

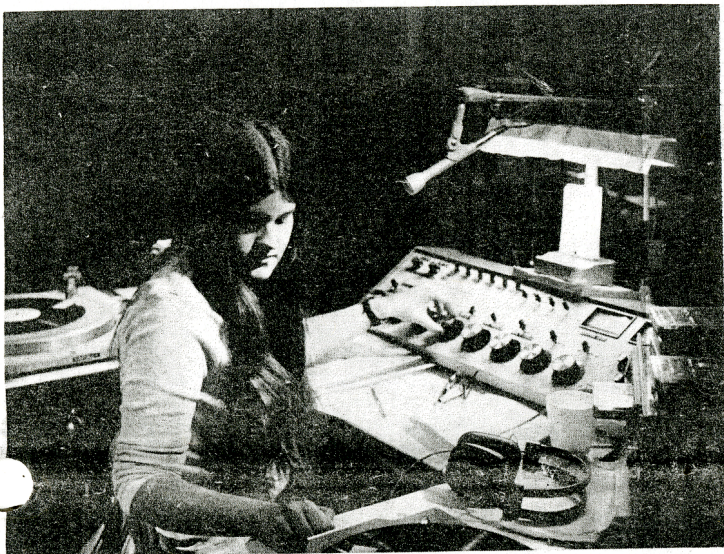
American Journal

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Westbrook-Gorham-Windham-Falmouth
South Portland-Cape Elizabeth-Scarborough

Vol. 24, No. 37 Wednesday, September 12, 1973 Twenty-Four Pages Phone 854-2577 Price Fifteen Cents

Students Launch Own FM Radio Station In Gorham



Kim Rowe, 19, of Hollis, a sophomore majoring in mathematics, at the WMPG microphone.
(AJ Photo by Griffin)

By GEORGE GRIFFIN

Behind a door tucked away in a corner of the student union at the Gorham Campus of the University of Maine at Portland-Gorham is the one-room studio of WMPG-FM Radio.

The station is the brain-child of Howard Allen, a senior majoring in education. For three years he has nursed the idea of a university radio station, building it up from a small transmitter and an antenna wire tossed out his dormitory window to a university station serving a larger population than any other such station in Maine.

WMPG began broadcasting Aug. 31 on 91.1 megacycles as part of an FCC program test, the last step before the station can apply for and receive its regular operating license.

Allen expects to apply for the regular license "in a couple of weeks, as soon as all the bugs are ironed out." The operating license should be granted by the end of this month.

The first talk of building a station came in 1970 when Richard Barker, a student, called a meeting to discuss the idea. A few people,

Allen included, showed up, but the idea eventually fell through without action.

Allen owned a tape deck at the time. He bought a small, inexpensive transmitter and spent the rest of the year, antenna wire hanging out the window of his dormitory room, broadcasting occasional programs to the campus.

At the beginning of the '71 school year, Allen called together a group of students to try again. The group applied to the Student Affairs Committee for funds, and received \$3,500 for equipment, mailing, paperwork, and FCC licenses. In 1972, they received an additional \$3,200 from the Student Affairs Committee and applied for an FCC station construction permit, call letter, transmitter site permit, and equipment test.

Work on the station went ahead this summer, with the building of the studio and erection of a tower and antenna atop Bailey Hall.

Allen has a staff of about 30 people who broadcast, write news, and help in other ways. All are non-paid students, who work whatever hours they can manage.

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A SAMPLING OF ASSESSMENTS:

Taxes Dropped For 36 Of 46 S.P. Businesses In '73

By JOEL KLEINMAN

The American Journal has sampled the 1973 taxes of 46 big South Portland businesses and found that 36 of them will pay less than in 1972.

At its meeting Wednesday, the South Portland City Council refused again to release its own list of taxes and valuations of the 50 largest taxpayers. Sharp drops from

1972 for many on that list made Councilmen angry a few weeks ago, but apparently they have decided since then that they are powerless to do anything about it.

