

Broadcasting from Behrend

by Alicia Hartman
Co-editor

"...Our broadcast this morning originating from station WPSE. PSE, standing for Penn State-Eric, the Behrend College in Erie, Pennsylvania. It's a beautiful campus they have here and a little later in the day I'll be meeting with some journalism students..."

Those were the words heard across the nation at 7:31 a.m. when Charles Osgood broadcasted his show from the studios of WPSE.

WPSE was one of four CBS affiliates that had Charles Osgood broadcast his show "The Osgood File" live from its station after winning a network contest.

"The Osgood File," which is four minutes long, airs at 6:31, 7:31, 8:31 and 9:31 a.m. every weekday on the CBS Radio Network.

Osgood's day began at 3 a.m. when WPSE Station Manager Fred Anzivino picked him and his producer/engineer Phil Chin up from their hotel.

After they arrived at WPSE, a connection to New York City was established at 4:30 a.m. using Switch 56, a computerized telephone line connecting two broadcast sources.

Switch 56 allowed Osgood to transmit his shows from Behrend to New York. From New York the show continued its journey to a satellite and then came back down to 450 affiliates.

Between the time Switch 56 was tested and the time Osgood's first show was sent, Switch 56 failed twice.

Comrex, a system comprised of two dial-up telephone lines, was incorporated as a back-up.

WPSE and WJET chief engineer Mike Kobylka said that a disadvantage with Comrex was that CBS could not communicate directly with WPSE whereas they could with Switch 56.

Osgood's first show was sent to New York by the Comrex and



Charles Osgood, CBS radio and television broadcaster and writer, broadcasted his show "The Osgood File" live from WPSE studios Friday, November 12.

Craig Brown/Collegian Photographer

the other three were sent by Switch 56 once it was reestablished.

Osgood was accompanied by Chin and District Director of Affiliate Relations Ivy French.

Student Station Manager Val Engelleiter, who was operating the board Friday morning, said, "It was business as usual," even though Osgood was across from her in the production studio working on his shows.

Following the production of his four shows, Osgood talked to two of Dr. Colleen Kelley's speech communication classes at 10 a.m.

A luncheon was held at 11:30 a.m. in the Reed Wintergarden for the WPSE Community and Policy Advisory Boards, WPSE advertising clients, the Council of Fellows, communication faculty, and students involved in WPSE programming and sales.

The guest of the luncheon, Charles Osgood Wood, was born in New York, but raised in

Baltimore and Philadelphia. He now lives in Englewood, New Jersey. He is 61 years old, is married and has five children.

Osgood has a degree in economics, but while attending college he worked at a radio station in the Bronx.

He then went to Washington D.C. and became an announcer. Osgood recalled that the time was between the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

He was working at a station one night when his dinner relief came in wearing an "impressive" uniform. The relief was the announcer for the Army band.

"I asked him when he was done (with his job) and he said three days," remembered Osgood.

Osgood replaced him and "then I got to wear the fancy uniform," he boasted.

After two stints as a manager/program director, Osgood then worked at ABC for five years.

He is currently with CBS and

has been with them for 26 years.

The one thing Osgood doesn't like about his job is getting up at 2:15 every weekday morning.

He often says to himself, "This is crazy. Why am I getting up when the rest of the world is sleeping?"

When asked how "The Osgood File" is produced, Osgood first replied, "There are things that you shouldn't know how are made like sausage and certain kinds of cheese. 'The Osgood File' is one."

Osgood explained that the first step occurs when producer-engineer Phil Chin sends possible pieces by fax to him the night before.

Osgood goes in to work at 4:00 a.m. and Chin comes in at 5:00 a.m. By the time Chin arrives, Osgood is working on his first show, which is a version of the commentary he will later do on "CBS This Morning."

The other three shows are "bits and pieces" of stories in the news.

There is also a full-time writer who strictly creates "evergreens."

Osgood said that evergreens "stay green or alive" because they can be broadcasted at any time.

Evergreens are used when something goes wrong technically or when Osgood travels and can't originate the broadcast from where he is.

Osgood said that his job is fun. "It's more interesting and enjoyable than anything I can think of. I'm not repeating the same task everyday. I get involved in the issues and become sort of a 'know it all'."

Osgood said that he prefers working on radio rather than television because he can do commercials on the radio, while as a newscaster he can't.

He added, "Television is not as good a medium as radio. There are better pictures on the radio because each listener creates his/her own picture and therefore it stays with them longer."

Osgood joked, "I've looked so much better on radio than television."

When asked if he has ever been told what to say, Osgood responded, "Never once has anyone told me what to say. Not once."

He continued, "I think you have to be careful not to offend someone. I think having a sense of what the parameters are is important but you learn that yourself."

WPSE Director of Marketing and Sales Education Mike Rectenwald said the day "let the Erie community know that Charles Osgood is on the station everyday and it brings attention to that fact. With all the publicity we've had, it should eventually have an impact on the ratings."

Station Manager Fred Anzivino said, "It was exactly what I thought it'd be. For everyone involved, it was a wonderful experience."

Osgood's final words for the day, "I'll see you on the radio."

And the winner is...

by Hal D. Coffey
News Editor

On Saturday, November 15 Danielle Avolio was crowned Miss Penn State-Behrend in a pageant organized by Kappa Delta Rho fraternity.

Kappa Delta Rho held the pageant as a fundraiser for two charities, the Children's Institution for Cancer and Blood Disorders, their national charity, and the Rape Crisis Center of Erie County.

Markus Rodriguez, pageant

coordinator, said the event was a complete success.

"It went better than any past time, especially because it was a sellout," Rodriguez said.

He said the reason for the increased turnout was better advertising and organizing.

The total profits amounted to about \$300, even after they gave away \$225 in prize money to the contestants.

These profits were split three ways among the two charities and a fund for the 1994 pageant.

Along with the activities of the

contest, the band Phat Cannon played during intermissions and before the final announcement of the winner.

Rodriguez said his fraternity decided to establish the pageant not only for charitable reasons, but also to dispel the myth that fraternities ignore women's issue.

"We felt that an event in which women put a lot of work into should give part of its proceeds to a women's organization like the Rape Crisis Center."

The winner, Avolio, a sophomore chemical engineering major, said the pageant was "a

who was the choreographer of the really exhilarating experience".

"I met other girls in the pageant who I never knew before, and now we are really good friends," Avolio said.

Before the "big announcement," Avolio said she had many conflicting emotions.

"When they were ready to announce the winner, I was feeling both excitement and disappointment because I knew either I or one of my new friends would not win," she said.

Rodriguez and Avolio both believe that Vanessa Mangual,

pageant, was an instrumental part of making the pageant work.

"In order to make this happen even better, we needed to get a woman to help coordinate," Rodriguez said. "Vanessa put in about 100 hours of volunteer time, and she did an incredible job."

Two other Kappa Delta Rho brothers assisted in the organization of the event, Anthony Scire and Brandon Case.

Each contestant also received a complete makeover and photo shoot from Glamour Shots in the Millcreek Mall.