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\*In **VERMONT**, Nassau Broadcasting's worst-kept secret finally became a reality on Friday morning at 10, when top 40 WORK-FM (107.1 Barre) gave way to classic hits "Frank FM."

The new "Frank" is the latest in a growing batch of stations with that name across New England, from the original WFNK in Portland to newer "Frank" outlets in Nashua, New Hampshire and on Cape Cod. (That one's an adult hits station, unlike the others.) We're not sure yet how much of the WORK-FM airstaff will remain; the new website for Frank appears to have been hastily copied from yet another Nassau "Frank" down in Pennsylvania, right down to the "107.5 Frank FM" in the title bar...



\*The latest station sale in **RHODE ISLAND** is no surprise at all; as we'd told you several months ago, Christopher Jones is keeping WCRI (95.9 Block Island) and WCNX (1180 Hope Valley) in the family. His Judson Group is paying \$1.6 million to acquire the classical FM and all-news AM from Charles River Broadcasting, which is slowly exiting the broadcasting business. No changes to the stations' formats are expected.

\*Changes may be on the way in **CONNECTICUT**, though, as the three AM stations owned by Freedom Communications of Connecticut enter receivership. *AllAccess.com* reports that Freedom (controlled by Steve Brisker) agreed to put the stations up for sale to resolve a lawsuit accusing Brisker of "financial irregularities" in his operation of the stations.

\*One of the best-known TV anchors in Rochester, **NEW YORK** has lost a battle with cancer that few in town even knew he was fighting.



Gabe Dalmath left the anchor chair at WHEC-TV (Channel 10) at the end of 2004, ending a 29-year career at the station - and a career in broadcasting that began in the Army in the late sixties and continued in the suburbs of New York City in the early seventies at stations such as WFAS, WVOX and WNEW. (Another of his early gigs was at WGBB on Long Island, where he

worked with another young newscaster named Rich Funke, who'd later become WHEC's sports anchor and is now the station's lead newscaster himself.)

In 1976, Dalmath came to Rochester as weekend anchor at WHEC, soon becoming lead weeknight anchor, a post he'd keep for 25 years before being moved to mornings in 2001. Dalmath also replaced the late Eddie Meath as host of the station's annual Muscular Dystrophy Telethon, which became a passion of his.

After his departure from WHEC in 2004, Dalmath worked with a local mortgage company and with Dalmath Associates, the public-relations firm founded by his wife, Jean. Most recently, he'd been one of the principals in an audience-research firm called Critical Tracking.

Dalmath came to the U.S. from his native Hungary in 1956, at the age of 9, escaping with his family from the revolution there. He remained a fan of Hungarian sports, as well as an avid skier.

Dalmath was diagnosed with kidney cancer in June, but few in town knew he was seriously ill until the news of his death was announced Friday night (Sept. 15). He was just 60 years old.

(On a very personal note, Gabe welcomed your editor into WHEC's newsroom and studio when I was a child, and remained a friend for many years thereafter. When I first appeared on the Rochester airwaves as a TV reporter myself, one of the first messages waiting for me at work the next day was from Gabe - "Now I feel old," he said. My experience was hardly unique; there's a whole generation of newspeople in Rochester whose careers had support and encouragement from Gabe, and he will be deeply missed by all of us.)

\*While we're at WHEC, we note the departure of sports director Rick Hager to points unknown.

Some morning show shakeups are underway in the Hudson Valley. In Albany, Ric Mitchell returns to the airwaves as the new morning man on WYJB (95.5), continuing a career that's included stops at WQAR, WTRY and WKLI. In Poughkeepsie, Reno is out at WPDH (101.5), and former morning co-host Mark Cooper is back at the station to rejoin Mark Tobin. WPDH says that's a temporary thing for now, to mark the station's 30th anniversary, but if the pairing is a success, Cooper may remain beyond his scheduled Dec. 22 departure. Cooper was last heard at WRKW (92.9), a few years ago.



**Mitchell**