

KFRX morning DJ: This is the city life

On the air he's Paul W. Morgan — fun but not offensive — a morning personality but not a morning person. He's serious about what he does, but he has fun doing it. He could be crazier, but he doesn't think Lincoln is quite ready for that — yet.

JoAnne Young

The KFRX morning announcer came to Lincoln eight months ago via Joplin, Mo., because he saw a chance to improve his skills and take a step up in his career. At the ripe old age of 22, Morgan already had spent six years in radio, mostly at the country music end of it. He said he looks at the KFRX job as a challenge.

"I was used to relating to farmers," Morgan said. "Now I'm communicating with people who have a better education than I do, and who have been doing what they do longer than I have. I'm a farm boy. To me, this is the city life."

Morgan also was used to a more liberal atmosphere than he has found here. In Joplin he was known as Playboy Paul.

"It was incredible what we did (on the air)," he said. "We delivered in the old '60s style, with as much insinuation of sex as possible. In country radio you can go wild and crazy and no one thinks that's out of the ordinary. It was a fun format."

But Morgan said he got sick of country and was ready for new music and a new approach — and that's what he got at KFRX.

"The Lincoln market is very competitive, he said, "and the quality is getting

much better."

He credits the influence of larger market radio people who have bought local stations within the past year. It makes the other stations work harder at a professional sound, he said, and makes them cater more to the audience.

Morgan's love of the entertainment industry carries over into his personal life. He claims to be a struggling song writer, who can't read music but can create it on the piano and with lyrics.

He also is an actor with the community theater and has had roles this season in *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Terra Nova*. "I got to die in *Terra Nova*, he said, "that was fun." He likes going to movies, too, and said his favorite recent movie is *Footloose*. *Footloose* has a special message to young people if it's perceived in the right way," he said. "It was nothing like *Flashdance*,

which was mostly sex. There is a strong message that could help them cope. Things are changing so much today."

One way it is changing from the way things were when he was a teen is the acceptance by young people of the androgynous appearance of singers like Boy George, and to a certain extent, Michael Jackson, he said.

Enumerating his short-and long-range goals, Morgan said the first thing he wants to do is make it through the Arbitron rating period with good numbers. He also is concentrating his energy on establishing his credibility as a mature radio personality in Lincoln.

His long range goal, he said, is to find a wife and start a family.

"Maybe you can help me," he said. "She has to be 5-8, blonde, blue eyes, of Irish or Welsh descent and have a pleasant personality with a motherly attitude. Send applications to KFRX."

CBS mini-series on Washington offers nothing new for viewer

By Mike Frost

CBS, the same folks who are bringing us the Richard Nixon memoirs, also are bringing us *George Washington*, a three part mini-series on the cherry-tree kid himself. In fact, it's hard to determine which program is filled with more distortions and less historical content.

Television Review

Probably *Washington*, although the occasional factual *faux pas* is not what mars this ill-conceived effort. Rather, it is the sum total of the cast, writing and directing.

George Washington, portrayed by Barry Bostwick, the affable Brad in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, is shown as sort of the Wally Cleaver of the revolutionary period. He gives his "aw shucks" look when his entire platoon is wiped out by the French, just like Wally did the time he put a dent in his dad's roadster.

As bad as Bostwick's performance is, it is dwarfed by the abysmal acting of Jaclyn Smith. She plays Sally Fairfax, who George constantly moons over, despite the fact that she is married to George's half brother's whole brother. (History is supposed to be confusing like that.)

Two veteran actors, Lloyd Bridges and James Mason, also put in two

mediocre performances. Perhaps the most damning criticism is that Patty Duke, as the benevolent Martha, provides the most capable performance.

George Washington was conceived out of the same mold as *Roots*, and other such history-as-drama efforts. Unfortunately, there is little of the same ambition to make history come alive. Rather, the producers are content with taking time worn tales and figures (the cherry tree scene is, thankfully, absent) and mixing them with modern lingo and little suspense.

In fact, that's the whole problem with the scripting of *George Washington*. In *Roots*, we knew what the ultimate outcome would be, yet the fate of the characters still provided room for speculation.

Not so in *George Washington*. Part one ended with what I assume was supposed to be a cliff-hanger ending. Patrick Henry gets up and gives a stirring oratory. Washington is thrown into a quandary: he has pledged to Martha not to become involved again with military and politics, yet Henry's speech moves him. What will he do? I haven't seen part two yet, but I bet he gets involved with the revolution. It's just a hunch.

Not all is bad however. The scenery in *George Washington* is nice, especially the shots of various colonial edifices. Unfortunately, the buildings represent the only real structure here.

The final episode airs tonight on channels 6 and 10. I'm betting our side wins.

HOTSPOTS

Television

• Good news for cable television viewers who are tired of watching baseball: KSHB (Cablevision Channel 2) will broadcast Alfred Hitchcock's classic thriller *Psycho* tonight at 8. This is the film with Anthony Perkins and Janet Leigh that features the suspenseful murder in the shower sequence.

Radio

• KZUM's weekly *Aural Delights* will air a radio documentary on the Mortal Micronutz, a band from Lawrence, Kan. The program was produced at progressive music station KJHK out of Lawrence. The program includes an interview with Jello Biafra of the Dead Kennedys on his impression of the band. Also featured, music by Sacred Cows, a band out of Kearney, and R. E. M. The program airs at 10:30 p.m. on KZUM, 89.5 and 99.3 FM.

At the Sheldon

• Robert Altman's *California Split* will be screened at 1, 7 and 9 p.m. in the Film Theatre. The 1974 film stars Elliot Gould and George Segal. Admission is by donation. Altman's latest film, *Streamers*, will show at Sheldon later this month.

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