STUDENT LIFE

Radio station on campus contributes to community

By Alexis McKnight
staff writer

On the first floor of the Reed Union Building, there is a nationally recognized commercial radio station. It is WPSE, a professionally operated broadcast station.

Its frequency is 1450 AM. The station was given as a gift to Behrend in 1989 from Burbach Broadcasting, a regional broadcasting company. The station is commercial, which means it is funded independently from the college's funding.

The station broadcasts commercial networks, such as CBS Radio News & Sports, WJET-TV action news simulcasts, Business Talk Radio, Westwood One, Bloomberg News and, of course, the Penn State Sports Network; the latter is the number one station for NFL, NCAA, and Penn State sports coverage.

The station's mission is to direct its energies outwardly toward community service. Ron Slomaski, the station's director and general manager, said, "We receive ongoing, positive feed-

back to business news programs from listeners affiliated with companies, and to personal finance programs from individuals interested in keeping track of their investments and retirement funds."
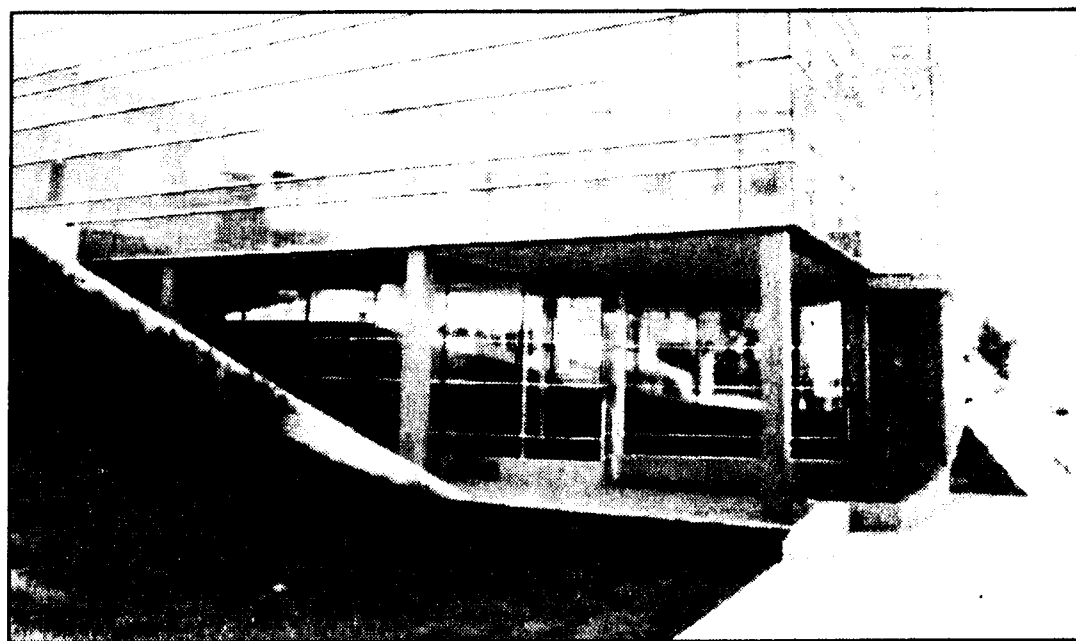
Business Talk Radio's Network Vice President of Affiliate Relations, Jon Patch, also had a few words to say about the station. "WPSE offers a unique, on-air, educational environment where CEOs share their success and challenges with the listening audience. WPSE is known throughout the network as an innovator."

Melanie Deppen, assistant manager of WPSE, explained that the station operates in a financially successful manner by maintaining a small staff and using technology to run its programming 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Another staff member is Valerie Engelleiter. She is the traffic manager who summarizes the station's programming as network offerings.

Anyone interested in an internship, work-study, or volunteer opportunities may apply.

Student Life Snippets

School of Engineering Speaker Series begins

Michael Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON

By Sean Mihlo
student life editor

Today, October 20, two advisories will be taking place regarding Penn State Behrend and its endeavors. The first involves an anonymous donation to the campus, while the second highlights advances in business and engineering.

