

Haverford College radio returns

By **DAVID ROBINSON**

Main Line Times

Few in Lower Merion are aware that Haverford College has a radio station. Years ago, WHRC was a Federal Communications Commission approved AM broadcasting station going out over the airwaves. Then student interest waned.

"When I came here three years ago, we didn't have a radio station," says Dan Silver, Haverford senior and station general manager. "The studios were used for storage and the frequency and call letters had been sold off by the students in charge of the station to sponsor a rock band's concert at Haverford."

Sarah Craft, Dan Silver and others decided to reestablish the station and they have been "closed" broadcasting for the past three years. The station broadcasts through the electrical lines to transmitters located in the basements of the dorm and Haverford College Apartments just off-campus in Ardmore. Students can then listen on the AM band of their radios.

Through funds from the student council and alumni donation, they have been upgrading their equipment, such as a new audio sound mixer, turntables, CD and cassette players and computers. Last year, they joined the Internet, and many students listen through their computers, which are networked to the college. The station runs Shoutcast for MP3 streaming and QuickTime for Apple based players. The station's library of recordings is large enough so they random play for 24 hours, at present, and then they will begin live broadcasting as of Sept. 21.

"The computers also allow students to send requests to the live disc jockeys, and a new phone coupler allows call-ins to be put on the air," Dan notes. "This semester, we have 14 on the staff, and over the semester, the on-air staff will expand to over 100, with some shows doubling up on disc jockeys. The bulk of the output is music, and the choice of music is up to the disc jockeys. They may get an hour or two-hour show and can play what they like, as well as take requests. Our musical library is expanding as producers send us demos.

"We hope to add more student announcements, topical talk



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Dan Silver, Haverford senior and general manager of WHRC radio at Haverford.

shows and sports. Last year, we broadcast some basketball games. This year, we hope to add men's and women's soccer broadcast, as well as other sports. This means that parents around the country are able to tune in Haverford's web radio and hear a live broadcast of their sons' and daughters' sport events either here or at Bryn Mawr. We would also like to report more on the Philadelphia music scene, such as concerts, interviews and events."

"The immediate priority is to regain listeners. Most students know we're here, but not enough tune us in regularly.

Unfortunately a return to low-band AM airwave radio for schools and neighborhoods around the country is tied up in the courts presently as the big FM stations see it as a threat."

Anyone with Internet access can hear the station at www.whrcradio.com. You can receive the station by downloading the free Win Amp program, then go back to Google, Northern Light or Yahoo and search for: "whrcradio Haverford College." When you get the whrcradio screen, click on the Win Amp icon and the station will begin to play.

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