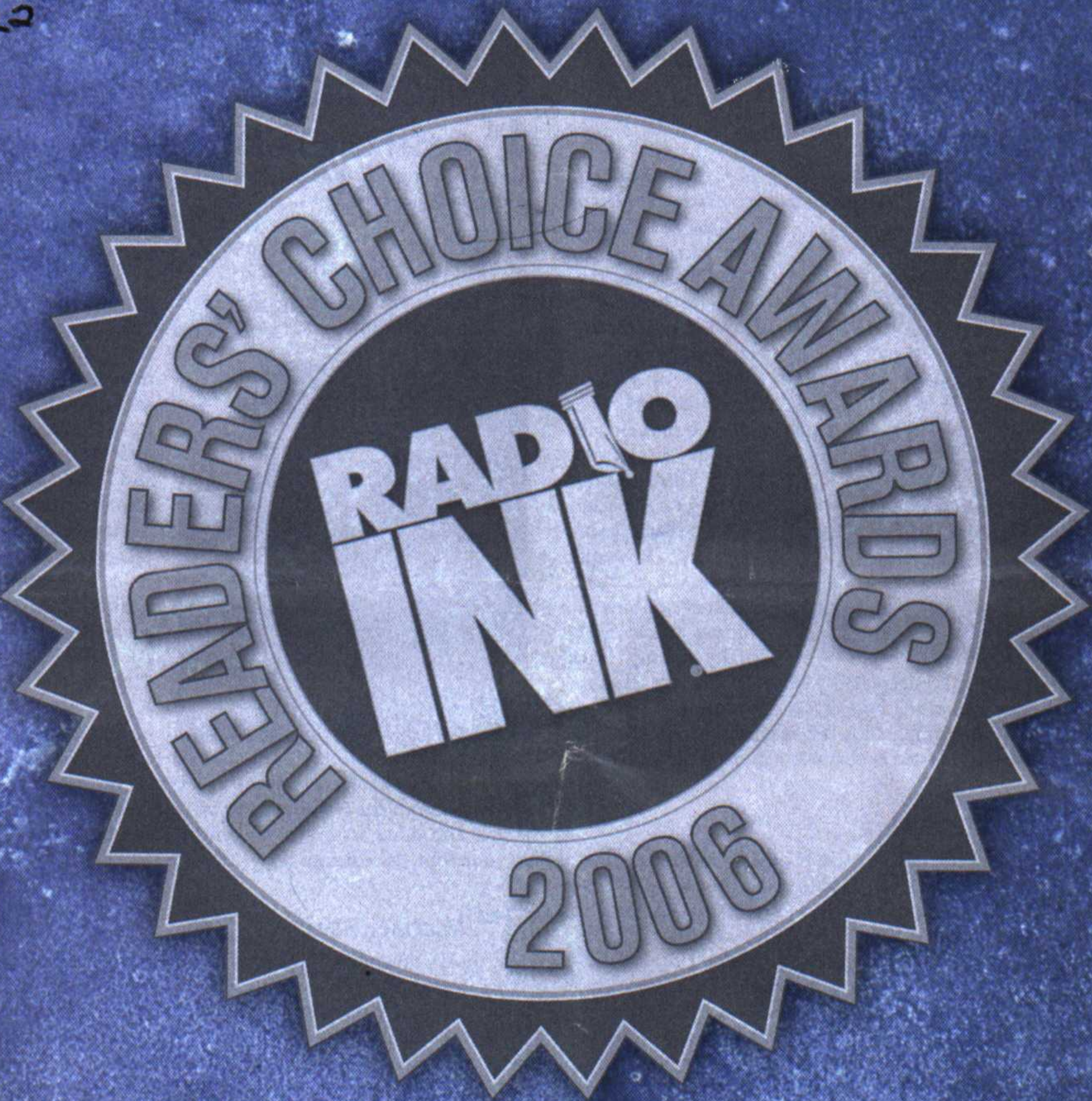


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By Joe Howard, Editor-In-Chief

Our readers have spoken, the votes have been tallied, and the results are in.

Each year, the *Radio Ink* Readers' Choice Awards reflect which syndicated shows are making an impact on the radio landscape. This year, the list is highlighted by the debut of several new finalists, while also featuring characteristic strong finishes for listener favorites. Interestingly, a couple of hosts shifted to new categories this year, a sign that the Talk radio landscape — and its top talent — don't always stick to the same old formula. One formula they do share, however, is the formula for success. So congratulations to this year's *Radio Ink* Readers' Choice Awards winners!