At 10 a.m. at East High School in Erie, Penn State Behrend and the School District of the City of Erie will announce a $1 million donation to support Trustee Matching Scholarship. The scholarship will help graduates of East and Strong Vincent High Schools in their post-secondary education at Penn State Behrend. Chancellor Jack

Burke will join James Barker, superintendent of the School District of the City of Erie, and the anonymous million-dollar donor at the ceremony.

Also today, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. is a program called Penn State Today, the first in the 2006-2007 School or Engineering Speaker Series. Held in the Research and Economic Development Center (REDC), the program, which is presented by the Black School of Business and School of Engineering, features seminars and panel discussions, an overview of the partnership between both schools, along with tours of the REDC. The programs are free and open to the public, but reservations are encouraged. Call 814-898-6153.

ZUM to deliver "gypsy-tango" for Music at Noon Series

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By Sean Mihlo
student life editor

On Tuesday, October 24, the Kay Logan Trust sponsored Music at Noon series welcomes its second act of the semester, the London-based ZUM. Formed in 2001, ZUM, which takes its name from a composition composed by the master of modern tango Astor Piazzolla, combine Eastern European gypsy fiddle music with Argentinean tango; they've been dubbed the "Original Gypsy-Tango band." Comprised of five diverse members, including David Gordon (piano), founder and principle creative force behind ZUM, Chris Grist (cello), Adam Summerhayes (violin), Eddie Hession (accordion) and Jani Pensola (stand-up bass), ZUM performs traditional tango pieces from the genre's golden era, but blends in many different musical styles like jazz and bluegrass.

Over the past five years, ZUM has sold-out

tours and participated in numerous music festivals across the United Kingdom and Europe, entertaining and enlightening venues with its original combination of gypsy music and tango. The band has released many albums of genre-bending material: Gypsy Tango Pasion, the band's first studio album, released in 2001; Live on the South Bank, London, its second release and first live album, recorded in the Purcell Room in December of 2001; and the band's latest release, Inferno.

Described by the BBC as "...fiery, passionate and intriguingly beautiful," ZUM will hit the stage on October 24 in McGarvey Commons at noon. For more information on the Music at Noon series, visit the program's webiste at www.pserie.psu.edu/musicatnoon or call 814-898-6108. To hear sample songs from ZUM's current and previous releases, and to view a performance schedule, visit the band's website at www.zum.org.uk.

Ask ASCII: Solving problems online

By Logan Stack
staff writer

We've all been getting a deluge of e-mails from sports teams seeking members.

This weekend, a different kind of sport is holding tryouts.

Every year, Behrend sends a team or two of crack programmers to the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest. We've never actually won at the regional competition. We don't take it as seriously as some other colleges, most notably Waterloo. Last year's teams took a van to Canada to compete andcrawl the bars.

Contest programming is a lot like other sports. Each college has one or more teams competing. The teams get a set of problems and score points by writing a program to solve each. At the end of the competition, the team with the most points wins. If there's a tie in the number of completed problems, whoever scored points fastest wins.

This Saturday in Nick 156, Behrend will be holding tryouts. From 1:30 to 5:00, anyone can tease their brain trying to solve these problems. The programming required to solve the problems is rarely difficult, and nobody takes off points if you use global variables or have bad form. The problems have a logical difficulty

comparable to brain teasers or puzzles, which makes them difficult and interesting. You can practice on over 11,000 problems available at http://acm.uva.es/problemset/. The problems in the competition and the judging program are very similar to these.

The online judge accepts programs written in Pascal, C, C++, and Java. Because all of our Computer Science students are all familiar with C++, that will be the language our team uses at the contest unless we can find a group of students who are knowledgable in another language.

Contestants are allowed to use any reference books or notes they want, but Internet access is strictly forbidden. All of these problems, like the sphinx's riddle, have been solved. Internet access would allow people to cheat by copying the answer from a website. The contest organizers don't want to force competitors to memorize every structural nuance of programming though; the contest is about logic more than programming.

So if you've taken a programming class, come try out this Saturday.

Do you have a computer question? Then ask ASCII! Send an e-mail to ascii@psu.edu and you may see it answered in next week's column.