

YOUR TOWN RECORD

THE RECORD

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COLUMN ONE

Learning it's not all pickles, ice cream

By Michele Nerone
Record Staff Writer

As Mario Ayala walked around the classroom at Passaic County Tech, sweat started to bead on his forehead and his hands grasped the bottom of his belly for support.

Ayala, a senior at PCT, was modeling the Empathy Belly, a 35-pound pregnancy simulator being used to teach health and sociology classes firsthand about the ordeal of pregnancy.

Ayala found it wasn't easy feeling pregnant, and day-to-day tasks such as tying shoes and picking up objects off the floor became struggles of man against stomach.

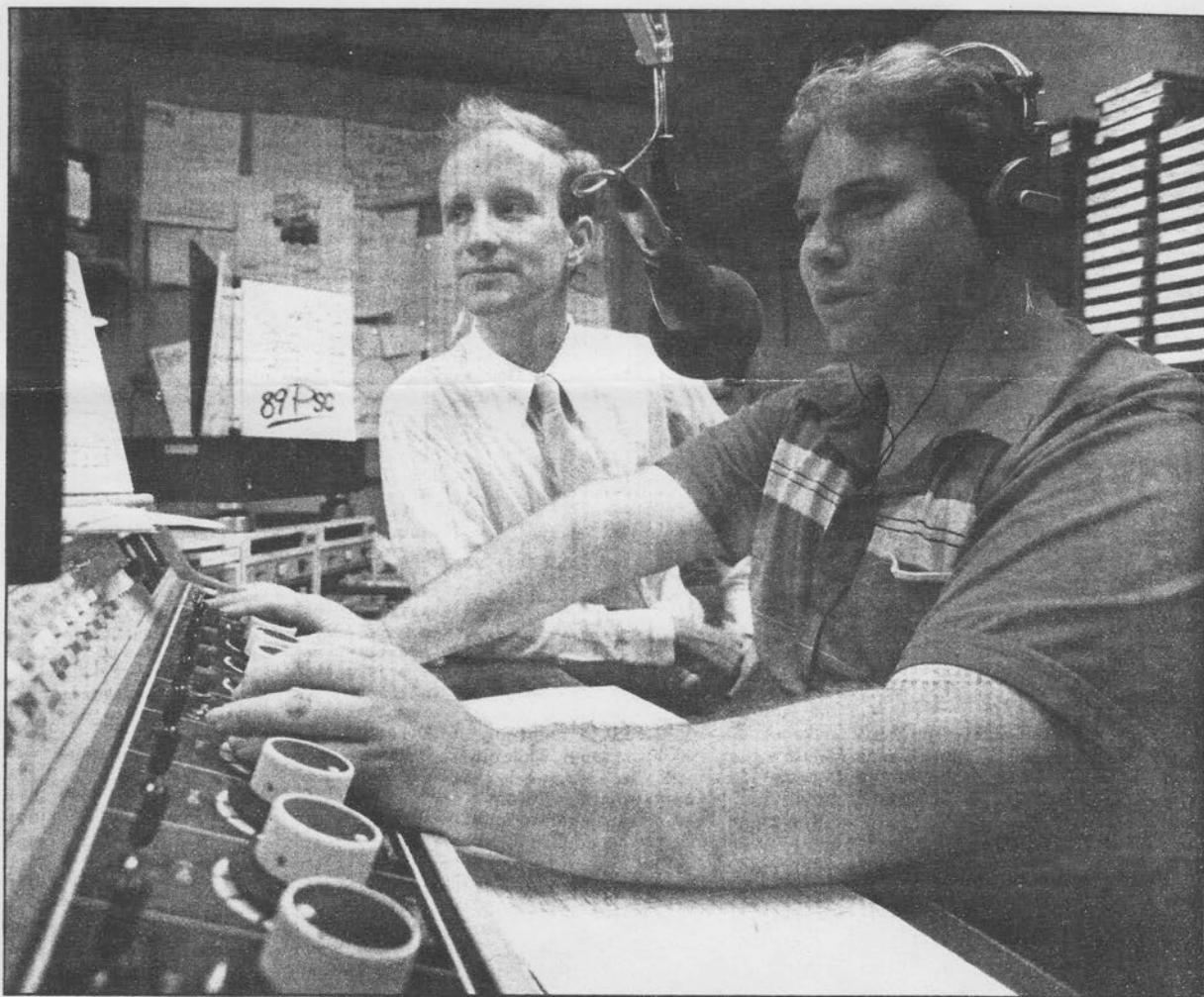
The Empathy Belly, a weighted garment that is strapped on, simulates pregnancy at eight months. The belly is worn by both male and female students so all can experience the feelings of pregnancy — without actually being pregnant.

