



STUDENT RADIO STATION TO OPEN

For two years, an "underground movement" has been going on at Mt. Pleasant High School and will soon be exposed and aired for the public. This is what is hoped for and expected by a group of students and alumni who had an idea, which through determination and hard work is about to become a reality. The operations center is in the basement of the high school.

In the spring of 1967, Jesse Morris, then a student, included in his running platform as a candidate for Student Council President, the establishment of a student owned and operated radio broadcasting station. He, and others, visualized a facility to give students experience in learning the operation of a station, that would create a small business in which students could participate in all aspects from office work to the opportunity for expressing creativity through writing and production. It would promote the student and school viewpoint, and bridge a communication gap between the schools and the community, as well as providing a new voice, a different kind of station. By F.C.C. definition, it will be a non-commercial educational station providing cultural, educational, and entertaining programs.

When Mr. Morris won the election he assigned Bob Huber, '68 graduate,

to investigate the feasibility of the project. At that time, Mr. Huber had only a limited knowledge of electronics, but has become proficient through study and experience in the high school station and setting up a college operation, and is the guiding hand in getting the Mt. Pleasant station on the air. In the fall of '67, Mr. Huber and others visited local stations, talked with engineers and other experts, ran a survey of student interest, received information from the F.C.C., made a study of tentative costs, and secured legal advice. Applications for the construction permit--the first step in getting a license--were received and work was begun on meeting the requirements of the lengthy document.

The construction permit was granted but ran out before the station could go into operation, and was renewed until Sept. 14, 1969. By this time, all the equipment will have to be installed and inspected by an F.C.C. engineer from Philadelphia and a final license issued.

The students also made a preliminary but fairly detailed report of objectives and costs to the Board of Education who favored the report and gave moral

support. The Board had no budget or authority to give financial help. Mr. Huber and Mr. Morris spoke at civic functions and approached local businesses for financial contributions and searched for gifts of used equipment from manufacturers and local stations. They began with nothing and it would take about \$1000 to get on the air. Mt. Pleasant High School provided a 3-sided basement room, intended for a garage but used for storage. The students cleared the room and enclosed it, and began to construct the facility slowly, as supplies and money became available. The Mt. Pleasant Educational Association was created to centralize the efforts and make the project official. The first staff was formed with student heads of the three departments--Programming, Engineering, and News. In 1968-69 school year, call letters and a frequency were is-

sued and the final construction permit granted after some changes and re-application. Mr. Huber explained that the particular type of facility was planned because of the lenient F.C.C. regulations governing it--rules set up to promote educational broadcasting. For instance, the station does not need a full-time first class engineer, and students who have passed only a non-technical F.C.C. test may operate the station. There is no set number of broadcasting hours and F.M. coverage requires less power and less expensive equipment than A.M.

At this point, most of the equipment has been installed, and the tower and antenna which had to be purchased are on the way. They are still looking for a used LOW transmitter. Bernard Robinson, graduate '69, station manager, is training the new staff and helping to line up the programming for the fall broadcasting date. An article on programming and next year's staff and operation of the station will follow in a later issue. Mr. Lawrence Haley, of Bellfonte, a first class F.C.C. engineer, without charge will oversee the operation. Mr. John McKenna of Wilkenson Law Offices in Washington, D.C. has provided free legal help necessary in getting the licenses. Cost of new equipment which has been donated used would be about \$12-15,000. A partial list of some of the contributors is The Ampex Corporation, who have given a total of about \$5000. The 3-M Corporation, Rollins Broadcasting, WJBR-FM, the Heath Company, and the DuPont Company, who is donating sound proof carpeting and furniture for the studios. A number of other local companies have contributed small but vital items.

If all goes according to plan, and the determination of those involved indicates that it will, WMTH-FM, student staffed and student operated, broadcasting from Mt. Pleasant High School will go on the air on or about September 14, 1969, an example of the vision and drive of today's high school students.