

Anthony Cacciato

Director, WRCT Public Affairs

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To: Lukas Glist, General Manager, WRCT

Following is a summary of WRCT's treatment of community issues and services in the public interest for the 1st Quarter of 2024, as required by Federal Communications Commission regulations (Section 73.3527 (e)(8)).

A poll of Carnegie Mellon University students helped identify community issues that are of greatest interest to them. As a result, these issues were the focus of public affairs programming for the most recent quarter:

- Health
- Reproductive Rights
- LGBTQ Rights
- Climate Change
- Workers' Rights
- Homeless Crisis
- Banking Crisis
- Racial Justice

If you have any questions, please contact me by email at [pa@wrct.org](mailto:pa@wrct.org).

Sincerely,

Anthony Cacciato

Cc: WRCT Public File

# WRCT Public Affairs

The Public Affairs Department at WRCT Pittsburgh is dedicated to broadcasting a variety of programming to serve the public interest. The department welcomes contributions of content and participation from the Carnegie Mellon and greater Pittsburgh community. It is the mission of the Public Affairs department to offer a radio voice to the people of Pittsburgh, and to provide the city with informative, community-generated programming. Our community issues programming can be divided into four categories: **Regular Shows, News and Information, Public Service,** and **Special Features.**

## **Regular Shows**

Regular shows comprise weekly or bi-weekly broadcasts hosted by WRCT station members and their contributors, airing at a regular time and appearing on our published schedule. Our programs address a diverse array of issues. While the program schedule is under the oversight of the Public Affairs director and the executive board, each show's content is the sole responsibility of the show's hosts and contributors. Any Pittsburgh resident may become a station member and submit a proposal for a show.

## **News and Information**

News and Information includes WRCT News and the WRCT Radio and Music calendars, as well as news material produced by organizations with which we have a formal affiliation. WRCT News is a five-minute broadcast weeknights at 6:00 PM, for which material is drawn from the Associated Press and local sources. The WRCT Radio and Music calendars are read three times daily and are meant to keep listeners apprised of cultural events happening in the city. We also regularly broadcast material produced by the Pacifica Radio Foundation, with which we are affiliated.

## **Public Service**

Public Service broadcasts include Public Service Announcements (PSAs), broadcast twice hourly any time the station is on the air. Some of these announcements are read by our operators, others are recorded locally, and we also play recorded PSAs produced by national organizations.

## **Special Features**

Special Features are broadcasts which enhance or pre-empt regularly scheduled programming. The most common special event broadcasts are our coverage of Carnegie Mellon's athletic events, but may also include interviews, lectures, or other one-time events. During the fall academic semester we broadcast all games played by Carnegie Mellon's NCAA Division III Men's Football team; in the spring we broadcast the games of the Men's and Women's Basketball teams.

# Regular Public Affairs Programming

Our regular, weekly or biweekly shows are the mainstay of WRCT's Public Affairs programming. Programming in this category is produced locally by WRCT staff and their affiliates and contributors. The broadcast schedule is created three times a year during the week coinciding with the start of Carnegie Mellon's Spring, Summer, and Fall academic semesters. During that time, the Public Affairs director places shows on the weekly schedule, which lasts for the duration of the academic semester. Scheduling priority is given to existing shows, and then to shows hosted by Carnegie Mellon students.

Any Pittsburgh resident may host a public affairs show after first becoming a station member. All shows must complete a piloting process and be approved by the executive board before being added to the schedule.

Following is a summary of our programming, including each program's currently scheduled time slot. Recordings of all shows are available from WRCT's Information Services Management department upon request.

**The Ebony Spectrum**, hosted by Rick Adams and Kevin Amos, is a weekly live talk, call-in, and interview show devoted to the African, African American, and general progressive community in Pittsburgh. Ebony Spectrum provides African Americans, Africans in the Diaspora and other interested members of the non-Black community the opportunity to hear and participate in thoughtful discussions of issues of concern to African people that rarely get a sustained and in-depth examination in the mainstream media. Featuring in-studio and telephone guests, roundtable discussions involving civic, social, business, media, academic, arts, and cultural trendsetters. (Wednesdays 6-7 PM)

**The Angry Young Man**, hosted by Anthony Cacciato, is a weekly discussion and live talk show that discusses a myriad of political and social issues that face our greater WRCT and Pittsburgh community. The show often hosts members of the community who discuss these issues with the host in a non-combative "fireside chat" setting, with the hope of cultivating a positive atmosphere around the discussion of tough issues. (Thursday 11:30AM-12PM)

## News and Information Broadcasts

One of our goals as a community radio station is to provide information to our listeners about current events that are impacting the local, national, and global communities.

### Syndicated News programs

WRCT broadcasts **The David Pakman Show**, a nationally syndicated one-hour progressive talk radio show, every weekday at 7-8 AM. The program is hosted by David Pakman. After beginning in 2005 as *Midweek Politics with David Pakman*, the show is now produced in Boston, Massachusetts. For more information visit the website <https://davidpakman.com/>.

WRCT broadcasts **Democracy Now!**, a nationally syndicated one-hour news program, every weekday at 8-9 AM. The program is hosted by Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez and produced out of the Downtown Community Television Center, a community media center in New York City's Chinatown. For more information on Democracy Now!, please consult their website at <http://www.democracynow.org> or call (212) 431-9090.

WRCT broadcasts **Law and Disorder**, a weekly, independent radio program airing on many stations across the United States and podcasting on the web. Law and Disorder radio gives listeners access to rare legal perspectives on issues concerning civil liberties, privacy, right to dissent and the practices of torture exercised by the US government. Three of the top progressive attorneys and activists host the program and consistently bring a diverse line up of guests from grassroots activists to politically mindful authors. Mondays 9-10 AM, with a website at [lawanddisorder.org](http://lawanddisorder.org).

