

Through the Airwaves

By Daniel Van Housler
Photos By Denise Favre

LBCC DJ looks forward to a career on the air



In a sea of electronic equipment from both the past and the present, LBCC students produce radio programs that inform, entertain and inspire. "We have a state-of-the-art studio complete with four microphones, two CD players, a shortcut machine for commercials, three computers, input jacks for

iPods, turntables for people who go old school and spin vinyl, plus a decent music library," KLBC DJ J.R. Reed said.

Reed, along with his partner Weston "The Sports Guy" Komathy, produce the show, "Talkin' Sports with Wes and J.R.," every Tuesday and Friday. The spectrum of listeners that

KLBC could reach in the past recently has expanded.

The station is now on 610 AM as opposed to before when the station only was attainable on its Web site, <http://www.klbc.org>. Reed has aspirations past KLBC, however, that may even lead him out of the U.S. and into Canada. "I am actually negotiating with a radio station in Toronto right now," he said. "They are interested in me coming up there to

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J.R. Reed

co-host a morning show on a new station that will be similar to Star 98.7 in L.A." This proves that KLBC DJs are being recognized far beyond the borders of Long Beach. "They are also starting a new cable network in Canada which will be very sports heavy and they want me to be their lead color analyst. Good stuff is on the horizon," Reed said. "I would love nothing more than to sit around for three or four hours a day and be able to have fun, tell stories, and talk on the air."

"Talkin' Sports with Wes and J.R." is the highest rated sports show in the history of KLBC. Based on its extended list of impressive athletic guests, it also is the most high-profile show: It has seen names such as NASCAR driver Robby Gordon, NHL Hall of Famer Wayne Gretzky, and former NBA player Chucky Brown. "Robby Gordon was auctioning off a hood off his race car and the money

was going to Operation Homefront, which helps families of soldiers deployed overseas. To me, it sounded interesting and like a good cause, so I got Robby as a guest on our show," Reed said.

"We've been lucky to get some great guests," Reed said. "We've also had some other guests where the conversations got a little strange. For example, when we had Judy Grey of Ski Dazzle on with us, we talked about nude snowboarding and rockclimbing with the Nequik Bunny."

A typical day in the studio for Reed includes preparation, as well as two hours of on-air time. Not to mention the fact that he books the guests for his shows and prepares some of the material himself. "I don't decide on content as much as you would think. Yes, I do book guests, but really, the content is based on what is happening."

Members of the station believe they are in good hands with their advisor, Ken Bergus. "It's a chance to learn from one of the best. He is a veteran of more than 30 years in radio," Reed said. "There are so many great people in the program that are more than willing to share their knowledge."

Reflecting on his personal connection to the radio program, Reed said "I enjoy being able to entertain and inform people. I personally try to find the humorous side of things. People listen radio for two reasons: to be entertained and to be informed and I try to give people those each time I am on the air."