GENERAL TALK:

1st GLENN BECK

Beck is firing on all cylinders these days; he takes the win in this Radio Ink Readers' Choice category for the second straight year, and



the Glenn Beck Program is now carried by over 200 affiliates. He made the jump from Top 40 DJ to Talk host in 2001, and quickly caught the attention of Premiere Radio Networks, which launched him into syndication in January 2002. "Glenn has created a great reputation for himself and his program, as a host quite capable of producing excellent ratings for affiliates and incredible loyalty among listen-

ers," says Premiere President/COO Kraig Kitchin. On television, he's making waves as the host of his own nightly CNN *Headline News* show. Dubbed simply Glenn Beck, it's just the latest in a series of moves that has elevated Beck quickly into the public eye.

2nd Satellite Sisters

In just its third year, *Satellite Sisters* is quickly becoming one of the most well-known chat-fests in radio. Heard in 84 markets, the five Dolan sisters — Julie, Liz, Sheila, Monica, and Lian — host the show from three cities on two continents, living up to the show's title. Drawing on their diverse backgrounds — the five are variously married, divorced, childless, and raising families — the sisters tackle life's challenges while also discussing current events, pop culture, and their favorite new books. They also draw on their professional experiences; among the five are nurse, teacher, Fortune 500 company leader, university admissions administrator, and school auction chairwoman.

3rd Laura Ingraham

After two years in syndication with Westwood One, *The Laura Ingraham Radio Program* was acquired by Talk Radio Networks in 2003, and it's since become one of TRN's hottest properties. "We are ecstatic over the success of the show," says TRN CEO Mark Masters. "The combination of Laura's brilliance and the hard work of the team has propelled the show to the very top of ratings performance." Heard on 323 stations across the country, Ingraham tackles the worlds of politics, news media, and Hollywood with equal vigor, which may explain why Readers' Choice voters selected her for the General Talk category this year; last year, she finished third in the Political Talk category. A former speechwriter for the Reagan White House, Ingraham holds a law degree from the University of Virginia.

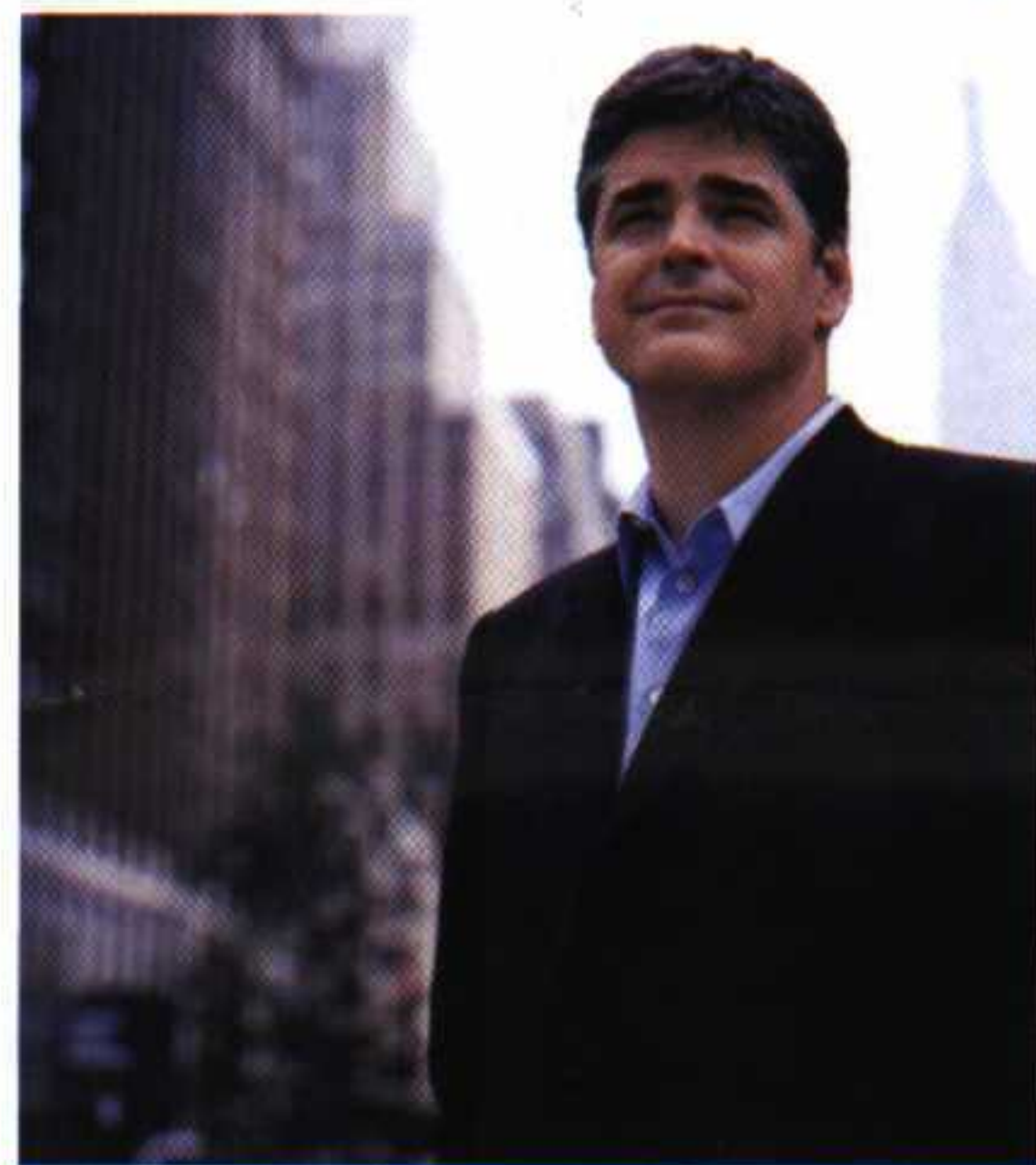
POLITICAL TALK:

