

Arts & Entertainment

Radio show takes listeners to France

By Scott Harrah
Staff Reporter

Music fans listening to their radios Thursday nights from 9 to 10:30 p.m. might stumble upon some unusual noise emanating from their speakers.

If the stereo is tuned in to KZUM they may think the receiver is either in the Twilight Zone or is picking up a European radio station.

But most likely, what they will really hear is "The French Radio Show," hosted by former Parisian Jacques DuPont.

DuPont, who now works as a teaching assistant in UNL's French department, started the show last June with the notion of familiarizing Lincolnites with French culture.

At first, the show consisted only of French music, but as time passed and the show's popularity increased, DuPont decided to add French weather reports, soap operas and recipes.

What compels people to tune in and hear this airwave pilot trill his r's and spin everything from new wave to classical discs on the station turntable? DuPont said people are drawn to the show because it is informal and "exotic."

"With the show," he said, "I take people to France for an hour and a half."

DuPont said some Americans have an inaccurate view of French culture and his show might give them a more precise feel of the French lifestyle. To do this, he talks on the air about past experiences in the land of wine and glamor, speaks with levity and tries to cultivate a "feeling of participation with the audience."

Listeners are encouraged to call in to the show and discuss various topics or just shoot the breeze, speaking French.

Although many of KZUM's programs deal with countercultural and political issues, DuPont said, his show is purely for entertainment.

He said American radio is commercial and repetitive. But he tries to follow a more eclectic, European approach to programming to give listeners a foreign twist.

Before the show began, DuPont had no broadcasting experience. He earned a bachelor's degree in English from Vincennes University in Paris and has worked as a carpenter, guitarist, actor and as a stage manager for avant-garde theaters throughout France.

Now in his mid-30s, DuPont said a profound desire to travel, boredom and a restless soul have hindered his chances of leading a normal "nine to five" life. He said a fascination with art, languages and show business rendered him a "typical product of the 'baby boom' generation."

Although he looks forward to the show each week, DuPont said he has plans to pursue his love of art much further.

"I'd love to write a book or make a film," he said.

But for now, his main concerns are to gain a wider audience and acquire new material for the show. It's virtually impossible to find French music in Lincoln, he said, and he will gladly play any albums for listeners if they wish to bring them in to KZUM.

DuPont said his listeners can forget the problems of the day and unwind with some unique music.

Perhaps the title of the song he plays at the beginning and end of the show, "Chacun Fait Ce Qui Lui Plait," typifies DuPont's attitude. In English, it means "everybody does what they want."



L.A. spews new groups

Heavy metal bands race for fame

By Troy Park
Staff Reporter

Heavy metal rock music has enjoyed a surge of popularity in recent years with the rise of several new groups. Many foreign bands such as Krokus (Switzerland) and the Scorpions (Germany) have had successful albums released in the past year. But it seems that Los Angeles is the breeding ground for most of the world's latest heavy metal attractions.



Van Halen was the first L.A. band to hit the big time and were soon followed by Quiet Riot, Motley Crue and Ratt. Currently many up-and-coming L.A. bands such as Black 'N Blue, Dokken, W.A.S.P. and Queensryche have battled for the spotlight.

Being reviewed here are Dokken, "Tooth and Nail"; W.A.S.P., "W.A.S.P."; Stryper, "Isaiah 53:5"; and Tank, "Honour and Blood".

Dokken, "Tooth and Nail" — The most outstanding thing to mention about Dokken is guitarist George Lynch's lightning fast leads and riffs. Lynch is a brilliant guitarist in the same mode as Edward Van Halen. He has a thunderous yet melodic approach to the songs on the LP.

Lead vocalist and leader of the band Don Dokken is also impressive. His vocals are not overpowering, and he seems to deliver a touch of finesse that is often absent from the other heavy metal vocals of the day.

Song quality is another plus in Dokken's favor. Some HM bands might have a standout guitarist or vocalist but can't put together a good song. Not so with Dokken. "Into the Fire" has been put to video and has been appearing occasionally on MTV. "Just Got Lucky" is a magnificent-dancable tune with a hard edge. Other "killer tunes" include "Heartless Heart," "Turn on the Action" and the title track, "Tooth and Nail".

Watch for Dokken. They have a lot of talent.

W.A.S.P., "W.A.S.P." — At first glance, the album cover gives the impression of just another leather, chains, blood-and-guts rock band. Another impersonation of Motley Crue impersonating Kiss. The image, granted, has been worn a little thin. But the rock and roll on this album is excellent. W.A.S.P.'s music can jump out of the speakers and sting you.

