

# QWIK Rock sees top ratings after move

By Nick Weingartner  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

QWIK Rock is back on top. Almost six months after the station was picked up by Mangum Broadcasting Inc., the revamped QWIK Rock 105.9/106.9 FM has received its first ratings from Arbitron, a company hired to acquire such data. And the numbers are everything the station hoped it would be.

Merged with last spring's ratings — a method in radio book-keeping called a "two-book average" — the station emerged as No. 1 for adults ages 18 to 34, men 18 to 34 and men 18 to 49. It also ranked third overall in adults 18 to 49, according to QWIK Rock literature citing the Arbitron report.

The Arbitron ratings are calculated using a diary-keeping method cultivated over 12-week period, said Jessica Benbow, public relations director for Arbitron. Participants are chosen randomly through a digital-dial survey but must match the population breakdown for the area.

Program director Troy Craig is happy his audience stayed with him.

"We were worried, because you hope it's going to reach its audience, that they're not going to disappear," Craig said. "You hope that you put it on the air and they respond. And they did."

Craig said the results are especially pleasing to the station, as its key market lies in the 18-to-34 age group.

The saga of QWIK Rock began when its original incarnation, QWIK Rock, WQWK-FM 103.1, was replaced on Aug. 2 with a traditional talk show station.

After it went off the air, fans responded by starting Facebook groups and writing e-mails, Craig said.

He then paid a visit to Magnum Broadcasting Inc., and the company decided to replace its rock and country music station to a unified rock station — QWIK Rock 105.9/106.9 FM.

The station resides inside of a renovated house on 315 S. Atherton St., filled with the usual

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Troy Craig  
Program Director for QWIK Rock

offices and cubicles — and a few quirks, like a resident dog and a stripper pole.

Craig said the studio's location contributes to QWIK Rock's relaxed atmosphere.

"I've worked in other studios," Craig said. "And this is by far the most interesting because it's in the house."

Craig said the outcry of support that came from fans is the reason why QWIK Rock is back and on top. He's happy to see rock on still on the air in State College.

"Rock music in this town almost disappeared," he said. "And it would have, had our listeners not responded."



Andrew Dunheimer/Collegian

Mike Stapleford, president of Magnum Broadcasting, sits in the DJ booth of QWIK Rock on Monday afternoon. QWIK Rock recently received its ratings placing it at the top of the 18-to-34 age group.

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Peter Teschero/Collegian

Some of Michael Covino (senior-sculpture)'s latest work is displayed in the Patterson gallery on Tuesday. The exhibit titled "Existentialism With Its Head Chopped Off" will be shown through Friday and admission is free.

## Monsters roam gallery for existentialist exhibit

By David Strader  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Students walking through the Patterson Gallery this week might feel like they're being watched — even the artist said the featured exhibit is not for the faint of heart.

The gallery is featuring "Existentialism With Its Head Chopped Off" this week, a solo exhibition by Michael Covino (senior-sculpture). Covino's work ranges from sci-fi-esque foam monstrosities and jar-captured pseudo-experiments to ghostly taxidermal creations, a body of work difficult to describe without a healthy helping of the word "unique."

"I like to draw morbid and weird things, monsters and creatures for cinema," Covino said. "I don't get the best critiques, but in my opinion, it's unique, and I enjoy it."

Much of Covino's art would not feel out of place in a modern day science fiction film, with many of his homemade creatures boasting shiny eyes and sharp teeth.

One of Covino's most striking pieces puts an interesting spin on a common-day hunting trophy — a grisly gray stag. It's already spoken for: Eric Nally, lead singer of alternative rock band Foxy Shazam, purchased the sculpture for about \$150, pending transportation arrangements.

Covino said he honed his sculpting skills earlier in his college career, studying abroad in Italy. The materials available there were very "bare-bones," pushing him to develop his creativity.

### If you go

**What:** "Existentialism With Its Head Chopped Off" exhibit  
**When:** Through Friday  
**Where:** Patterson Gallery  
**Details:** Free

After graduating, Covino hopes to further his sculpting talents and pursue a career in the field of cinematic effects and set design. He said the exhibition's title stems from his academic interests.

"I like the ideas of psychology, and I use existentialism in my work," he said.

