

College students, residents keep an eye on the ORB

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

There's a whole lot of rockin' going on around Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus.

And a lot of the credit for the phenomenon is due to the school's new radio station, WORB.

Almost three years ago, students and faculty advisor Dan Greenberg, were facing angry residents who objected to the station's 120 foot tower being built behind Forest Elementary School. That controversy was eventually side-stepped by the pro-radio forces when they received permission from Farmington to erect the tower behind the city's new DPW building.

That impediment gone, the group found itself tangling with red tape, courtesy of the FCC. Lost license applications delayed the station even more until last month when WORB made its debut at 90.3 FM.

"I thought we'd never get it on the air. Never," said Dale Denton, 29, who hosts an afternoon show at the station. Denton, an OCC student, looked around the tidy but tiny radio studio and shook his head as he remembered the controversy.

ON THE FAR side of the studio were the station's collection of record albums neatly stacked on white plywood shelves. Each section of shelf is labeled in alphabetical order. Denton hums through the stacks looking for records to play during the next segment of his show.

For four hours each day, he sits in the small room overlooking Farmington Road and spins the likes of the Rolling Stones or the newer group the station is pushing, the Dragons.

Times have changed since the college station consisted of a turntable and a loud speaker in the basement of J building. The pin-ups that once covered the studio walls have been replaced by posters of the recording industry's latest efforts.

Nowadays the equipment is slightly more sophisticated than a turntable and amplifier. The station managed to obtain solid state equipment from

other organizations' which have switched to even more sophisticated material.

With sophistication, there are some problems. Ma Bell has taken to humming along to WORB. The station is transmitted through the campus's phone lines. Occasionally, the lines begin to buzz and force the station off the air for half an hour to four hours at a time, according to WORB station manager, Kenn Mann, 25.

"We're calling it the station with a buzz," said Denton, slightly ruefully.

WHILE MICHIGAN Bell works to eliminate the buzz, Mann is concentrating on making a mark in the area's radio market.

"We're ambitious," Mann said. "We think we have potential."

Achieving a high degree of professionalism and listener identification are two of Mann's goals for the station.

Mann, a student at OCC since September, has done some work for "Taking it to the Streets," to debut on WKOM-TV, channel 20. He's active in filming commercials around Detroit.

"Kenn's added to the professionalism around here," Denton said. "We've had to clean up our act."

As a public service radio station, WORB broadcasts public service announcements for three minutes each hour.

"I think they're a lot easier to take than commercials," said Mann.

But Mann plans to have the station's ten disc jockeys broadcast music that is as varied as the area's audience.

For rock music fans, the station tries to play new, relatively unknown groups as well as obscure tracks from popular albums.

"We want to play what the people enjoy hearing," Mann explained.

If the station's personnel win permission to use the school building on Sunday, Mann plans to program in classical music in on that morning.

Jazz might make an appearance some night on the station as well.

IN ADDITION, the station will broadcast a series of lectures from the OCC faculty as well as interviews with

personalities.

A home-grown comedy show is in the works too.

The news staff composed of two women and a UPI wire will be expanded to allow the disc jockeys

some news experience. Stories about the Farmington area will be on the air in the fall, according to Mann's plans.

sound-proof the studio hallway, will go begging unless an area sponsor can be found.

In the future, Mann hopes to expand the 10-watt station's capacity. He'd like to see OCC as the home of a 60-watt station but the budget doesn't include money to cover the expense of expansion.

IN THE MEANTIME, the station will be on the air from 8 a.m. until 11:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. On Saturdays, the station will broadcast from 11 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.



Dale Denton, OCC student and disc jockey likes to concentrate on the music and keep the talking to a minimum during his afternoon show. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

MTU announces grads

Farmington area residents were among those students who recently graduated from Michigan Technological University, Houghton.

Among the graduates are Stephen Baranay, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Baranay, 33010 Hamlin Court, BS in chemistry; William R. Fretz, son of Mary L. Fretz, 32481 Chesterbrook, BS in business administration; Gretchen Kobel, daughter of Norma Kobel, 33918 Macomb, BS in medical technology; Robert Lander, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Lander, 32306 Red Clover, BS in civil engineering; and Pamela Thery, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Thery, 21487 Chestnut, BS in medical technology.

Also, Dennis McKaig, son of Marie McKaig, 31845 Bella Vista, MS in biological sciences; Elizabeth Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Miller, 28821 Balmoral, BS in medical

technology; Gregory Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. William T. Smith, 26403 Old Homestead, BS in electrical engineering; and William J. Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Wilson, 22085 Tredwell, BS in applied physics.

Albion announces spring graduates

Two Farmington area residents were among those receiving bachelor of arts degrees in commencement ceremonies at Albion College this spring. They are: Jeffrey Alan Knudson, son of Mr. James W. Knudson, 48206 Killartian, Farmington Hills; and Martha Ann Flaherty, cum laude graduate, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Flaherty, 35091 Drakeshire, Farmington.

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