

49ers' voice bigger, better

by charlie peek

Ambition and drive are perhaps two of the best adjectives to describe one of UNCC's newer and faster growing organizations - WVFN. And WVFN is almost ready to return to the airways.

WVFN, an acronym for "Voice of the Forty-Niners," was established last year under the leadership of Steve Garrett, a senior electrical engineering student, who is now General Manager. The station had to close operations at the end of the last academic year but, according to Garrett, should come back on the air Monday, November 8.

Operating last year in cramped office quarters and in a studio only slightly bigger than a bread box, WVFN has since moved into the old arts and crafts room in the University Center basement.

Spending an undeterminable amount of man-hours in this room, they have so far built and sound-proofed two studios, wired the lights for the room, put in a ventilation system, and installed close to \$10,000 worth of electronics equipment.

Originally allocated about \$9,000 by the SGA, Garrett said they have spent close to \$8,000 of the allocation on equipment. Most of this money was spent to furnish the studios, purchasing consoles, microphones, stands, tape recorders, turntables, and the like.

WAYS, a Charlotte radio station, donated a remote unit with a console and two turntables worth about \$1,500.

"We're better equipped than a lot of small stations around the country," said Garrett.

Garrett, along with Tom Swicegood, Assistant General Manager, manage a staff of 44 people at last count. The staff is blessed with a lot of experienced people who have transferred here from other schools, said Garrett. "With this large pool of manpower, we're beginning to build up a good size news department, sales department, and things like this," he said.

When asked about problems that the staff ran into in setting up the organization, Garrett remarked, "We didn't have any problem getting money for the equipment. The main reason, I think, that the SGA gave us such a large allocation was that it was a capital expenditure. They had something to show for their money."

WVFN is one of the cheapest ways to get support from the community for the university, said Garrett.

Most of WVFN's problems have been organizational and management type problems.

"We had to re-structure our organization to conform with the new role of the student in the University and to conform with the SGA Constitution. Most of our problems just involved paperwork.

The station, after investigation by the Judicial Committee of the SGA, had to re-write their constitution.

"We had to set up a working organization that could handle all the things we're getting into," said Garrett.

"We're getting tons of records in here, now. We have re-structured the music

department and we're working toward having WVFN compatible to the commercial stations in the area," he said.

When asked about their programming plans, Tom Swicegood said that "essentially, it would be the students' top 40 hits and hard rock." He emphasized that they would not necessarily concentrate on the national "top 40" survey.

Garrett said that they would regularly conduct surveys to determine the musical tastes of the campus and that they had worked out a method of rotating the records to be played.

"Most records will be played twice a day at the most," said Swicegood.

The week-ends are going to be flexible and experimental, said Garrett. We plan week-end specials involving folk music, classical selections, all acid-rock shows and the like, he said.

Swicegood said that they would have regular editorials, both syndicated and locally-written.

The station is working towards having other organizations produce their own shows, said Garrett.

We also have, in the works, late-night talk shows where students can call in and ask questions of administrative or faculty "special guests," he said. "These shows have worked well on other campuses."

"Our only drawback to this is a sorry telephone system," he said.

The station plans to expand their coverage to the lounges in the academic complex and in the Smith Building in addition to covering the existing dorms.

Garrett said that the staff also tentatively plans to hold an "Open House" sometime during the early weeks of their operation. "We want the students to see how we've spent their money."

In general, said Garrett, one of our long-range goals is to provide a training place for our people to get experience in the broadcasting industry.

I'd like to see the students on campus provided with a good medium of entertainment. It can also be an alternate voice to the newspaper."

The managers expressed hope that one day WVFN could obtain a license to operate an FM station in the Charlotte area.

"The school, in general, would benefit greatly if an FM station is established," Garrett said. "We need to sell the University to the community."

The managers said that morale was high among the staff because "everybody seems to understand what our goals are and how we hope to accomplish them. Everybody's got a say-so in what goes on."

Morale does indeed seem high with many people taking on a lot of responsibility.

Swicegood said that a lot of credit for the station's growth was due to staff themselves. He mentioned Jim Yates, News Director; Linda Williams, Business Manager; Mike Surratt, Program Director; Steve Sox, Music Director; Becky Bowers, Sales Manager; and Randy Jones, Production Manager.

Moore Hall residents should withhold payment for the recent elevator damage until negotiation of the housing contract can begin, SGA President Stan Patterson said Thursday night.

Patterson and Dean of Students Dennis Rash will seek out groups of interested students - probably members of the dorm government -- to negotiate changes in the housing policy with the Administration.

No concrete decisions have been made. The only decision has been to begin talks about possible alternatives of paying for the "malicious damage" to the Moore elevator.

"The decision is completely up to the students," Patterson said. "I'll go along with whatever they decide." Actual court litigation against the University will be held in abeyance while the success of the negotiations is examined.

Rash has indicated that he would "welcome student review and assistance in considering revisions to the Housing Contract."

Patterson and Rash have discussed several alternatives to the present policy. Patterson has voiced his desires: a complete student review of the Housing

Housing dispute

Keep it

by sharon deck

Contract, allowing the Student Court or some other panel to determine responsibility for unaccountable damage, and establishment of a contingency fund to cover such damages.

