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The Great Student Radio Rip-Off

Or How To Run A Radio Station With Someone Else's Money

Students are paying \$20,000 a year for a radio station that isn't run by them, is listened to by only a minority of them, and is not even controlled by them.

At present, WFAE is *technically* a student radio station by virtue of Article VI, Section 1 of the Student Body Constitution which defines a student media as "All media which are supported in whole or in part by funds from student activities fees ..."

There are four arguments which show that, *in practice*, WFAE is no longer a student radio station and should not be receiving student monies.

Argument One: Staffing

The management of the radio station is non-student. Bo Pittman is the station manager; he is not a student and he is a paid, full-time state employee.

Kit Bumgardner was recently hired to seek contributions to the station. She is also not a student and is a full-time, paid state employee.

The station's staff is not primarily composed of students. According to the most recent WFAE program

guide, eight out of 18 staff members are not listed in the student directory. The people in the registrar's office tell us that if a name isn't in the directory, the person isn't a student.

When the head of the Student Broadcasting Association, Cheri Patterson was asked by a *Carolina Journal* reporter when the last meeting of the association was held, she couldn't remember. She did say the meeting was held before the radio went off the air. WFAE went off the air at midnight, December 21, over five months ago. According to Vice-Chancellor for Research and Public Service, Doug Orr, the administrative division which has absorbed WFAE, the reason for the chancellor placing the formerly student radio station under this administrative arm is, "To make sure everyone is having a say in how the station is developing." It seems to us that with the SBA not having met during the entire time the station has been converting from 10 to 100,000 watts, everyone is having a say in how the station is developing

— except the students.

Argument Two: Grants.

The University Research Park, located near Raleigh, granted \$50,000 to the station on May 13, 1980. According to a memo sent from Vice-Chancellor for Business Affairs Leo Ells, which is on file in

An Editorial

Vice-Chancellor for Development William M. Britt's office, the Research Park granted the money for two purposes. First, the money was to be used to get the radio on the air. Second, the money was to be viewed as "seed money" to encourage other people to donate to the radio. The memo was then sent from Orr's office to Barry Lesley and to Vern Parrish. Lesley is head of the Academic Contracts and Grants office; Parrish is the director of the Cone University Center and acts as supervisor for all persons employed at the radio station.

Copies of the memo were sent to Chancellor E.K. Fretwell, Ells and Britt.

None of the above are students.

In addition to the Research Park Grant, the radio station submitted an application for an Arts and Science grant. In a memo from Pittman to Britt, stated "the Arts and Science grant was submitted through your office."

Argument Three: Backing

Britt's office maintains a file four inches thick on the radio station. This file holds the history of the University's efforts to raise money for WFAE.

As far back as 1976, the development office was soliciting for the radio station. For instance, a *Charlotte Observer* classified ad, apparently paid for by the University, asked people to send in "seed money" to finance an engineering study of the radio. The significance of this ad: people were asked to send donations to Dr. William M. Britt, vice chancellor for development.

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Campus Fire Deliberately Set



By Rick Monroe
Carolina Journal Editor

The fire which gutted several Phase III apartments was set deliberately, according to the Mecklenburg County Fire Marshal.

Fire Marshal John W. Knowles said he had ruled out all accidental causes and that arson was the only possibility remaining. Electrical causes were immediately eliminated as the building wasn't wired. Knowles said the flooring was being installed so all trash which a workman could have dropped a lit cigarette in had been removed.

The \$200,000 fire was determined to have started on the upstairs balcony of the building where during the morning of the blaze workmen had been heat-treating the floor with water proofing. Knowles said that it was initially suspected that this caused the blaze, but the fire would have to have gone unnoticed from 11:30 am, when the workmen finished, until 5 pm when the last workers left.

"It just isn't very likely that it would have burned that long without someone noticing the smoke or smell," Knowles said.

He said that the water proofing material being used on the floor was an asphalt based material and that it may have contaminated the area so that an accurate lab report concerning what may have been used to start the fire may not be possible.

Staff Photo by Rick Monroe

Firemen from the Newell Volunteer Fire Department cut an access door in the side of the building to hose down the still burning attic area. It took eight fire departments and over 100 to battle the blaze which has been blamed on arson.

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