1st RUSH LIMBAUGH

Rush Limbaugh is featured in this issue's Radio Ink interview, which begins on page 16.

2nd Sean Hannity

ABC Radio's *The Sean Hannity Show* marks its fifth year in syndication next month, and has emerged in that time as one of



ABC Radio's premier properties. In those five years, the show has spread to over 500 affiliates, and has turned Hannity into one of the top conservative Talk voices in radio. That reputation is further buoyed by co-hosting duties on Fox News Channel's *Hannity and Colmes* program, on which he spars

nightly with progressive Alan Colmes. In fact, that program celebrates its 10-year anniversary next month, so September is a big month for Hannity. *Radio Ink* will discuss these milestones and other issues with Hannity in an interview slated for our Sept. 18 edition.

3rd Michael Savage

The always outspoken Savage was a finalist in the Alternative Talk category last year, but this year his listeners' appetite for Savage's staunch and challenging political views landed him in the Political category. "I guess people love my show because of my hard edge combined with humor and education," Savage says unabashedly. Talk Radio Network CEO Mark Masters adds, "We are extremely proud of Michael's achievements. As he continues to challenge his audience and himself, the show and the ratings just continue to grow." Savage's show is heard in on over 300 stations nationwide, in markets that include New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Boston, and Detroit.

FINANCIAL/CONSUMER TALK

1st BOB BRINKER

Brinker celebrated 20 years of hosting his weekend *MoneyTalk* program in January, and lands once again atop the Radio Ink Readers' Choice voting for Financial/Consumer Talk. With over 30 years of investment management experience, Brinker's listeners trust him to steer them in the right directions. In addition to hosting *MoneyTalk*, he publishes



Marketimer, a monthly investment newsletter. A longtime member of the New York Society of Security Analysts and the Financial Analysts Federation, he is the co-founder of the B J Group, an investment management subsidiary of Centurion Capital Management. MoneyTalk is heard on 193 affiliate stations.

2nd Dave Ramsey

Heard on over 280 affiliates nationwide, *The Dave Ramsey Show* built its network the old-fashioned way, by working the phones and pounding the pavement. Ramsey, who owns and syndicates the program, is heard in markets like Nashville, Dallas, Kansas City, New York, and Atlanta. He also appears on CBS' *The Early Show* every other Tuesday, writes a column called "Dave Says" that runs in newspapers across the country, and has authored three financial advice books. Further, over 400,000 people have attended Ramsey's live financial advice seminars. Bill Hampton, executive vice president of *The Dave Ramsey Show*, says, "It is an honor once again to be recognized by the readers of *Radio Ink*."