"We are trying to demonstrate a different point of view," said Cathy Pagano, a sociology teacher. "Pregnancy is a very beautiful thing, but we want the students to realize the responsibility of it. We want to let them think about the seriousness of the situation."

The sociology classes intensively study the family unit, and recently started an eight-day Baby Egg project, in which students become parents of an egg and have to treat it as if it were their child.

The Empathy Belly is used in conjunction with Claire Neglia's health class. Neglia, a registered nurse, teaches a program in which students can get certification as a nursing assistant.

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CARMINE GALASSO/THE RECORD

Drew Jacobs, left, general manager of WPSC, with student David Neal at the controls.

Riders of the airwaves reunite

By Patrick Tuohy
Record Staff Writer

Jim Seaman planned to study anthropology when he enrolled at William Paterson College in Wayne more than a decade ago. But the study of human beings gave way to a hands-on education in live radio, and today he is director of engi-

neering at WFAN, the all-sports radio station.

He is not unlike hundreds of other former William Paterson College students in the last 20 years who, upon entering the college, quickly discovered the excitement of performing and producing live programs for a college radio station.

"It gets in your blood," said Seaman.

who worked at radio stations in New Jersey, Virginia, and Washington, before settling in New York. "I have a love for radio, a love for broadcasting."

His love of the craft was shared by about 100 former student broadcasters recently when WPSC, the student-run radio station of William Paterson College, had a reunion

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Riders of the airwaves reunite after 25 years

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dinner on the college campus.

Organized by Drew Jacobs, general manager of the radio station that broadcasts at 88.7 FM, the event drew former broadcasters who were students in the Seventies, many of whom are now working in radio, television, and related fields. Jacobs, who was hired in August to run the station, formerly was a news assignment editor at WOBB in Toms River.

The radio station, which broadcasts its 260-watt signal 18 hours a day, features primarily Top 40 music and newscasts. However, late-night and weekend time slots feature specialty music programs, including jazz, reggae, classic rock, and heavy metal.

At the reunion Anthony Maltese, an instructor in the college's communication department and former department chairman, recalled how the station began about 25 years ago. Then, a small group of students recorded music on a reel-to-reel tape recorder and played it back through a wall speaker to students assembled in a dining hall.

Since the late Sixties the radio station's music and news were heard by students at the college through a variety of methods. Telephone-wire hookups into the dormitories were used first, followed by signals carried by UA Columbia cable television.

In December 1988, however, WPSC was awarded an FM frequency and began broadcasting to Wayne and surrounding towns.

"It's so hard to get a station on and keep it going," Maltese said, noting the many attempts to acquire an FM license in recent

years.

WPSC has served not only as a showcase for skills acquired by communication majors, but as a forum for many youths' common interests, Maltese said.

"It was very important for students to have a place to go. They didn't have a clubhouse; they had the radio station and that's where they met," said Maltese.

Kathy Millar, a disc jockey at WDHA-FM in Dover for nearly a decade, became interested in radio as a transfer student at William Paterson College in 1975. She joined the school station at the start of her junior year and has been hooked on radio ever since.

