



Coming Sunday
Face da Phlave, a hip-hop troupe with local ties

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Schooled in rock



Gagliardi's show, "The Gagliarchives," airs every Saturday on WBZC-FM.

Maple Shade man plays a unique mix of music on his radio show

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On the surface, Tom Gagliardi seems like your average 32-year-old white-collar guy, enjoying his weekend evening.

It's a little after 11 o'clock on a Saturday night, and Gagliardi heads outside for a smoke, talking about the Phillies, Eagles, girls and the cookout he attended earlier in the day.

But look, he's not in some crowded bar. Gagliardi is walking out of a nearly deserted building that houses the WBZC-FM studio on Burlington County College's Pemberton campus.

And listen, the music inside isn't some AC/DC arena rock or 50 Cent hip-hop. It's a song by a foreign band, Stardrive, with lots of synthesizers, few lyrics, lots of nuance and a long-enough running time so Gagliardi can have an extended conversation with a security guard about Donovan McNabb and get back to the studio before the track ends.

Yes, Gagliardi is enjoying his weekend evening. He's just doing it a little different than most 30-something suits.

Every Saturday night, Gagliardi hosts "The Gagliarchives," a four-hour progressive rock show on WBZC, also known as Z88.9-FM. The Maple Shade resident has been doing the show for 14 years now, featuring the occasional song by, say, Pink Floyd or The Mars Volta amid a lot by unknown-in-the-U.S. artists like Spock's Beard, Pierre Vervloesem, New Trolls and Lord of Mushrooms.

"People at work, they say, 'Do you play matchbox twenty?'" Gagliardi said. "I don't even know who matchbox twenty is, and I sure don't play them on my show. It's like teaching Latin. It's hard to explain."

Let's try anyway. On his show, Gagliardi plays music from a genre that earned some mainstream success in the 1970s with groups such as Jethro Tull and Genesis. Unlike Chuck van Zyl, who plays mostly ambient progressive rock on his WXPB program "Star's End," Gagliardi plays the heavy metal, jazz, dissonant and pop versions of the genre.

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DJ Tom Gagliardi of Maple Shade works on his progressive rock show for Z88.9-FM at Burlington County College in Pemberton.



The 32-year-old DJ looks over the CD collection for songs he may use on his progressive rock show.

DJ offers progressive rock show to local listeners

RADIO SHOW From C1

He also plays a combination of new and old bands, studio and live recordings, CDs and vinyl records. Plus, Gagliardi usually interviews a musician or two for the show and informs his listeners about upcoming concerts and record releases.

"I'm more giving a service to people who love eclectic music and progressive rock," Gagliardi said. "Anyone can sit and play Yes and Genesis and King Crimson for four hours, but that's not what I do."

What Gagliardi does is often appreciated more by people thousands of miles away, the people from places such as Japan and Sweden who listen to the Internet rebroadcast of "The Gagliarchives" on Tuesday morning. Progressive rock is a niche genre everywhere, but even

'The Gagliarchives'

- How to listen to "The Gagliarchives"
- Tune your radio to 88.9-FM Saturday night from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
 - Listen on-line at www.z889.com on Saturday nights.
 - Listen on-line at www.auralmoon.com on Saturday nights or Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For a direct link to the streaming broadcast, visit www.gagliarchives.com.

more so in a country where songs such as Gwen Stefani's cheerleader-esque "Hollaback Girl" are big hits.

"In America, unfortunately, they want to hear the pop song, the ballad," Gagliardi said. "That's not a bad thing, but I think they're more concerned here with what's going to sell."

However, Gagliardi does have his local fans. For instance, Jack Webster started listening to the "Gagliarchives" because it followed a

blues show, but the Pemberton Township resident kept listening because he liked the music and Gagliardi's style. Now he contributes to the show.

Like many, however, Webster was taken aback by Gagliardi's appearance. Progressive rock fans often look like middle-aged English professors, and Gagliardi changes his voice to sound like one on the air, but the DJ otherwise sounds like a typical South Jersey 30-something

and still gets carded when buying cigarettes.

"I had pictured a 50-year-old guy in my head," Webster said. "I didn't believe it for a good five, 10 minutes. I didn't even completely believe it until I went in the studio and saw him do his show."

Just picture what it was like 20 years ago, when Gagliardi's sister bought him his first Genesis album, right in the heyday of '80s glam rock.

Within a few years, he was driving down to Pomona with a pack of smokes and some convenience-store food, sitting in an empty parking lot, and listening to some other late-night prog rock DJ on the radio.

"My friends were listening to Bon Jovi and Cinderella, and they asked, 'What kind of dorky music are you listening to?'" Gagliardi said.

Gagliardi now hopes to



Photo/PETE PICKNALLY

Tom Gagliardi, a Maple Shade resident, talks to his listening audience about his progressive rock selections from WBZC-FM in Pemberton.

parlay that "dorky music" into a new career. A mortgage-company employee by day, he has hired an agent in hopes of scoring a program-director gig

for a progressive rock satellite radio station.

Until then, however, Gagliardi knows where he'll be every Saturday night.