3rd Clark Howard

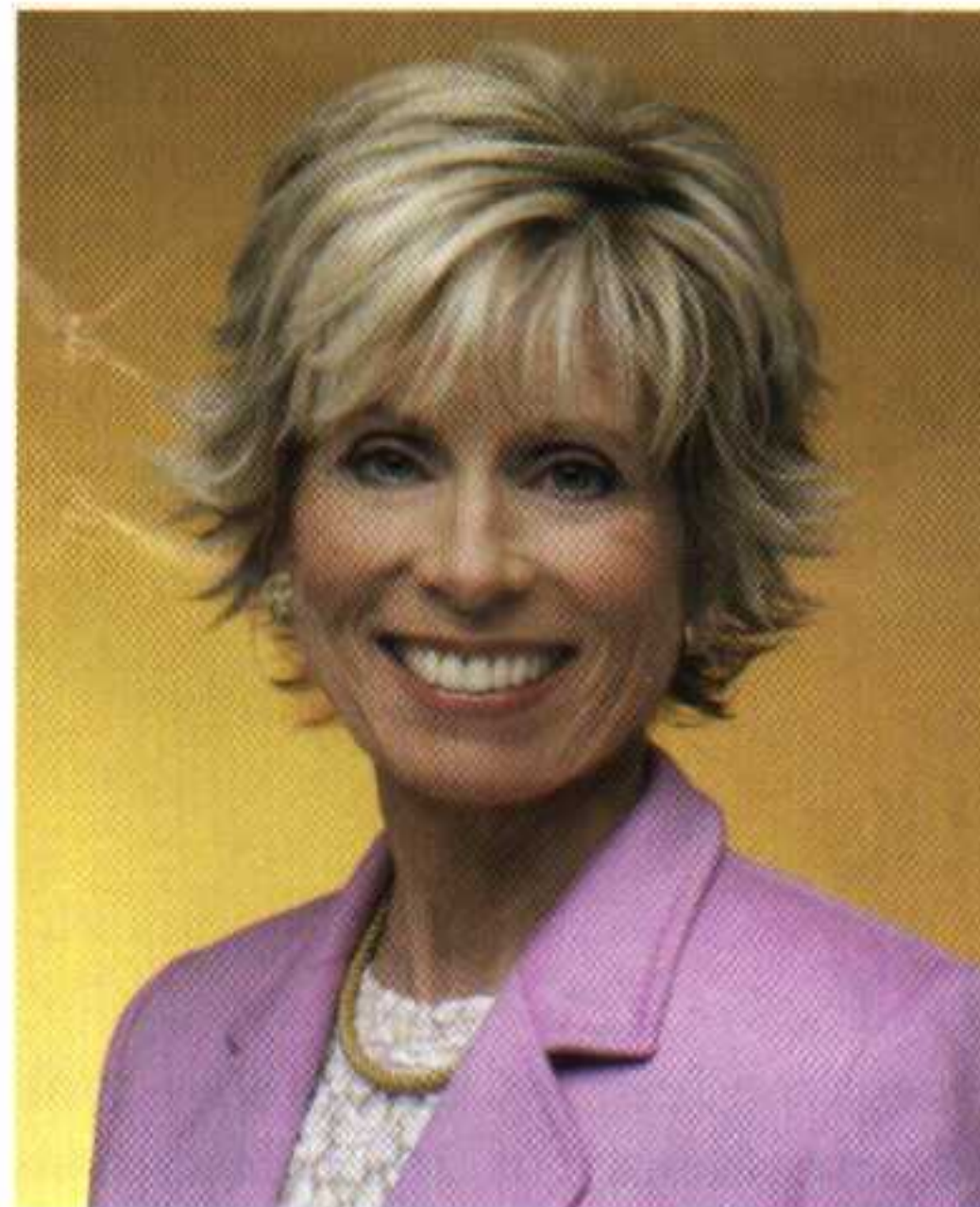
Launched by Jones in January 1999, *The Clark Howard Show* is heard weekdays, 1-4 p.m. ET, on over 150 affiliates in markets that include Atlanta, Phoenix, Orlando, Pittsburgh, Hartford,

New Orleans, and Portland, OR. Adding in his "Best Of" weekend program and short-form *Clark Howard Minute*, he's heard on over 300 stations across the country. A successful entrepreneur who built a travel agency chain and retired at the age of 31, Howard got the radio bug after appearing on a radio show about travel. In addition to his radio show, he hosts weekly consumer segments for CNN's *Daybreak* and WSB-TV-Atlanta, and writes a weekly column for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. He's also author of the book *Clark Smart Parents, Clark Smart Kids*.

HEALTH/RELATIONSHIPS TALK

1st DR. LAURA SCHLESSINGER

"While my work is its own satisfaction, it feels even better to get validation," Schlessinger says about her third consecutive win in this category. "I am humbled to be recognized by *Radio Ink* and its readers for this award — three years in a row! Many



thanks to my friends in the radio industry, as well as my affiliates, advertisers, and great staff, who make it possible to preach, teach, and nag millions of listeners every day." Now in its 12th year in syndication, *The Dr. Laura Program* is heard on 200 stations across the country, in markets such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, Las Vegas, Omaha, Houston, and St. Louis.