**Democracy Now!** and **Law and Disorder** come to our station via satellite courtesy of our affiliation with the Pacifica Radio Foundation.

### **Other Syndicated Informative Broadcasts**

WRCT is a member station of Pacifica Radio and the Public Radio Exchange (PRX). The Public Affairs Department licenses programs from these networks to syndicate throughout the schedule.

**CounterSpin** provides a critical examination of the major stories every week, and exposes what corporate media might have missed in their own coverage. CounterSpin highlights censored stories and exposes biased and inaccurate coverage, while examining the power of corporate influence and sexism, racism and homophobia in the news. (Tuesdays 9:30-10 AM)

**David Pakman Show**, hosted by David Pakman, started as a community radio show called Midweek Politics in the basement of WXOJ's studio in Northampton, Massachusetts. The focus of the show is modern American politics and society. (Mondays-Fridays 7-8 AM)

**Alternative Radio** is a weekly show that provides information, analyses and views that are frequently ignored or distorted in corporate media. (Wednesdays 9-10 AM)

**In Black America** is a weekly show that is dedicated to all facets of the African-American experience. Host John L. Hanson profiles a diverse selection of current and historically significant figures whose stories help illuminate life in Black America. Guests include civil rights leaders, educators, artists, athletes and writers describing their experiences, achievements and work in chronicling and advancing the quality of African American life. Produced at KUT & KUTX Studios. (Sundays 5-5:30 AM)

### **The Radio and Music Calendar**

WRCT broadcasts a calendar of community events three times daily: 1 p.m., 7 p.m., and 11 p.m. Community organizations submit their own events for inclusion in the calendar, which is administered by a WRCT staff member. Each calendar announcement includes information on

how organizations may submit announcements via U.S. Mail or the Internet. The calendar of events includes two segments which are read together: the “WRCT Radio Calendar,” which includes community events; and the “WRCT Music Calendar,” which lists live music performances at local venues.

Events that are announced as part of the WRCT Radio Calendar vary depending on the time of year, but include music and film festivals, art exhibits, and municipal events.

The WRCT Music Calendar is a compilation of live music events at local venues, some of which include Mr. Smalls Theater, Club Cafe, and Cattivo.

# Public Service Announcements

Per the WRCT policies and procedures manual, WRCT broadcasts a minimum of 60 seconds of public-service announcements (PSAs) every hour, including one live PSA.

Producers and board operators select which PSAs they broadcast during the hours they are on the air. Because of this, it is difficult to determine how many times each PSA was broadcast without a detailed examination of all program logs, which are kept on file in the WRCT office.

However, assuming a full broadcast day of 24 hours, during the 1st Quarter we broadcast an estimated 2184 minutes or 36.4 hours of PSAs.

January: 1 min/hr (x) 24 hrs/day (x) 31 days = 744 mins.

February: 1 min/hr (x) 24 hrs/day (x) 29 days = 696 mins.

March: 1 min/hr (x) 24 hrs/day (x) 31 days = 744 mins.

# Quarterly Issues/Programs List

Below is a list of some of the significant issues responded to by WRCT Pittsburgh, PA, along with the most significant programming treatment of those issues for the period of January 1st, 2023 to April 1st, 2023. This list is by no means exhaustive. The order in which the issues appear does not reflect any priority or significance.

- Health
- Reproductive Rights
- LGBTQ Rights
- Climate Change
- Workers' Rights
- Asylum Seekers
- Technology Regulation
- Racial Justice
- War in Gaza
- Student's Issues
- Housing

Description of Issue	Program/Segment	Date	Time	Duration	Narration of Type and Description of Program/Segment
Housing	Angry Young Man	Mar 18	11:30 AM	30 min	Spoke regarding housing availability and affordability within the City of Pittsburgh
Tech Regulation	Angry Young Man	April 4	11:30 AM	15 min	Discussed the Congressional plan to ban TikTok in the United States if it refused to divest and the negative implications
Asylum Seekers	Angry Young Man	Feb 29	11:30 AM	30 min	Discussed the border crisis and Texas policy regarding it.
Students Issues	Angry Young Man	Feb 1	11:30 AM	5 min	Discussed the issue of student loan forgiveness and the ballooning college tuition cost in the United States
Climate Change	Angry Young Man	Feb 15	11:30 AM	30 min	Spoke regarding the localized solutions to climate change and

Description of Issue	Program/Segment	Date	Time	Duration	Narration of Type and Description of Program/Segment
					renewable energy such as nuclear as a solution to the climate crisis.
War in Gaza	Law And Disorder	April 8	9:00 AM	60 min	Spoke regarding the current state of the war in Gaza. Building of port in Gaza, congressional circumvention of Biden admin, reaction to International Court of Justice
Tech Regulation	Law And Disorder	April 1	9:00 AM	60 min	Spoke regarding state efforts to combat tech regulation of content on their platforms. Looked at SCOTUS oral arguments regarding tech censorship and its legality.
War in Gaza	Law And Disorder	Mar 18	9:00 AM	30 min	Spoke about boycotting Israel over the War in Gaza. History of the boycott in the United States and its protection by the First Amendment
War in Gaza	Law And Disorder	Feb 19	9:00 AM	30 min	Spoke regarding pro-Israel bias in the media in coverage regarding the War in Gaza within the United States. Touched on the usage of language when describing both sides.