Frontman, bassist and lead singer Blackie Lawless (nice name) is an incredibly powerful vocalist. Lawless sounds like a cross between Kevin DuBrow of Quiet Riot and the Wolfman. His haunting vocals blend perfectly with his bass playing and the rest of the band's powerful backup.

Powerful backup is an understatement. The energy W.A.S.P. has managed to capture on vinyl is amazing. If this LP is anything close to their live show, then W.A.S.P. is one act to see.

W.A.S.P.'s guitar corps consists of Chris Holmes and Randy Piper. These two share lead guitar work on this album, which is good but nothing really dazzling. Their ability to blend together is perhaps what gives W.A.S.P. its energy-powered sound.

If people can overlook the

image, W.A.S.P. is perfectly capable of getting by on just their music.

Tank, "Honour and Blood" — If there is such a thing as a heavy metal band that is too heavy, then Tank is it.

Tank is just pure, rough, unrefined metal. No pretty harmonies, no smooth lead vocals, no elaborate leads. . . just straight ahead rock that sounds more like a DC10 engine running inside an airplane hangar. That is Tank's problem. The group is just too primitive. Perhaps with a different producer and honed-down distortion, this band could get out of the import record section.

Stryper, "Isaiah 53:5" — It had to come sooner or later. Motley Crue, Black Sabbath and Ozzy Osbourne have been labeled pro-Devil. Here comes Stryper with a special thanks to Jesus Christ, "The Boss Man," on its album cover. What's next?

Despite the yellow and black striped uniforms (Isaiah 53:5 says, ". . . by His stripes we are healed. . ."), religious messages and overall laughable appearance, Stryper makes one stop laughing the minute the needle hits the groove on side one. These guys can rock and will surprise people.

A driving rhythm section headed by bassist Timothy Gaines and drummer Robert Sweet lay down the stepping stones for lead guitarist Oz Fox's exciting leads. Lead vocalist Michael Sweet plays rhythm guitar. Sweet's vocals are fair, though he isn't a Robert Plant by any means.

Stryper are talented song writers, too. Most memorable songs are "Loud 'N Clear," "Co'mon Rock" and "You Won't Be Lonely."

HOT SPOTS

Kimball

Chicago's Hubbard Street Dancers will provide the second of two performances tonight as part of the UNL Kimball Performing Arts Series. Tonight's performance will be at 8, with limited seating still available.

The dance company has entertained audiences with its highly acclaimed style of American dance since 1978.

Lou Conte, artistic director, has created a popular but serious dance style that combines the strength, technique and grace of ballet, the explosive energy and style of jazz, and the neat rhythmic footwork of tap, often incorporating American themes and music — a style with roots in musical theater.

Television

The confusing and contradictory gender roles that confront men and women in today's society are explored

in two NETV public affairs unit specials tonight.

"The Privileged Gender: A Story About Men," airs at 8 p.m., immediately followed at 8:30 p.m. by "Cinderella Cowgirl."

The first special points to some disadvantages inherently experienced by men who try to be "manly," and all that title entails.

The conflicting pressures of growing up female in the Midwest is the focus of "Cinderella Cowgirl."

James Kisser, who, as a past Washington bureau chief for the Des Moines Register, won two Pulitzer prizes for his exposure of corruption in the grain export trade and a seven-part series on the environmental effects of modern farming methods will be the guest on NETV's Dateline Nebraska tonight at 8:30.

Book explains politics of Germany's 'Greens'

By Loraine Kennedy
Staff Reporter

"We are neither left nor right; we are in front."

This statement comes from West Germany's Green Party. And as it implies, the group is not about traditional politics. It is about feminism, peace, environmental health, non-nuclear power and . . . alternatives.



These diverse groups have formed a political and social voice on issues like the Pershing II, acid rain and equal pay for equal work.

"Green Politics," in three parts, is a book that tells us who the Greens are, what they stand for and what their goals are. It reports on the worldwide Green Movement — from Germany to New Zealand.

"Green Politics" was written by two Americans, known for their work in alternative movements and for their global perspective.

Charlene Spretnak, who did most of the writing, is the author of an article, "Naming the Cultural Forces that Push Us Toward War" which was published in the Journal of Humanistic Psychology.

Fritjof Capra, the other author, has had two international best sellers, "The Tao of Physics" and "The Turning Point."

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