2nd Dr. Dean Edell

The Dr. Dean Edell Program was launched back in 1985, followed a year later by his Medical Minutes 60-second spotlight. Combined, the two are heard on nearly 250 affiliates in markets including Los Angeles, Chicago, and Detroit. He's also the author of *Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Healthiness* and *Eat, Drink & Be Merry*. Edell is also co-founder of Healthcentral.com, and is the medical reporter for KGO-TV in San Francisco. *Medical Breakthroughs*, Dr. Dean's current syndicated television show, is seen in 50 markets.

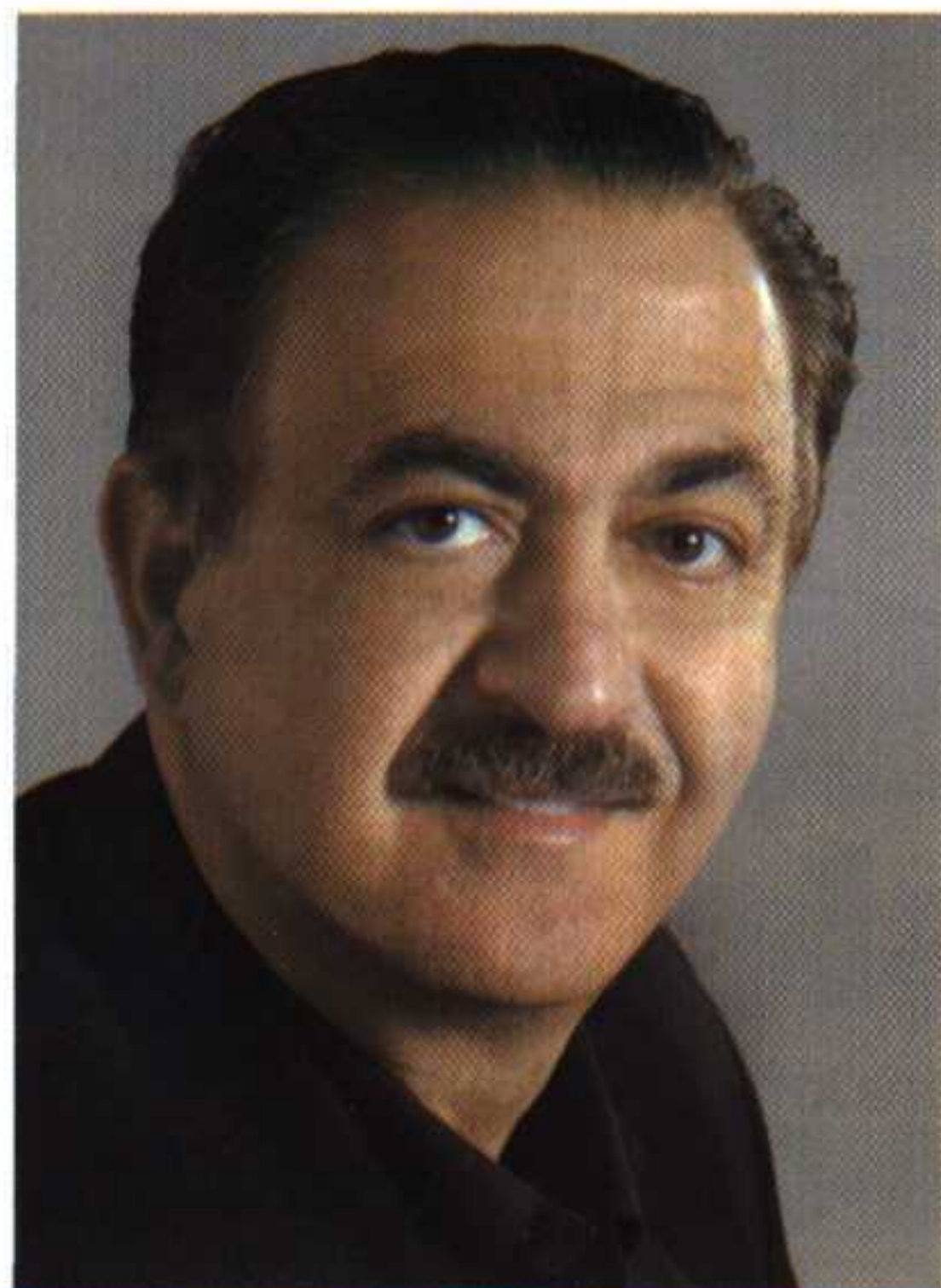
3rd Delilah

Now in its 10th year, Delilah's nightly show has been syndicated by Premiere since 2004. Through her distinctive storytelling and sympathetic listening, Delilah scores with women in the 24-54 age group that her program targets. "Her infectious smile and sense of humor make her a friend to literally millions of listeners, proving that women and men will choose radio as their medium of choice in the evening," says Premiere Radio Networks President/COO Kraig Kitchin. Delilah is currently heard on over 200 stations in markets that include Chicago, Dallas, Atlanta, and Washington. Recent guests on her show have included Stevie Wonder, Josh Groban, The Eagles, Michael Bubl , LeAnn Rimes, Kimberley Locke, and Chicago.

ALTERNATIVE TALK:

1st GEORGE NOORY

After years of filling in for longtime host Art Bell, Noory took the reins of *Coast to Coast AM* permanently in 2003. Heard on about 500 stations in both the U.S. and Canada, *Coast to Coast* examines off-the-beaten path issues such as paranormal phenomena, time travel, alien abductions, conspiracies, and other hard-to-explain issues. "I've always wanted to cover stories that the mainstream media never touch — the unusual, the paranor-



mal, and things like that," Noory says. "I learned that broadcast was the best business for exploring these issues, and I've been doing it for 33 years." In addition to his radio show, Noory co-authored *Worker in the Light: Unlock Your Five Senses and Liberate Your Limitless Potential* with William J. Birnes. Also, Sci-Fi Channel recently announced it is developing a series that will feature Noory.

2nd Kim Komando

A finalist in both the Short-Form and Alternative Talk categories this year, Komando is a regular in Radio Ink's Readers' Choices



Awards. The original, three-hour show debuted in 1995, while the short-form version launched in 1998. The *Kim Komando Show* is now heard on over 450 radio stations around the country, including Chicago, Atlanta, Seattle, Baltimore, Denver, Sacramento, and many others. The *Kim Komando Minute* can be heard on over 350