Although working on-the-air in college left her with many memorable experiences, what she enjoyed most, she said, was the camaraderie among students at the station.

"Everybody was really close. It was like having 40 close friends," Millar said. "It's wonderful to be back on campus again and to see all these people. They haven't lost their enthusiasm and spirit."

Millar, who returned to William Paterson College for graduate studies in the mid-Eighties and is an audio-production instructor there today, said she empathizes with today's student broadcasters. It wasn't always easy to make time for the radio station between classes, homework, and part-time jobs, she recalled.

"Some of the students have a lot of enthusiasm and that certain sparkle about them, while some are just chasing the dollar," Millar said. While encouraging them to pursue their goals, she reminds

students of the difficulties they may encounter trying to break into broadcasting.

George Koodray, media director for Jersey Central Power & Light Co., was sports director, news director, and disc jockey at the station during his four years at William Paterson College in the late Seventies.

He recalled how the combination of college radio experience and class instruction, which at times included visits to broadcasting companies and news-gathering organizations, helped prepare him and others for careers in the field.

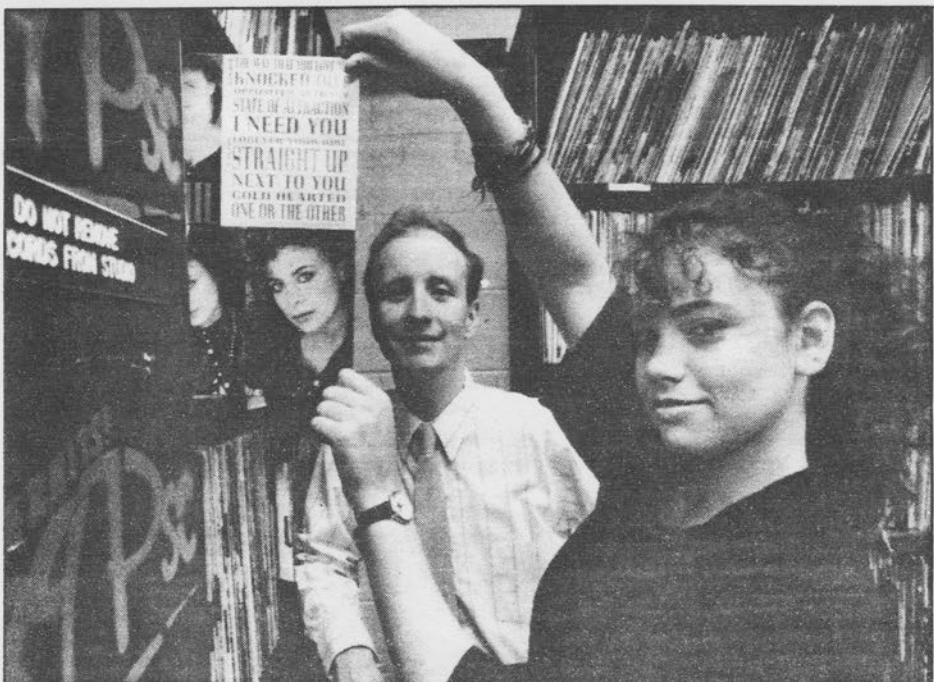
"I think the program at the college is underrated," he said. "This school went out and got the top-shelf people in the business and they really put our group in touch."

Some at the reunion were currently studying at the college: Tom Casola, a senior member of the college station, also works for Shadow Traffic, the traffic-information network. Today's college broadcasters are appreciative of the efforts of their predecessors in keeping WPSC alive, he noted.

"The station is a great training outlet. We take criticism and appreciate it, because most of the students on the station want to better themselves," he said.

Maltese, who has been advising students since the radio station's inception, urged former students who have gone into communication fields to remain in touch with their alma mater.

"It's very crucial that we network. So many students have succeeded because of the friends that they knew," he told them.



CARMINE GALASSO/THE RECORD

Drew Jacobs, general manager, with student Andrea Thompson in the music library at William Paterson.