In response to irate citizens who demanded Wednesday that the list be made public, Council Chairman Eugene Gendron Jr. said the information was available for anyone

to see at the office of City Assessor Douglas Childs. "You could stay there for the next two weeks and they couldn't stop you," he said.

A week earlier, Childs had refused to let an American Journal reporter see the 1973 records, but Thursday he made them available.

It's no easy job to dig the tax facts out of the records. Any citizen who wants to drop down to City Hall and see just what's what had better be prepared to spend the two weeks.

An example is the Central Maine Power Co. According to our figures, the big electric power utility, which paid South Portland \$223,119 last year, will pay the city only \$199,003 this year. To get this second figure, however, meant looking at the valuations and taxes on 35 different pieces of CMP property.

Not even the names of the top 50 taxpayers were available to help. As a guide, the American Journal went back to a 1969 list of the biggest, made up by then-City Manager Bernal B. Allen. Obviously, there have been changes since.

Here's our list of 46, with the 1973 tax listed first, then the 1972 tax in parenthesis: Steer Inn Realty, \$36,709 (\$44,593); Foden's, \$12,217 (\$17,435); Cott Bottling, \$13,905 (\$14,139); Hews Body Co., \$6,936 (\$7,504).

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MSSPA To Raise \$500,000 For Windham Animal Center

By GEORGE B. GRIFFIN

The Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals is starting a fund drive to build an animal care center on 80 acres of land it has leased from the State on the River Road, Windham, directly across from the Men's Correctional Center.

Dr. Gwendolen Flanagan, MSSPA president, said construction is expected to begin next spring.

Dr. Flanagan said the center will comprise three units: A shelter, a clinic, and an office building for administration and education.

The fund drive is expected to net \$500,000, according to a feasibility study of the

metropolitan area now being conducted. The money will be used for the center construction, with operating funds to come from MSSPA funds.

Dr. Flanagan said a deciding factor in the site choice was the fact that men at the correctional center will be allowed to work in some capacity with the animals and in other center services as part of a rehabilitation and training program.

WURA Asks New Plans

The Westbrook Urban Renewal Authority plans a special meeting, probably next week, on the city's plans for new fire and police stations. WURA asked the City Monday to avoid, if it can, both the Mechanic Street and Texaco Station sites.

Brydon Won't Run; 'Big Box' Is Banned; Knight vs O'Gara?

Mayor Donald Brydon has decided not to seek reelection Nov. 6, an election in which for the first time Westbrook voters won't be able to vote a straight party ballot.

City Council President Roger Knight moves up to become Westbrook Republicans' logical Mayor candidate in an election fight in which the Democrats appear to have their best chance in years.

For the Democrats, the leading prospect appears to be William O'Gara, who came within 40 votes of toppling Brydon two years ago.

Since that election a new state law has banned "the big box," the top-of-the-ballot box which always has permitted voters to vote at one stroke for all the candidates of their party.

This change can spell big trouble for the Republicans in Westbrook. They have held unbroken control in City Hall for 10 years, tightening it

every year in recent years, and one big reason is the straight-ticket support pulled by popular City Clerk William Clarke.

This year's ballot will list candidates of both parties, together in a single column. Each candidate's party will be listed after his name.

The Republican City Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. today in the Walker Memorial Library to make its plans for the election, including setting dates for ward caucuses and the city-wide caucus.

The Democratic City Committee is understood to be planning to meet Sept. 19.

Nomination papers must be submitted to City Clerk Clarke by Oct. 16. Caucuses of both parties probably will be held during the preceding week or 10 days. Both parties traditionally held ward caucuses first, then the general caucus that picks city-wide candidates. In

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Another Truck Hits Overpass

Robert Niles, 18, of 75 Virginia St., Portland, escaped injury after the Mercedes van he was driving struck the West Broadway overpass in South Portland at 1:39 p.m.

Aug. 29.

Niles was charged with driving a truck where they are not allowed. Damage to the van, owned by Carr Brothers of Portland, was \$200.

Half Past The Week

The Last Beauty Show

By GEORGE B. GRIFFIN

Why did they do it to me?
Why?