stations, including New York, Miami, Salt Lake City, West Palm Beach, Raleigh, Tulsa, and many more.

3rd John Batchelor

Batchelor's top-three finish in this year's voting is bitter-sweet, as *The John Batchelor Show* is scheduled to come to an end on Sept. 1. Demands on the host's time are cited as a reason for the decision to end the show, which debuted on Sept. 12, 2001, and was launched into syndication on March 17, 2003. "John Batchelor is one of a kind," says ABC Radio Networks SVP/Programming John McConnell. "It's no surprise he's been chosen as a favorite by the readers of *Radio Ink*." Batchelor's show has been marked by the host's broad interests, touching on everything from the military and presidential campaigns to planetary exploration and his own international travels. Plans for what flagship station WABC-New York will do with Batchelor's 10 p.m.-1 a.m. ET time slot were unannounced at Radio Ink's press time.

NEWS PROGRAMS:

1st FOX NEWS RADIO



The network kicked off its five-minute hourly news service with 58 affiliates on June 1, 2005, and today boasts over 350. Fox News Radio's one-minute service, which launched on April 1, 2003, has about 240 affiliates. Considering that the network wasn't even a finalist in last year's Radio



Ink Readers' Choice Awards, Fox News Radio SVP Kevin Magee says the win indicates that the network is gaining ground on its long-entrenched competitors. "It's a confirmation of what we've believed all along," he says. "There's simply more passion for Fox News Radio than there is for the old-time networks. We're getting more and more defections every day." Fox News Radio has affiliates in Los Angeles, Boston, Seattle, Houston, Phoenix, and St. Louis.

2nd Paul Harvey

Heard by over 25 million people on over 1,000 radio stations each day, *Paul Harvey News and Comment* and *The Rest of the Story* — and their host — are among radio's most well-known and well-respected institutions. In fact, *News and Comment* is now in its 55th year on the air, while *The Rest of the Story* marked its 30th year in May.

"Paul Harvey is the greatest communicator in the history of broadcasting and a wonderful man who is extremely appreciative of this recognition," says ABC Radio Networks SVP/Programming John McConnell. Harvey's radio career began in 1933 — the year before the Communications Act of 1934, which serves as the bedrock of FCC regulation, was adopted — at KVOO in his hometown of Tulsa. While there, he met a young lady named Lynne, whom generations of radio listeners know as Angel. He proposed marriage to her

on their first date, and she's been looking after Harvey and his career ever since. In 2005, President Bush presented Paul Harvey with the Presidential Medal of Honor.

