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Bo Pittman

WFAE Manager Takes New Job

By Kathy Merritt
Carolina Journal Staff Writer

After serving as manager of WFAE for the past four years Robert "Bo" Pittman has resigned to become director of radio services and general manager of WUAL at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa.

Pittman has been instrumental in bringing WFAE to a 100,000 watt National Public Radio affiliate from its beginnings as a 10 watt student station, WVFN.

Calling the move a promotion for his career, Pittman said, "The University of Alabama is a much larger school, plus the school of communications is a continuing source of funding for WUAL, an area where WFAE has had problems." Pittman said, however, that his main reasons for moving were that he will be able to get his masters degree at the University of Alabama and will also be teaching communications there.

"When I made my decision to go, I made it on two levels," said Pittman. "Professionally, there was no question in my mind," But, he said, his "emotional tie" to UNCC and WFAE

made his decision "gut-wrenching."

According to Pittman, getting back on the air this spring also made his decision difficult. "It hurts a little bit to leave so close to sign on," he said. But he said the move was "good for him and good for the station" because it will allow a new period of growth for WFAE. He said he has faith that people involved with the station will continue its progress.

Pittman became involved with the radio station as a student at UNCC in 1972 when it was 10 watt WVFN. Pittman said he became involved in management in 1975 in a somewhat illegal manner. Because WVFN was a student station the student body elected the general manager. Pittman ran for the position and was elected but was not eligible. During the semester he ran for office, he was not enrolled as a student but was a student when he served as manager.

Pittman helped renovate the studios and get new equipment for WVFN. After graduating and leaving Charlotte for a year Pittman returned to find the radio station locked and

off the air. UNCC hired Pittman to get the station back on the air.

On February 8, 1977, WVFN came back on the air at 10 watts for three hours a day, five days a week. According to Pittman, the community responded and by the time WVFN went off the air on January 1, 1979, it was operating 12 hours a day, seven days a week. The station will return to the air this spring as WFAE at 100,000 watts.

Pittman said UNCC will conduct a nationwide search to fill the position he's vacating. A strong foundation, excellent facilities and people, and good community support, he said, will attract applicants. Plus, he said, "Charlotte is a quickly growing market."

Pittman said he wants to continue in public radio because "it offers things of lasting human value" where as commercial broadcasting looks for "the lowest common denominator" to attract people and make money. Public radio is "cultural, educational and informational while being highly entertaining," said Pittman.



Photo by Debbie Miller
Bo Pittman

Carolina Journal vs. BSU

Campus Affairs Hears Case On Newspaper

By Chip Wilson
and Cary Jimenez
Carolina Journal Staff Writers

The Campus Affairs Committee of the Student Legislature heard the petition of the Black Student Union (BSU) calling for an investigation into the *Carolina Journal* at a meeting Thursday.

However, as legislators and representatives from both sides walked into the conference room, Committee Chair Sharon Chisolm was already writing on a chalkboard the results of a previously conducted analysis.

The committee's investigation, conducted on *Carolina Journal* issues from May 26, 1980 until Feb. 2, 1981, determined that five percent of all the stories related to blacks, compared to 1.2 percent on commuters and 2.2 percent on fraternities and sororities.

Despite the survey's immediate presentation, BSU President Michael Kemp and student legislator Baker Smith questioned Rick Monroe, editor, why more black coverage was not occurring.

Reggie Nelson, a BSU member, asked Monroe, "How do you feel the *Carolina Journal* is covering black-related issues?"

Monroe answered, "The problem we have with covering black issues is the

lack of black input into the staff, and right now we don't have any black reporters. Because of the lack of input, we really don't know what's going on in the black community. As a result, we don't have enough contact with the black community."

Assistant Dean of Students Frank Joseph said he gets many complaints from different groups and organizations on campus who don't feel they always get the coverage they deserve.

"UPB, the Residence Hall Association and fraternities and sororities have come to me on several occasions with their complaints. It's tough enough for a professional journalism organization to get coverage, so it is not an easy task for the student news media," Joseph said.

When asked by Kemp what his experiences with black staff members has been since he has been editor, Monroe responded, "My experience with black staff members simply has been a short tenure... they have not stayed very long but I don't know why."

"The biggest advantage to us would be to have black reporters down there to write and decide what's most important in the black community," Monroe said.

Kemp said he had spoken with

blacks who had worked on the *Carolina Journal* staff in the past. "They said the atmosphere down there was not conducive to having blacks work there."

Joseph said working on a newspaper requires a commitment that many people, not only blacks, are not willing to make.

"You have to be dedicated and a little crazy to work there," he said.

Kemp presented the investigation request to the full Student Legislature in early December. After it was referred to Campus Affairs, the investigation was held up by the winter break, according to Chisolm.

In addition to a look into the alleged discriminatory practices, Kemp also requested an exploration into creating an alternative newspaper.

"I think on a campus of this size, we need another source of news. It would give our present media some competition."

Another request asked the legislature to pass a constitutional amendment taking away voting authority from editors and chairpersons of campus publications.

Chisolm said a documents review panel was considering that request in hearings on proposed changes in the Student Body Constitution.

One committee member said each member would present his or her opinion before the entire panel presents a report to the full legislature.

Rick Van Pelt, a member of the Campus Affairs panel, said he would not recommend a further investigation.

"The content analysis that Sharon (Chisolm) and I did was pretty complete," he said. "I think we should look at the *Carolina Journal* next year and see if both sides have been making the attempt to have more black coverage."

We Were Wrong

In the January 29 *Carolina Journal* we incorrectly reported the Cercle Francais club received a \$500 allocation from the Student Legislature. The club actually received \$125. The *Carolina Journal* regrets the error.