

# Doing station promo as singer led to radio career

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"A good thing about that is it that these kids who instant message me, it means that they are not in their cars listening. It means they are at home. And a lot of people just turn off the radio when they get out of their car but these kids aren't doing that. I have a list of 150 buddies that always instant message me and I think that's cool," Czyz said.

On Rock, Czyz does feel slightly constrained when it comes to talking about her personal life. That's because she's the lead singer for Mind Control, a local rock band. Since it is a rock station, she doesn't feel it's professional or fair to other bands to bring up her own.

"I think it's harder for me to have my personality on 96 Rock because so much of my life has to do with my band," Czyz said. "I'm having band practice or doing shows and I can't talk about how I drove an hour and back to these things and didn't get home till after midnight but still had to get up at six. So that's where I struggle with 96 Rock because my life is rock and I can't talk about it."

It was Mind Control that got Czyz her gig as a deejay. She went into 96 Rock one day to record liners, those blurbs that say, "Hey this is Becki from Mind Control and you are listening to 96 Rock." She did such a good job doing voice work that she was offered a job.

At first, Czyz found the audio switch-board and computer system intimidating with the thought that one wrong button push meant she was on air live when she was not supposed to be. But she quickly learned how to handle everything.

Another thing she didn't know before going into the job was that studios no longer use tapes or CDs. Instead, they have a digital archive they dig into for their music.

"The hardest part of deejaying is trying to be entertaining," Czyz said. "If you don't entertain listeners then they might switch the station. So sometimes when you are having a bad day or have a lot of stuff that isn't going well you can't let it matter. You have to go on the radio and you have to do that and be that happy person. That is the most difficult part. I mean you have days when you have a headache or it's just a rough week and you still have to sit in front of that microphone and be perfect."

A lot more goes into the life of a deejay than just picking what songs to play on and when to play them. During her down time, while songs are playing on air, Czyz spends much of her time recording commercials and doing prep work for the following day's show.

"I really like commercials a lot. It's fun to play different roles. The commercials are cool because you can be doing a children's diaper commercial and have to talk in this quiet voice but then you'll do a club commercial and act crazy and do effects on your voice and I'm all about that kind of stuff," Czyz said.

Czyz stresses the important of educa-  
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Mind Control with lead singer Becki Czyz in the front, her bass-playing sister, Brianna, to the left, her guitar-playing father, Bryan, to the right, and drummer Ryan Peters in back.

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