3rd ABC News Radio

Launched in 1943 at the height of World War II, ABC News Radio today offers 24/7 hourly news updates to over 2,400 affiliates. Among the network's key anchors are Doug Limerick, Gil Gross, and Cheri Preston. Top reporters include Radio Hall of Fame member and longtime White House correspondent Ann Compton, Aaron Katersy, Linda Albin, Alex Stone, and Vic Ratner.

SPORTS:

1st ESPN RADIO

Launched in 1992, ESPN Radio was created to expand ESPN's sports news franchise. The country's largest sports network, it has more than 700 affiliates, with 320 stations carrying ESPN Radio programming 24 hours a day and 170 stations offering weekday, drive-time commentaries. The network also holds the play-by-play rights for Major League Baseball, the NBA and WNBA, the college football Bowl



Championship Series, and the NIT pre-season and post-season basketball tournament. Among the network's programming,

in addition to the second- and third-place finishers in this category, are *The SportsBash*, hosted by Erik Kulesias, and *The Herd*, hosted by Colin Cowherd.

2nd Mike and Mike in the Morning and The Jim Rome Show (tie)

Mike & Mike in the Morning

Launched on Oct. 12, 1998, *Mike and Mike in the Morning* pairs nine-year NFL player and 11-year ESPN veteran Mike Golic with 10-year ESPN vet Mike Greenberg in a show that combines lively banter and comedy bits with interviews and analysis from the sports world's most prominent figures. Heard weekday mornings on over 200 affiliates, a video feed of the show also airs live on the ESPN2 channel.

Golic's aspirations toward a broadcasting career were present even during his playing days; he began his television career during his Philadelphia Eagles tenure with the weekly "Golic's Got It" segment on a local sports show hosted by Eagles quarterback Randall Cunningham, a feature for which Golic won a regional Emmy Award. While still involved in ESPN's cable TV programming, Greenberg's roots are in radio, with early career stints at both WMAQ and WSCR in Chicago.

The Jim Rome Show

Rome marked his 10-year anniversary with Premiere Radio Networks with a new contract that will keep him with the network for the foreseeable future. Heard in over 200 markets nationwide, including nine of the top 10 markets, *The Jim Rome Show* is marked by the host's fiery personality and outspoken opinions on the people and issues that define the sports world. Rome says, "Premiere Radio Networks and Clear Channel are the gold standard in our industry, and I'm proud of our partnership and our future together. Knowing many of my affiliates have been with me since day one, for the entire 10 years, means a lot." Premiere President/COO Kraig Kitchin adds, "Jim's radio program is the de facto standard for Sports Talk programming in the country."

3rd The Dan Patrick Show

Launched in 1999 and now heard on over 700 affiliates nationwide, *The Dan Patrick Show* blends the host's thorough knowledge of the sports world with his often biting criticism, all delivered in Patrick's characteristically dry, mellow style. His pairing with Keith Olberman on ESPN's *SportsCenter* is considered by many as the high-water mark for the program, and led to Olberman's now regular appearances on Patrick's radio show.

While Olberman now hosts his own show on MSNBC, Patrick still handles hosting duties on *SportsCenter*, and also hosts the network's weekly *Sunday Conversation*, which features interviews with top sports figures. He's also a columnist for *ESPN The Magazine*. Prior to joining ESPN, Patrick spent six years as a sports reporter/anchor for CNN.



