

Delray Beach teenager brings issues to the air

Spanish River student also hosts Web site

BY MARY THURMAN YUHAS
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

On Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Chelsea Krost, 17, hosts her radio show, *Teen Talk Live*.

Since March 11, Krost, a junior at Spanish River High School in Boca Raton, has been talking with other teens about current topics, such as cyber-bullying and plastic surgery on WBZT, AM 1230 radio and on her Web site, www.teentalklive.net.

"There's no bigger rush than sitting in front of a microphone for two seconds and then you're on the air," she said.

Krost is the daughter of Cindi and Stuart Krost, of Delray Beach, and their daughter's career has become a family affair. Her mother is Chelsea's manager, and her dad manages all technical aspects of the Web site.

Ken Harris, station manager of WBZT and WJNO, AM 1290 in West Palm Beach, said Krost is a natural, and until Krost and her mother approached him, the station had nothing for teens.

"It sounded very viable, and they seemed to have the motivation, organization and resources to get it done," he said.

The show has not been on the air long enough for meaningful ratings to be determined, but Harris said Krost is reaching out to an untapped audience and is receiving a lot of phone calls. "She's done a good job of promoting herself and her parents are supportive. I'm very impressed," he said.

For three months prior to pitching the idea to the radio station, Krost and her mother nailed down all the details. Krost said they made lists of topics that are important to teens, so she was confident the concept would work.

Randy Weedle, who teaches television production at Spanish River, is not surprised by Krost's success. Weedle, a former radio broadcaster, said his student has the stuff needed to



TEEN SHOW CREATOR: Chelsea Krost, a junior at Spanish River High School in Boca Raton, during her weekly talk show, *Teen Talk Live*, on WBZT-AM 1230. Photo/Jon Way

"There's no bigger rush than sitting in front of a microphone for two seconds and then you're on the air."

Chelsea Krost
Host of *Teen Talk Live*

succeed in a business where only 1 percent make it — hard work and persistence.

Krost is president of the high school radio station, WSRH, which Weedle says has morphed into a TV station.

Krost says she became interested in radio and TV because of the class. "The class at Spanish River introduced me to the world of broadcasting," she said.

In his 24 years of teaching, Weedle said he has seen several of his graduates with enough ambition to make it. "I think she's got it," he said.

To find a different, timely subject for her show each week, Krost said she watches the news, reads newspapers, and scans the Internet.

"Every week something happens and there is kind of a sign that that next week this needs to be the topic," she said.

Once she has decided what

the topic will be, she said she spends time studying it.

Each show includes an expert on the topic of the day. Krost said that adds credibility and provides insight to her listeners.

A panel with three or four teenagers, who change from week to week, also give their views during the show. Krost said that it adds a lot to the show because anyone who is interested can be on the panel. "They just have to go on my Web site and e-mail me," she said.

Of course, there are the callers and those who contact her by e-mail to voice their opinion. She said she has heard from teens from all over the United States, and as far away as Canada and Japan. The toll-free phone number for the show is 1-866-75-TEENS (866-758-3367).

Krost says she would love see her show go national. And someday — "I want to be a host on a TV talk show," she said.