Patterson made these proposals to Vice-Chancellor Bonnie Cone in a letter last week. Rash has pointed out difficulties in implementing any of them, but believes that the student negotiators can work out an acceptable solution.

Both Rash and Patterson seem to favor the idea of a contingency fund. Money for the fund could come from second-semester income, from profits from running the dorms, or from funds already allocated for dorm educational programs.

The theory is that the fund would be used either for social activities or for payment for malicious damages. If students realize that paying for damages will mean less money for social

activities, the theory goes, they will be deterred from engaging in malicious activities.

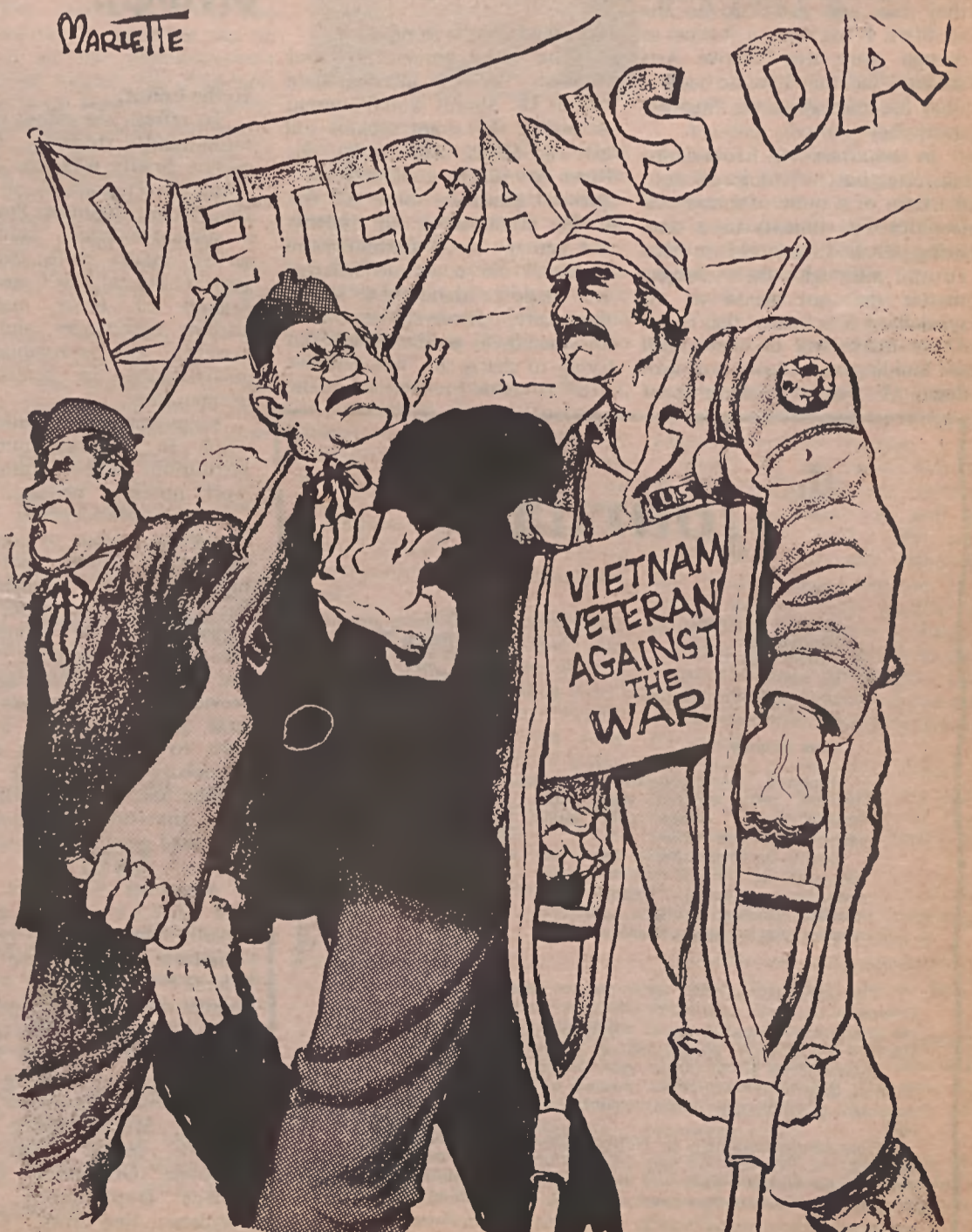
"By state law, the dorms must be self-liquidating," Rash said. "This means that the money (for damages) must come from the students' pockets. We want to find the most equitable way of doing this."

Both Patterson and Rash have stressed that these alternatives are not the only ones possible.

"It doesn't matter whether or not my proposals are accepted per se," Patterson said. "The important thing is that the students decide themselves what should be done."

Rash commented that there will be problems with any proposal the negotiators consider. "But if we can discuss this issue," he said, "we can come up with some sound alternatives and some reasonable decisions."

Journal graphic/CPS



"BEAT IT, KID! YOU'RE RUINING OUR IMAGE!!"