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WFAE-FM grant request rejected

By Brad Rich

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) has rejected an application for a \$25,000 grant from WFAE-FM, the UNCC campus radio station. The rejection, received Thursday, January 6, by station officials, has once again clouded the future of FM radio on campus.

Coleman Thompson, chairman of the Student Broadcasting Association (SBA) and the station's Executive Board, said the rejection was for a number of reasons. "They (CPB) told us our programming plans were not specific enough," Thompson said. "We gave Doug Orr (vice chancellor for student affairs) a specific timetable worked out down to every 15 minutes, but somehow it didn't get included in the application. This can be corrected, though."

Basically though, the problem seems to be one of finances. "They said our income was not steady or diverse enough," said Thompson. This would include such things as community support, state aid and school funding.

"Also," said Thompson, "There were a few discrepancies in the application. Our potential listening audience was estimated at 70,000. There are 300,000 people in the Charlotte area." (According to Betty Chafin, assistant dean of students, this mistake was later corrected.)

Another thing that was misrepresented was the height needed for the station's antenna. On the application,

the antenna height was listed at 135 feet above the actual terrain. Thompson said the rejection stated the antenna needed to be 5,000 feet or higher, but this probably applied to the station's future plans to increase from 15 to 60,000 watts.

"We plan to reapply for the grant," said Thompson, "but for now the Executive Board has decided to redirect our focus. We're going to try to do one thing at a time. First we're going to finish our construction, get our offices painted and everything. Then we're going to get everything ready for FM, get our studios completely ready so when we get the money and an engineer, we'll be ready to go on the air."

"We are still working under a construction permit," he continued. "We don't actually have our license, but we have until June 8th to get on the air or apply for an extension."

The AM situation is not much better. Thompson said, "We still need an engineer, two transmitters need to be repaired and we would have to get advertising, which we haven't even started on."

"In a sense we're pulling in or regrouping," said Thompson. "We've been spreading ourselves a little thin, trying to do too much. Scott Phillips (previous station manager) is leaving, and we don't have a station manager. The department heads are still working their departments. When we get an engineer and some money, we'll be ready."

Carolina Journal photo by Pete Meuser



Coleman Thompson, Chairman of WFAE's Executive Board

Registration is 'as perfect as it will get.'

-Registrar Bob Gwaltney

By Steve Bass

"I was most satisfied with this semester's registration process. It went smoothly, the lines were short. In fact, we were generally ahead of schedule especially in the afternoon. I'd say we've gotten the present registration process as perfect as it will get," said UNCC registrar Bob Gwaltney.

Thus did the man who brought you the trials and tribulations of registration describe the semiannual organized confusion. "I didn't really get down to the gym very often, leaving most of the supervision work to Doug (assistant to the Registrar Doug Sutherland). He told me that most students seemed pretty satisfied with the way the process went," said Gwaltney. "I heard a few complaints from evening students about how cold it was, but I can't control that."

"What we've done is attempt to make this system move as smoothly as possible. One thing we changed this semester was the way we divided the admission times. Previously, we'd just divided the student body alphabetically," said Gwaltney. "The problem with this is that you'd have a few seniors, a few juniors, etc. in at every time. This would cause backups at certain tables, like English and math. This semester, at the suggestion of an employee of the computer center, we issued admission cards by class ranking. For instance, we took the number of seniors and divided that number by 15 minute blocks, so we knew how much time to allot."

"I'd like to say how impressed I am by the sophisticated operations that the math, English and psychology tables

have. They divide up the table into levels and even sections so that the work moves rapidly and they can post class closings quickly and accurately," said Gwaltney.

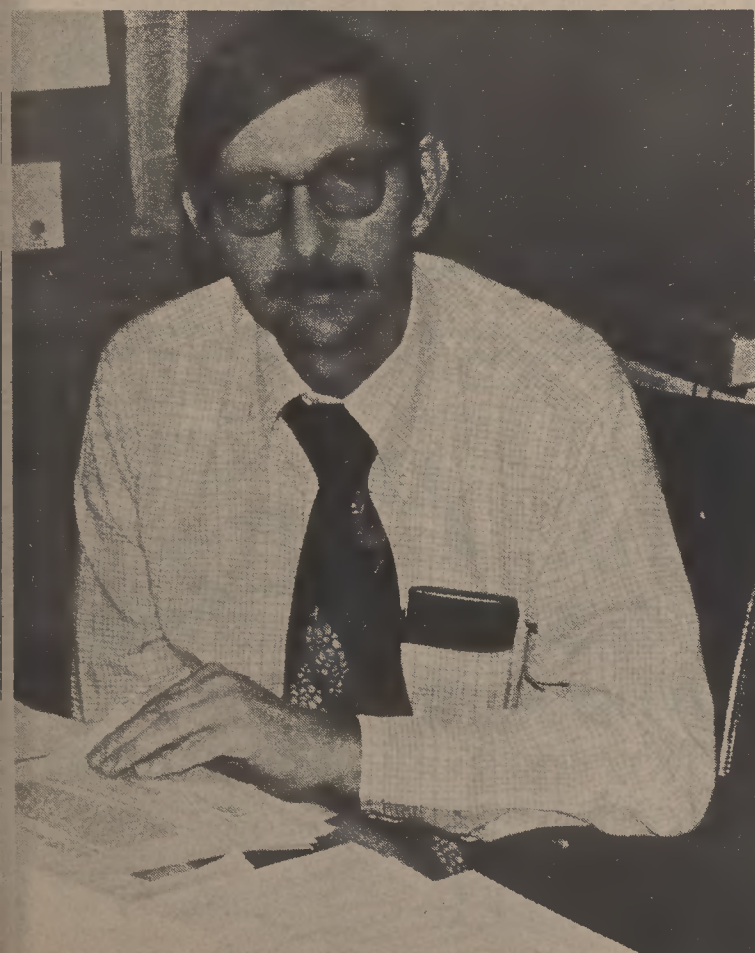
Gwaltney said registration always moves better for upperclassmen and particularly at spring registration. "Well, it only follows that the higher level classes you try to get, the easier it is to get the class simply because there is less competition for the openings."

"Spring registration always moves better than fall session. I'm sure there are many factors involved here; one there is a smaller gap of time between pre-advising and actual registration. Students have a better idea of what they want," said Gwaltney.

Even as the registrar's office is trying to improve the present system, efforts are underway to convert to a new computer registration system. Sutherland is in charge of the transition period. "Everyone knows that the present system, while improved, is antiquated. Bob (registrar Gwaltney) knows it, I know it and the students and faculty know it. The purpose of the questionnaire we sent to students and faculty this fall was designed to see what the university community wanted in the new system," said Sutherland.

"Unfortunately," said Sutherland, "the typical response we got was what a terrible system the old way is. Like I said, we know that. We were also a little disappointed at the response we got from students (about 14 per cent of the student body). However, taking what we have, I'm running analysis on the responses. I should have some data to report soon."

Carolina Journal photo by Pete Meuser



UNCC Registrar Bob Gwaltney was in charge of keeping registration running smoothly.