Why were those fifty robots, dressed to look like no real woman ever looked in her life, parading their here-it-is-but-don't-touch-it-because-I'm-Snow-White (and I do mean White) bodies in front of not only 18,000 tuxedoed, screaming, whistling, in-person attendees, but before an estimated 40 million at-home attendees (me included and I'll never know why except that I wanted to write a column about it)? Why were they mouthing such profound and original axioms as "Music is the universal language," and "I want to find the true meaning of life?"

And did you get the social relevancy? "Here she is, Miss, or Mizzz, America!"

Yes, they were really au courant this year. They wanted to let you know that Bert Parks with his seven-inch-wide smile (I swear to Allah it gets wider every year) and his flart Schaffner and Marx tuxedo was, and is, --hip.

I had to leave the room when Miss Raven Haired Beauty let us know what a well-rounded (pun definitely intended) world traveler she was after travelling to Switzerland and stunning absolutely everyone over there with music. No, the way she said it, it was Music; more probably MUSIC! She was the one who said that music is the universal language. She was also the one who sang "I Could Have Danced All Night" in an operatic coloratura soprano voice and who would have never hit high C# if her girdle hadn't been too tight.

They managed to hit the minorities too, did you notice that? There was an Oriental (Miss Congeniality, naturally, since you've got to be lily white to win anything of importance). And--here it comes folks--a Negro!

Except that she wasn't really a Negro. I noticed,

because I'm from the South and I was reared to be a bigot and trained from my earliest days to take notice of the difference between black and white. So I know.

I'm blacker than she appeared and I don't even have a tan. And the figure! Not the voluptuous and proud bearing of one of Masai or Zulu ancestry, but something chiseled by a sculptor whose ideal is the flag pole. Olyve Oyl looks fat in comparison. And that classic, aquiline, straight nose, with those razor-thin, tightly-pressed lips, and the straight-straight-straight hair. She was something washed out, rung out, hung out and made over to look like something so photographically copied from the white mold that she was not a representative, but a disgrace and an insult to Blacks.

But she was there. So, we can no longer accuse the pageant of being discriminatory--can we?

Probably the final insult, and the one I found most difficult to take, was the especially-written choreographed song and dance routine performed by those three "Liberated" women who cried and pleaded for us to call them Mizzzzz, as they side-stepped and dipped and looked seductively from half-closed eyelids and slowly ran their hands from their thighs to their sides while breathing heavily Oh, Ah, Mizz, Mizz, Mizz, Mizz, Oh, Ah.

One wonders what was happening in the wings during that routine.

The last time I saw any female contort and pant like those three was in a very sleazy bar in an even sleazier quarter of Marseilles. The difference was that when her hand came up from her thighs to her middle, her dress came with it. She wasn't singing about being called Mizz, while trying to show you how feminine and seductive she really was;

which naturally leads us to the conclusion that the subliminal message in that song and dance routine was not Women's Liberation, which, after all, is concerned with less flippant things like decent jobs and decent wages and self respect and human dignity, but with the message that no one really had to take it too seriously because what those three really wanted was not Liberation, but the pay check for selling their souls and self esteem over nation-wide television.

Our Marseilles dancer (on top of the bar, it was, and even after a while, on top of the tables) was only trying to make a living and merchandising the only thing she had to merchandise--herself. She was more honest, more forthright, more decent and more respectable than any of the automations I saw on the boob tube. The reason is that she knew exactly what she had going for her and exactly where she stood and she didn't lie by pretending she was Miss Apple Pie and the Girl Next Door all rolled into one.

The one good thing to come out of the whole affair for me is that I was finally cured from ever again being tempted to waste my time watching it. This year was the final, and ultimate insult.

I hope some of you out there were cured too.

Brydon Won't Run:

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two recent elections the Democrats have reversed this order. Besides the mayor and city clerk, offices to be filled include the whole City Council, which also stands for election each two years.

