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JOHN SMYNTEK'S

Eliot's buddies team up to support THAW benefit

January 13, 2008

The indefatigable and irrepressible **Sonny Eliot** reports he's doing his all to promote WWJ-AM's (950) 5th annual radiothon Feb. 8-9 for the Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW) to keep poor folks warm by helping with winter heating bills.

So Eliot convinced his TV weather buddies **Chuck Gaidica**, **Jerry Hodak** and **Rich Luterman** -- a rare feat in today's ultra-competitive TV environment -- plus hockey great **Gordie Howe** and Detroit Mayor **Kwame Kilpatrick** to do some typically Eliot-ized public service announcements for the event. Luterman also did a TV spot with Eliot about the fund-raising effort.

New deal for Noory

One happy fella these days is area native **George Noory**, the University of Detroit alum who helms the quirky but fabulously successful overnight radio show "Coast-to-Coast A.M." weeknights (heard in Detroit at 1 a.m. on CKLW-AM, 800).

Noory, who still has family here, says he and syndicator Premiere Networks just agreed to a very long-term agreement, possibly through 2013. "Both sides are very happy. We just reached a milestone and hit 500 affiliates and also we're on XM Satellite Radio. Ratings have never been higher."

Noory toiled here in the 1970s at WJBK-TV (Channel 2) and WKBD-TV (Channel 50) before bouncing around broadcast jobs in Minneapolis and St. Louis.

When "Coast-to-Coast" creator **Art Bell** started scaling back a few years ago because of a bad back and family problems, Noory stepped in and held on to the paranormal-loving night-owl audience that Bell cultivated.

Noory has co-authored a best-seller "Worker in the Light," about belief in what can't be seen, and is working on a sequel. He also has spoken of making a **Ron Paul**-like populist run for the presidency in 2012 -- if he's no longer on the radio, of course.

Trouble in paradise

"Desperate Housewives" star **Nicollette Sheridan** vacationed with her boyfriend, "Clash of the Choirs" and oft-derided milquetoast soul man **Michael Bolton**, on the Caribbean island of St. Barts during the recent holiday season. But according to the New York Post, they didn't endear themselves to the staff at Hotel Taiwana, the resort where they stayed.

A fellow guest overheard one of the employees complaining bitterly about the couple.

"He said they were a 'bloody nightmare.' They kept trying to get deals on the room and boat rentals," the source said. "They wanted a bigger boat. And he's a vegetarian -- they looked all over the island

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for food to accommodate him."

Best friends forever

Us Weekly reports that "The Break-Up" stars broke up in real life more than a year ago, but that **Vince Vaughn** says he remains close to **Jennifer Aniston**, 38.

"I have such a great friendship with Jennifer," the actor, 37, says. "I still talk to her constantly. I have a real, genuine connection with Jen."

So what went wrong? "People date, and sometimes it works out, and sometimes it doesn't."

BRIEFLY

Featured: On "Somewhere in Time" at 6 p.m. today on WMUZ-FM (103.5 and www.wmuz.com) and WRDT-AM (560), New York jazz great **Eddie Condon**, who encouraged round-the-clock jazz and invited visiting musicians from across the country to sit-in with his Dixieland house band whenever they came to New York. **Tom Wilson** and **Heather Novak** cohost. The show's weekly old radio clip features characters Lamont Cranston and Margo Layne from radio's "The Shadow."

Interviewed: Today at 5:05 p.m. (new time) on **Jack Krasula's** "Anything Is Possible" (WJR-AM, 760 and wjr.com), college athletic administrator **Dutch Baughman**.

Compiled from various news sources by JOHN SMYNTEK at 313-222-5169 and jmyntek@freepress.com. Hear him Fridays at about 7:50 a.m. on WJR-AM (760 and wjr.com) on "The Paul W. Smith Program."

COMMENTS

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Glamour and style

Our makeover mom Lainie Smith glided across the room at the GM Style event in Tory Burch flip-flops, her new red bob catching the lights as she hugged General Motors employees.

• **On a short leash?:** Do you literally keep your child on a leash? Would you ever? Explore this topic more in our forum.

[More on MotorCityMoms.com](#)

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The new Ford F-150: In this exclusive report, the Detroit Free Press goes behind the scenes as Ford develops the all-new 2009 F-150 -- Ford's latest all-out effort to remain No. 1.



31 ways to enjoy January: Sure, 2007 was hard on Michiganders, and the holidays were an overscheduled blur. But it's a new year, a new month, and the Free Press is here to make the best of it.

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