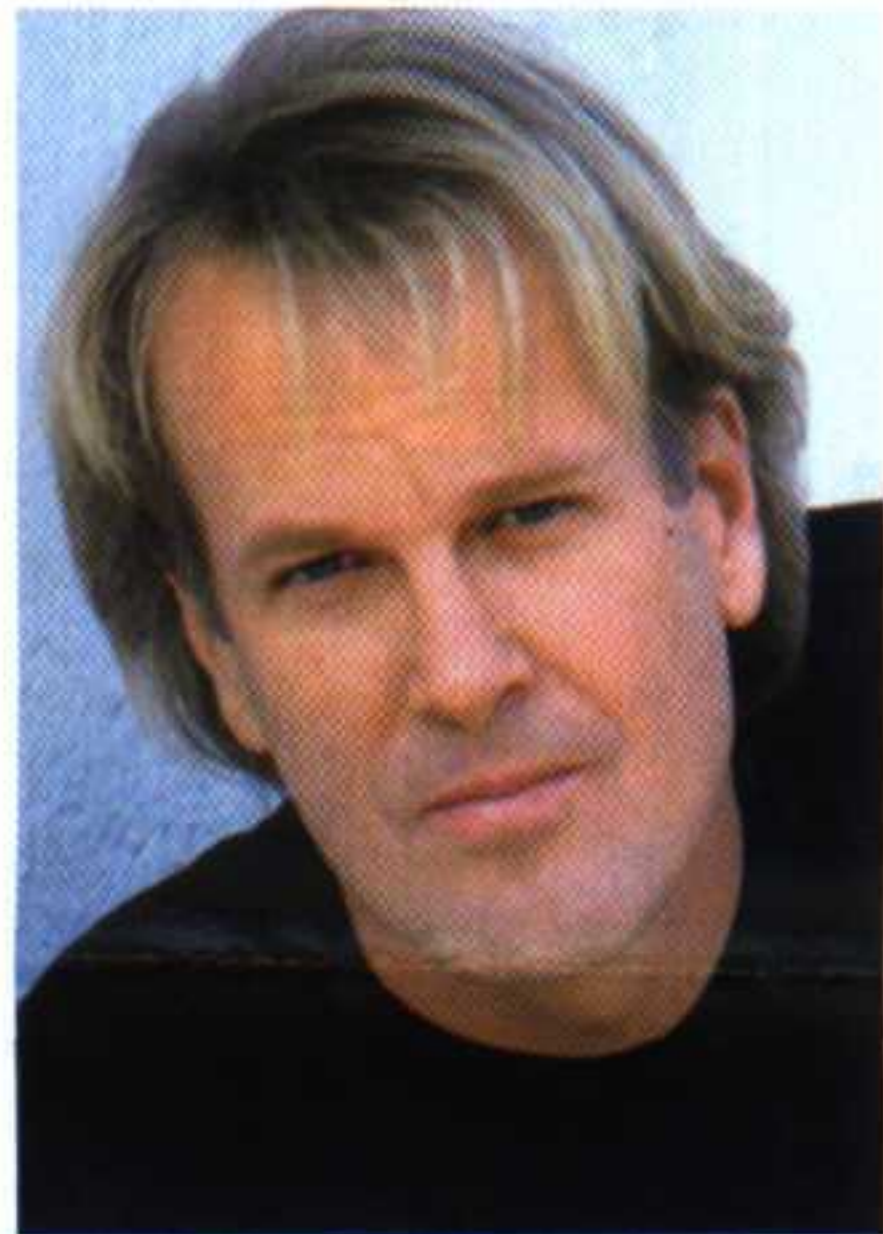
DAILY MUSIC:

1st JOHN TESH RADIO SHOW

A winner in two categories this year, John Tesh's weekly and daily radio programs combined are heard in four countries and in U.S. markets that include Los Angeles, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Raleigh, and Las Vegas. His weekend program

launched in 2000, and the daily show, which is heard across many dayparts including a.m. and p.m. drive and middays, kicked off on April 28, 2003. While the expansion to weekdays appears to have paid off — Tesh also won the Daily Music category — TeshMedia Group Vice President Scott Meyers says that move wasn't made lightly. "We spent a year-and-a-half researching before starting the daily program," he says. "But when we

launched, we had 25 stations right out of the box." Today, the daily show has 221; combined, Tesh's daily and weekly programs boast over 240 affiliates.



2nd After MidNite with Blair Garner

"Blair created this genre of late-night entertainment for Country radio with *After MidNite*," says Premiere Radio Networks President/COO Kraig Kitchin. "It's a 'must stop' for music artists, hundreds of thousands of listeners at a time, and countless promotional relationships." Indeed, Garner's six-hour nightly show has played host to some of Country music's biggest starts, including Garth Brooks, Shania Twain, Brooks and Dunn, Martina McBride, Toby Keith, Alan Jackson, and Vince Gill. Currently in its ninth year in syndication, *After MidNite* is heard in nearly 250 markets, including Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Boston, Washington, and Atlanta.

3rd The Lia Show

One of Country music's leading ladies, Lia reaches out six nights a week to listeners in 175 markets, including Atlanta, Houston, and Seattle. Heard Monday through Saturday from 7 p.m. to midnight, *The Lia Show* balances lively weekly features like Monday's "Use Your Tool" — in which Lia tries to guess which tool her producer Jak is using by the sound it makes — with more serious fare like "Military Connections," a Wednesday feature during which Lia focuses on the nation's troops. On Thursdays and Saturdays, Lia

