

Will Jamestown Band Be Heard Locally?

By MARK GENOVESE

Independently released records by a Jamestown band, 10,000 Maniacs, are selling well across Europe and are being played on many college campuses across the United States.

But will the band's music be heard on radio stations in their hometown?

Although most commercial stations tend to limit their playlists to established artists to attract a large audience, area stations have expressed an interest in the band's album on Elektra Records, *The Wishing Chair*, which is to be available in record stores within the next week.

The first two Maniacs records, *Human Conflict Number Five* and *Secrets of the I Ching* were released by the band itself in 1982 and 1983. About 5,000 copies of these two records and the 12-inch single featuring *My Mother The War* sold in Europe.

Human Conflict reached No. 18 on a British independent-record chart, while the 12-inch single reached No. 4 on another chart. The newest single *Can't Ignore The Train*, peaked this summer at No. 115 on music chart in Britain and reached No. 27 on an American report which includes college radio stations.

Just because the group is local does not guarantee their record will be played. Program and music directors at the local stations must determine if any of the songs fit in with their station's music formats.

Mark Thompson, program director for WKSJ-AM and WHUG-FM, said the FM country station frequently plays local music and the AM station would do so for local popular and rock artists, but the station has not received local records in a long time.

Thompson said, "We just do not get a lot of top (local) 40 music and rock."

Many area musicians are cutting country and western records which are aired regularly. If the station gets many requests, they keep it on, he said.

"They have never talked to me about it," Thompson said of the Maniacs, adding, "I'd love to have the record."

However, he noted the song chosen would have to fit somewhat into the

station's format. Thompson said if the album has a ballad with the right melody and tempo, it may be played.

Stephen Shulman, program director for WJTN-AM and WWSE-FM, said, except for a few programs, both stations use a syndicated format, for which all of the station's songs are on tape. Shulman said the songs have been researched for their popularity and the station would prefer to stay with this type of programming.

Shulman said he has not been asked to audition the record, but if a song did fit the station's formats he would consider it.

Meanwhile, *Human Conflict* and *I Ching* have received frequent airplay on the student-run WCVF-FM at Fredonia State College. Like many other college stations across the nation, WCVF-FM will take a chance on playing tapes and records by new artists.

CFNY-FM, a Toronto station which can be heard in the northern part of the county, plays new releases more frequently than most Buffalo radio stations and may give the Jamestown group a spin.

Currently, there is a large amount of high quality music that is being released that does not receive commercial airplay, mostly because the songs may be too different from the type of music usually programmed for the station.

Also, because only a small segment of the audience may like the song, it is not played until it receives wider public acceptance, program directors said.