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Nov. 14, 2003. 01:00 AM

Radio DJs difficult to identify in a crowd

[WILLIAM BURRILL](#)

First the breaking news: CFNY The Edge is hosting the 2003 Casby Awards (Canadian Artists Selected by You) on Wed., Nov. 26 at Koolhaus. There will be five awards and eight live performances, including Iggy Pop and punk-lite gods Sum 41. There will also be a special appearance by Mayor-elect David Miller, who, after all, had the good taste to use a Springsteen tune as his campaign song (Casby details at <http://www.edge.ca>).

Speaking of CFNY, I hauled my ass out to "The Spirit Reunion 2003" at the Government on Wednesday night, the first reunion of all the old-time CFNY jocks. The only problem was, although I knew I was surrounded by the likes of David Marsden, Dons Berns, Ivar Hamilton, All-Nite Andrew, and many more legendary disc-jockeys, I only knew what these guys sounded like, and had no clue what they looked like. Oddly enough, after a night of wishing I could put a face to a name, I checked my office e-mail and came across a message from a faithful reader named Phil Waldie, whose complaint was completely the opposite. He wrote a rant about how he would prefer it if radio personalities were heard and not seen. "I expect a column on Humble & Fred will be forthcoming," Waldie writes. "Their act is the closest thing we have to humorous and entertaining radio. Then what do they do? Plaster the town with posters of themselves. Enough to make anyone puke. Please explain to the boys that their looks are not an asset."

Well, I used to work with Humble on a TV show about a foul-mouthed, cigar-chomping sock puppet named Ed (I'm not making this up) and I think Howard is quite a handsome young fellow, even if he did always bum my smokes. And Fred ain't chopped liver either, in a pleasant, down-to-earth way. But I tremble when I write about Freddie. You see, a few years back, when Humble & Fred first moved from their gig at CFNY The Edge 102.5 FM over to the AM dial in the fledgling days of MOJO 640 AM, I wrote a column about how, in my opinion, the dynamic H&F duo did not seem fit the early MOJO mould of jocks dumbing it down for "da guys." Well, the next day I turned on the *Humble & Fred Show* and there

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on air was Fred's *mother* going off on a 15-minute rant about how "I don't like this William *Squirrel* guy."

But now that H&F have moved back to the FM dial as the morning men for The Mix 99.9, I think they have found their niche. All is forgiven, Mrs. Freddie's Mom.

I must here quickly add that I believe MOJO has gotten a lot better since the station debuted. They lured John Oakley from CFRB to do the morning show, which now has many fans if the mail I get is any indication. (Many CFRB listeners have written me asking what ever happened to Oakley and where is he now? The answer: MOJO in the morning, a show that also features bits by T.O. veteran personality Scruff Connors making crank phone calls, and a "Leaf breakfast" spot featuring TSN's acerbic Michael Landsberg and former Leaf assistant GM Bill Watters.

Oakley is followed by the extremely bent Andrew Krystal, who can do an entertaining half-hour call-in segment on the benefits of "shaving your balls."

Krystal is followed by the well-informed and often news-breaking "Leaf's Lunch" hour-long segment, co-hosted by Bill Watters and Jeff Marek. Then Marek — a young on-air talent whose star is on the rise — holds the phone by himself for two hours until the so-so Mike Stafford Show comes on to fill the 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. spot.

The Krystal returns for an often outrageous afternoon before giving way to the syndicated *Phil Hendrie Show* at 7 p.m. That show is something you have to hear to believe. Each night Hendrie has a fake guest with a bogus issue, such as an old Korean War vet crossing guard who is calling on elderly crossing guards across North America to push children in front of speeding cars until these seniors get the respect they deserve.

Another guest, claiming to be obese, was calling for a nation-wide ban on outdoor cafes, patios, stands and even hot-dog carts because they all made him a victim of "second hand food odours." As ridiculous as these examples sound, every night Hendrie gets serious, sincere and totally outraged listeners calling in from all across North America to scream and argue vehemently with the fake guest.

Oh yeah. And on many nights MOJO is the only station to carry the Toronto Maple Leafs game live.

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