim Rockwell's jazz program all along and to me that was the only bright spot in their broadcast day.

Now, though, John is putting WABX on an exciting new track, but whether he increases his programming of creative pop is up to you: He wants to know if this is what you want to hear.

So if you're tired of the same old top 40 radio diet and want to hear the likes of the Cream, Big Brother and the Holding Company, Phil Ochs, or Joan Baez on radio, write to John at WABX, 3307 David Stott Building, Detroit, 48226.

Listen, too, this Saturday from 6-8 p.m. to hear The Misty Wizards, Ted Lucas and Dick Keelan, taped at the Living End.

Yes, Linda Ferguson, there is something you and everyone else who wants to hear the cream of the pop can do.

A Look At the Action

Bad news from the Rationals. On Nov. 1, in the lighted parking lot at Stevenson High in Livonia, someone stole all the Rationals' guitars and stage outfits. This was after they performed there with **The Happenings**. Guitars are a very personal thing, for it takes a long time to break one in. The Rationals manager, Jeep Holland, is offering



JOHN SMALL, station manager of WABX-FM, which is airing creative pop.

a \$50 per guitar reward for their return and no questions asked. His address is Apt. 2, 521 N. Division St., Ann Arbor.

The fantastic **James Brown** will perform at Cobo Arena Nov. 18 at 8 p.m. with a whole new show . . . Look for a new single on the Buddha label called "This Was Love," by **Robin**, a groovy guy from England. Robin has written and reads — he's not a singer — a very moving piece inspired by an incident in his life. The or-

chestration behind his reading is powerful, too.

This weekend the **Jimmy Cotton Blues Band** holds forth at the Grande Ballroom. The **Paupers** who were there last weekend said that of all the places they've played including the Fillmore and Cheetaah, the Grande Ballroom had the best light show, the best music and the best people . . . Should be a new **Cat Stevens** single in a couple of weeks. **Cat** is currently working with

Keith West on completion of a popopera. The single "Excerpt From a Teenage Opera" by Keith on New Voice gives an exciting preview of what's to come. . . .

The **Who** performs at Southfield High School on Nov. 22 at 8 p.m. with tickets at \$3 sold at the high school, Marty's Records, Harmony House, Mumford Music, and Monroe Music. Their "I Can See For Miles" single is making giant strides up the national charts . . . **The Beach Boys** at the Masonic on Nov. 17 at 8:30 p.m. with **The Strawberry Alarm Clock**, **Buffalo Springfield**, **Soul Survivors** and **Pickle Bros** . . . New **Beatles** single expected at the end of November . . . On Dec. 1 at the Ford Auditorium **The Mothers of Invention** whose new album "We're Only In It For The Money" is due next week. Tickets are \$2.50, \$3.50, \$4.50 and on sale at the box office, Hudsons, Grinnells, Mixed Media and by mail . . . "Hey Joe" is the **Buoys** first single . . . **Terry Knight** returns to the Chess Mate for a week beginning Nov. 21 and for this engagement he'll be backed with a guitar, harpsichord, flute, cello, bass and percussion. He also appears Nov. 19 in Flint's Whiting Auditorium.