

FCC says go; no word yet from HEW

By Lisa Andrew

The Student Broadcasting Association (SBA) at UNCC has big plans for the FM radio station on campus, WFAE. Currently WFAE is a 10-watt station, but if things go the way the SBA and Bo Pittman, station manager, have them planned, WFAE will be a 100,000-watt station by next summer. This means instead of a 10 to 12 mile broadcast area, the station's broadcast area will probably reach as far as Greensboro and Columbia.

The funds for this venture will come mainly from an HEW grant. The HEW grant has been applied for, and WFAE has gotten "unofficial" word the station does have the \$122,034 grant, but cannot give a definite answer until they hear

official word from HEW. WFAE was recently granted a building permit from the FCC. Because of this Pittman feels the FCC knows something about the grant. Pittman said, "My feeling is, since the FCC approved our application to go to 100,000-watts, HEW has most likely notified the FCC of our grant application as being approved." Pittman's reasoning here is the FCC does not grant building permits unless they know for sure adequate funds are available. The rest of the money for this project will come from student fees, donations and hopefully the state.

WFAE's plan for next summer is to go on the air with 100,000-watts without losing a day of programming. The whole radio station, located in the basement

of the Cone University Center, will be renovated without disrupting the broadcasting.

Presently WFAE is on the air from noon until midnight playing only jazz and classical music. WFAE will continue to play this type of music in the future. When asked why they don't play rock music, Pittman said, "We don't play rock because it's already being done, why should we duplicate? Our job is to fill the void."

WFAE has been broadcasting since April 1977 and the response to their programming has been favorable. "When we went on the air the response was phenomenal. No one was doing classical music. We got letters from people out there who were just eating it up," Pittman says.

Once the station is built and transmitting, the SBA hopes to expand the radio broadcasting programming on campus. They hope, perhaps in 10 to 12 years, WFAE can rival the public broadcasting systems at some of the larger schools in the area. The SBA also hopes to be able to provide courses for

academic credit in future years. This would mean hiring more fulltime employees at the station. These employees would provide a continuity of programming for students enrolled in these courses. When the station is fully expanded there will also be more opportunities for students interested in working for the station.

There has been some concern over whether or not student fees should fund the station if they receive the HEW grant. Pittman feels like WFAE will eventually be able to tear itself away from student fees, but thinks they will be needed, at least for the next few years, to pay operating costs.

Authority to allocate office space questioned

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decided they did not need as much space and would divide one of the longer offices they used into two. One office would be used as a workroom leaving another empty office. The peer counselors were relocated and their office space became vacant.

"The office allotment to BSU was made during the time I was vice president and Ed Hendricks was president of the student body. Michael Ferrar, president of BSU, put in a request for office space. There was no document specifying who had authority to allocate office space. This power was just an assumed one

by the president.

"Ed just made an announcement to legislature during his report he had allocated the empty office space to BSU. We felt at the time this was a slight to other clubs but we didn't have any say-so over the matter," Dunn said.

Black said the motive behind this motion "was not to get the BSU kicked out of their office but to make the point to other clubs and organizations they are the only organization chartered by student government that has office space."

The question as to who has the power to let BSU and UPB stay in their offices was really a problem until this past

Tuesday. Since a motion to suspend the Legislative and Executive Act was vetoed by Larry Springs, student body president, there is no question as to who has say in office space.

Section 5, Offices of the Student Body Government, subsection a, states "that office space for use by clubs, organizations ... shall be assigned by the Student Legislature under the direction of the chair of Student Legislature."

Which translates into plain English saying: Jack Summerlin, chair of legislature, holds the final decision as to whether BSU or UPB will remain in their offices.

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