

# WNYC follows fund drive with hard shell

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**W**NYC (820 AM, 93.9 FM) throws an unusual party tonight. The idea is to toast the station's impending independence and in the process honor the "biggest crab" in New York.

If those two thoughts don't seem precisely related, well,

maybe the only link is that in both cases, someone could feel a pinch.

As of July 1, WNYC loses about \$1 million annually in direct and indirect city support — an expected step on the path to the WNYC Foundation's buying the licenses from the city for \$20 million and striking out on its own.

The transfer applications have been filed with the FCC, but it could still be several months before the deal is com-

pleted, so meanwhile, WNYC is trying to raise money both for operating expenses and the purchase price.

A drive completed last week raised around \$500,000 — and just as important, helped keep everyone convinced that this independence drive is on track and can work.

Toward that end, it doesn't hurt to have an event like to-

night's Big Crab party at the Crab House on the Chelsea Piers.

Heavy Public Radio hitters like Garrison Keillor, Roy Blount Jr., Richie Havens, Oscar Brand and others will be on hand for a sunset toast starting at 6:30 and finishing up with a big-band dance party at 9 hosted by Danny Stiles.

The honoree, however, will be a listener, the one selected in a station con-

test as the crabbiest person in New York. With any luck, he or she will find very little in the Public Radio picture to be crabby about.

**AROUND THE DIAL:** Ken Webb, morning man on WBLS (107.5 FM), will announce today the winners of the 1996 Ken Webb Scholarship grants, awarded to high-school seniors interested in broadcasting and communications. . . . Cy Coleman performs live today on Stan Martin's show over WQEW (1560 AM) at 5 p.m., and Frankie Laine follows at 6. . . . The Kennedys are live with Rita Houston tonight at 10 on WFUV (90.7 FM). . . . There's something just fascinating about a half-hour radio show devoted entirely to hair, and that's what happens on "The Hair Show" on WKDM (1380 AM), 8 p.m. every Monday. Tonight's topic is "hair and the music industry."

## RADIO