

WPSE Looks For a Station Manager

by Cristin Hayes
Collegian Staff Writer

Ownership of the former WEYZ-AM 1450 radio station was officially transferred to Behrend on Wednesday, March 1 and the station, renamed WPSE, is due to go on the air on May 1.

The transfer of AM 1450 to Behrend came as the result of a \$250,000 gift of the station and equipment from Burbach Broadcasting Company in December 1988. Behrend contributed an additional \$50,000 for facilities, other equipment, and a salary for a station manager.

Installation of the station's

equipment in the new office on the first floor of the Reed Building began on March 13. "Every day we move two steps forward and one step back, but we are making steady progress," said Dr. Chris Reber, Dean of Student Services and director of the station's start-up operation at Behrend.

The process of hiring a station manager is in its final stages. Candidates were interviewed the week of March 19, and the manager will be appointed in early April. The manager will be heading a staff consisting mainly of students from Behrend's communication program.

A committee chosen to plan the station's format includes Dr. John Lilley, Provost and Dean; Cathy Mester, assistant professor of communications and advisor to the WPSE Radio Club; Ken Bunting, a Behrend student and assistant manager of the radio club; and Myron Jones, president and owner of JET Broadcasting.

The committee wanted a format that would serve not only the campus, but the community as well. "We view this as a new way for Penn State-Behrend to serve the public interest in the Erie community," said Lilley. For this reason WPSE decided on a block programming format. This type of format will differ

from any other station in the Erie area.

A 6 am to 1 am on-air schedule is tentatively planned. During the community's primary listening hours, 6 am to 6:30 pm, the station will broadcast a news and talk format. After 6:30 pm the station plans to switch to a more student-oriented format, including specialized music programming. WPSE's radio club will be a major factor to the station's success. Students are now being licensed to broadcast on May 1. "I think this plan will best serve our students needs for hands-on practice and will give them the best variety of on-air experiences," said Reber.

In the future, WPSE will have CBS news and sports coverage and, possibly, coverage of Penn State sporting events. They are also looking into the American Radio Network, a 24 hour talk network, to pick up national talk show programming.

Originally planned to be a non-commercial station, WPSE has been approved for commercial status. "We needed to change to commercial status to have access to national satellite news services," explained Reber. "With an all-news and all-talk daytime format, a satellite service is essential."

JRC Cook-Off

Apartment residents dished out their best for the first Joint Residence Council (JRC) Apartment Kitchen Cook-Off on Thursday, March 23 in the Apartment Community Center.

Entries in main dish and dessert categories were judged by John Downey, Coordinator of Student Activities; Pam Peter, JRC vice president; Clay Belgie, Wintergreen Cafe manager; Elvage Murphy and Ken Miller, Residence Life Coordinators; and S.G.A. president Steve McGarvey.

A microwave oven was awarded to Shirley Connor, winner in the main dish category. Second-place winner in the main

dish category was Frank Kurta. Kurta received a slow cooker for his efforts. Michelle Grasmick was awarded a \$25 Loblaws gift certificate for third place.

In the dessert category, Connor was once again the winner, taking home a mixer. Tammy Furiesz won a cooking dish for second prize and third-place winner Damon Gray won a \$25 Loblaws gift certificate.

"I was extremely pleased with the number of participants and variety of the entries," said JRC president Stan Lefes. "In the future JRC plans on sponsoring events like this as well as other resident activities."



Resident Life Coordinator Ken Miller dishes up a serving of a soon-to-be tested dessert at the JRC Cook-Off. (photo by Jeff Majcher)

Smokers To Pay Penalty

by Bill Warner
Collegian Staff Writer

Penn State University today unveiled phase II of its new smoking policy, which details penalties, including mandatory attendance at nicotine awareness workshops, for those smokers caught lighting up within Penn State buildings.

According to a recent memorandum from the Provost and Dean, John M. Lilley, "Enforcement responsibility rests with 'group leaders' in openly assigned areas (classrooms, laboratories, and seminar/meeting rooms) and with supervisors of individual office, administrative and general work areas."

Phase II sets specific penalties for students, staff and faculty found in violation of the policy. "Group leaders" will, upon witnessing infractions, assign one NICO-POINT to each offender. When any smoker's NICO-POINTS total three they are automatically referred to a Nicotine Awareness Workshop, sponsored by Penn State and the National Cancer Center.

Attendance at these workshops is mandatory and is calculated at

two hours per point for the first three NICO-POINTS and one hour per point for addition offenses thereafter. Failure by student offenders to attend assigned workshops will result in the retention of their diploma, while enforcement measures for staff and faculty attendance have yet to be announced.

NICO-POINTS will be tracked by the administrations newly acquired, \$5,000 Smoke-Out software program. The program keeps track of each smoker, their NICO-POINT total, and their attendance at workshops.

An unidentified source in the administration explained the new penalties. "We felt that the smoking policy would be treated as a token policy, that no one would take it seriously if there weren't penalties. We felt the need to put some teeth into the policy."

At press time, a left-wing smoker's group calling themselves "Tobacco Road Warriors" was planning to protest the policy by rolling a giant, ten foot long cigarette and lighting it at midnight tonight in the HUB student lounge at University Park.

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