

Constitution ratified; Studio 26 now official

by Loukia Louka
News Editor

Studio 26, a long-time favorite, but unauthorized organization, became an official campus group last May 13 when the Elon College Student Senate unanimously approved a bill to ratify the constitution of Studio 26.

Studio 26 President Mark Moore says, "We wanted Studio 26 to become an official organization here at Elon. The people who have been a part of Studio wanted to give students an outlet whereby they don't have to join a fraternity of sorority."

The idea of Studio 26

began three years ago with founder Marc Ridgill. When Ridgill was a freshman, he lived in Smith 326.

"My roommate had a large stereo system," Ridgill recalls. "On the weekends, we would invite some friends over and would turn up the stereo and everyone would really have a good time.

"Someone remarked that whenever we got together it would be like being in Studio 54, which was a very popular disco at the time."

From there, the term Studio 26 was coined from the room number 326. Since then, Studio 26 has grown into a campus-wide favorite.

Their frequent dances have turned into great successes, and the Studio 26 intramural team was the overall dormitory winner last year.

"Presently, there are 44 charter members," says Moore, "but in about a week or so, that number will be increasing as we take in new members for the fall."

Although the organization is called Studio 26, many of the members do not live on third floor Smith. Studio 26 was afforded a suite in the new dormitory, the residents of which are all upperclassmen members of the organi-

cont. on p. 3



THE COLLEGE has now officially recognized Studio 26.
Photo by Nader Hamidpour.



The Pendulum

Pep rally today
at 9:30 a.m.
in front of Long
Student Center

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Station desperately needs more money

College looking into WSOE's future



WSOE's Programming Director Emily Besuden answers the telephone in the radio station's studio, while another disc jockey changes record albums. The station is to be studied to determine what course should be taken in its future. Photo by Nader Hamidpour.

by Doug Norwood
Managing Editor

"I really think we're stuck between a rock and a hard place," said Gerald Gibson, advisor to Elon's WSOE-M.

The radio station is in dire need of additional money in its year-to-year budget and to possibly raise its wattage from 10 to 500 watts Gibson said. A committee has been set up to study the financial

situation of the commercial-free, student-run station.

"The committee is looking at the future of the radio station," he said, "and it will decide if the college and the SGA can afford it."

The college and the Student Government Association each provide half of the funds to the Student Media Board, which then distributes money to the radio station, the Pendulum, Colonnades and Phi Psi Cli, the yearbook.

Increased Wattage Needed

Gibson said that the Federal Communications Commission is "trying to take away the rights and privileges" of the stations of WSOE's current size.

He said that if a station in Greensboro began broadcasting on WSOE's frequency, 89.3, the Elon station would have no recourse—not even the right to complain to the FCC as they used to have—for interference from the other station. WSOE would have to change to a different frequency.

Gibson said that the chance of interference is very high.

He added that with the wattage increase the station would be immune to such potential problems.

The estimated cost of equipment needed to go 500 watts has been "a range of \$13,000 to \$30,000," according to Gibson.

More Money

Gibson said that the \$30,000 would buy "The newest, biggest, best equipment" while the \$13,000 could afford "the bare minimum - used stuff that might break down."

"We would need a new transmitter, new cable running up the antenna, another bay on the antenna for better reception in car and portable radios, and a modulation monitor, for precise measurement of what the transmitter is doing."

He said, "The longer we wait to buy the equipment, the more it will cost."

The station faces more than the one-time cost of a power increase. Gibson said the yearly budget is not covering the cost of running the station.

Gibson calculated the cost of running the station at \$3.89 an hour. The station runs at least 12 hours a day, 365 days a year to satisfy FCC requirements. The budget request for 1982-83 was \$16,993.60.

The budget approved for this school year was \$9,615, or about \$2.11, every operational hour.

Station manager Fred Goehringer said that the station's live coverage of Elon football last year cost \$100 to \$150 per game. One away game, in Mars Hill, cost \$350.

This year the broadcasts will not take place.

Gibson said the request for the power increase, filed in March 1981, has been lost twice by the FCC, but that a final answer from the commission has been promised by Oct. 9.

He said he knew of at least one case where, once the increase is approved, operational costs will not go up.

"The basic day-to-day needs are the same no matter how small or large the station is," he said.

Presentation Planned

Gibson will make a presentation to the committee studying the station. He said he will offer seven alternatives for consideration "ranging from giving up the station to making a commercial property out of it."

He said he knew of at least six college radio stations that have become commercial.

Gibson said the quality of education offered to the 32 Elon students in broadcasting and 42 active station members has suffered "to some extent." The equipment is not now available to send students out to cover news stories, he said.

He said, "It really hurts when a mike or cord is damaged." It is another unexpected and unprovided for expense.

If the station was closed, Gibson said radio classes would still be offered at

cont. on p. 8