About 20 people attended the exhibit's opening reception late Monday afternoon.

Tiffany Nguyen (junior-immunology and integrative arts) said she enjoyed Covino's work.

"He's finding the aesthetic in weird and unusual things people don't usually appreciate," Nguyen said.

Family, friends and strangers alike browsed the collection, discussing Covino's artistic style.

"It's perfect for his personality," said Covino's father, Jeff Covino. "We're happy for him."

And Abbigael Beddall, a classmate and friend of Covino's, said the artist is able to find beauty in the eerie.

"I think it's interesting how he can make these grotesque monsters cute," Beddall (junior-sculpture) said.

## Next court date set for April

By Linda Deutsch  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES — Michael Jackson's doctor returns to court in April to find out the date for the next major step in the case — a proceeding that will reveal for the first time the evidence the prosecution believes will show his "gross negligence" was the direct cause of the pop star's death.

Dr. Conrad Murray pleaded not guilty Monday to a charge of involuntary manslaughter and a judge released him on \$75,000 bail.

Superior Court Judge Keith Schwartz ordered Murray to turn in his passport and said he could travel within the U.S., but not to any foreign country. The prosecutor had suggested he might flee to his native Grenada or to Trinidad where he has a child.

Murray was ordered to return April 5 to have another date set for his preliminary hearing. That proceeding, a virtual minitrial, will disclose the evidence prosecutors maintain will demonstrate Murray's "gross negligence."

Murray is accused of giving Jackson a fatal dose of an anesthetic to help him sleep. Jackson died June 25. If convicted, the doctor may face up to four years in

prison. Schwartz told Murray he was restricting his practice of medicine, barring him from using any anesthetic agent, specifically the drug propofol that a coroner's report found was the cause of Jackson's death with other drugs as contributing factors.

"I don't want you sedating people," the judge said.

Immediately after the hearing, LaToya Jackson issued a statement saying she believed her brother had been murdered and that others besides Murray were involved in his death.

"I will continue to fight until all of the proper individuals are brought forth and justice is served," LaToya said. She was in court along with siblings including Jermaine, Tito, Jackie and Randy.

Her father, Joe Jackson, expressed the same views Monday night in an interview on "Larry King Live" and claimed that his son believed he was going to be murdered. He did not elaborate.

As he left the courtroom, the family patriarch said, "We need justice."

A representative of the state attorney general's office said the California Medical Board would be filing a motion to revoke Murray's medical license to practice in California while he awaits trial.

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## Lil Wayne's jail time delayed

By Jennifer Peltz  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK — Rap star Lil Wayne has gotten a temporary reprieve from jail — for dental surgery.

The Grammy Award-winning rapper's sentencing in a New York City gun case was postponed Tuesday, because he needs to finish a string of recent surgeries before he goes to jail.

Lil Wayne, one of music's biggest sellers and rap's hottest stars, is poised to spend as much as a year in jail under a plea deal, though good behavior could shave that to as little as eight months.

Sentencing now is scheduled for March 2. Manhattan state Supreme Court Justice Charles Solomon said it wouldn't be put off any further.

The diminutive rapper, his hair in dreadlocks, said nothing at a brief court session Tuesday afternoon. He left in a black SUV, flanked by fellow rapper Birdman and others.

Defense lawyer Stacey Richman said Lil Wayne was headed home to Miami for

dental work Friday. She declined to specify his malady.

"It is a medical situation that, like (it would for) any of us, has to be addressed," she said outside court. She said the rapper had planned to take care of it before Tuesday, but his dentist had been out of the country doing charitable work.

Manhattan Assistant District Attorney Joan Illuzzi-Orbon didn't fight the rapper's request to push back his sentencing, saying she had spoken to the dentist.

Lil Wayne, 27, pleaded guilty in October to a charge of attempted criminal possession of a weapon, admitting he illegally had a loaded .40-caliber semiautomatic gun on his tour bus in July 2007. Police found the weapon when they stopped the bus after a Manhattan concert.

Last week, Lil Wayne reinforced his place in rap's pantheon with a commanding performance at the Grammy Awards ceremony. His latest album, "Rebirth," was released Feb. 2.

Meanwhile, he is preparing himself for jail, his lawyer said.

"He's a strong man," she said.