Three School Committee seats, possibly four, will be up for election. Terms will be six years. Expiring terms are those of Gerald Rogers, Ward 3, and Alfred Gagne, Ward 4, Democrats, and David Miller, at-large, Republican. Another member may resign before the election, according to reports.

Disappearance of the big box raises the likelihood that some candidates will by-pass the caucus or will run anyway if defeated in the caucus.

Clarke said city lawyer James Gagan ruled yesterday that independent candidates' names must be included on the ballot in their place in the alphabetical order and cannot be designated in any way--for example, cannot have the



Neighbor boys Neal Knight, Virgil Plaisted and Timmy Towle (left to right) watch the waters draining out of the pond--or flooded field--between the New Gorham Road and Rte. 25 in Westbrook Saturday.



This newly-cut, five-foot-wide stream carried the waters out in a short time after the ditch was cut open by a backhoe. House in distance is on Conant Street, and cars are on Way-side Drive. (AJ Photos)

word or abbreviation for "independent" after the name. Only the designations "Rep" and "Dem" are permitted. In the past, independents seldom have won more than a token handful of votes in Westbrook. The story is likely to be different without the big box.

Brydon made public last night his decision not to seek a second term as mayor. He said he had enjoyed his service, would like very much to run again, but faced new business pressures that are forcing him to the sidelines.

Chief of these, he said, was his election at the end of July to be the new president

of the Maine Milk Dealers Association. Previously a director, and he was to succeed Clayton Davis, Augusta, president for the past six or seven years, when Davis resigned to become chief of inspection services for the State Department of Agriculture.

As the dealers' president, Brydon has to spend two full days in Augusta this week, he said.

Brydon, 50, is treasurer of Oakhurst Dairy. He lives on Rte. 302.

Knight is a County Road farmer, O'Gara is a South Portland school teacher who lives in Pine View Acres.

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WMPG Radio:

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Allen, station manager, works about 40 hours a week on the station and receives a tuition rebate as compensation.

The station is not part of any department, and students receive no degree credit for participating. There are no university courses in radio communications at the Gorham campus, but Allen conducts classes on his own in techniques of broadcasting and in the regulations for re-

ceiving third-class FCC licenses necessary for broadcasters.

The station is broadcasting from 11 a.m. to midnight for the duration of the tests. Allen hopes eventually to extend the broadcasting day to 7 a.m. to midnight weekdays, 24 hours a day weekdays.

The station is classed as a non-commercial educational station, and carries no advertising. Programming at present is limited to recorded music, news and announcements, but Allen plans to begin organizing shows for taped concerts and radio drama. He also would like to have an Associated Press ticker.

WMPG also conducts a "Community Bulletin Board" listing free, announcements from community organizations, clubs, civic groups, and others who wish to advertise programs, services, meetings and functions.

The station has almost \$7,000 worth of equipment, all it needs to broadcast and conduct radio programming. This includes a Gates turntable, \$125; a Risko turntable, \$155; two Gray micro-track tone arms, \$30 each; a rack-mounted Revox tape recorder, \$995; a TEAC 4020 tape deck, \$350; a Maze Inc., 8-channel control board,

\$1,502; a secondary RCA control board bought from Brunswick High School, \$200; two Pioneer monitor speakers, \$180 each; an Electro-Voice console microphone, \$55; a Gates transmitter, \$900; a Marti limiter (a device to control the maximum signal output), \$445; a 50-foot tower, \$350; and a Marti four-bay antenna, \$450.

The group also spent \$1,000 to have the antenna installed and \$250 for the cabinets to mount the turntables and other equipment.

WCSH Radio donated 600 record albums and two turntables and WJAB radio donated 10,000 records including a comprehensive library of "oldies." WEEI Radio, New York City, donated two microphones.

Allen has applied to the Student Activities Committee for \$5,000 for this year's operating funds to cover maintenance and normal operating expenses.

The station reaches about 200,000 people. The grants are also piped in through the public address system of the student center.

"We started piping the music through the PA system and everyone liked it, so we'll continue to do that," said Allen. "Besides, if sure saves a lot of quarters on the juke box."