

Quarterly Issues and Programs
WSOU FM
3rd Quarter
July 1, 2023- Sept. 30, 2023

Issue: The battle over reproductive rights continues. It is expected to have a major impact on the 2024 elections. Protests across the country continue and have had an effect on New Jersey and the metropolitan region.

Program: The issue was discussed on several programs. The July first episode of Making Contact made it the primary story with representatives from Planned Parenthood and Right to life groups. The WSOU weekly news show, Pirate News Desk, covered the issue from the side of the courts and efforts to reverse the Supreme Court ruling in 2022.

Time: 60 minutes.

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Issue: The Supreme Court has ended affirmative action. As a result there are severe changes in giving access to many groups, especially minorities, to a college education.

Programming: The story was covered on a regular basis by the WSOU news department. Many students were interviewed, along with civil rights advocates, on the effects of the ruling. Pirate News Desk featured a full report on its July 9th program. In addition the story was the focus of Making Contact on July 22nd. Making contact is an issue based program that runs weekly on WSOU.

Time: 90 minutes.

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Issue: There has been a severe heat wave during the months of August and September. The result has been health issues, school closings and energy supply problems. Major storms also happened leaving trees and power down.

Programming: The heat crisis was covered in daily newscast on WSOU. It also was covered in the weekly news show Pirate News Desk. Interviews included medical experts as well as comments from local utility companies dealing with power outages and a higher demand for service.

Time: 1 hour

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Issue: Increasing Anti-semitism. There have been a number of incidents involving desecration of temples and synagogues in the region. Law enforcement has been stepped up.

Programming: The issue was discussed on several programs on WSOU. The Kinship of Catholics and Jews covered the topic on several occasions. On July 16 Fr. Lawrence Frizzell talked with a local Rabbi to find ways of combating the problem. With the Jewish Holidays coming The program discussed the issue on Sept. 10th. The weekly news show Pirate News Desk also featured the story on August 5th.

Total Time: 90 minutes

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Issue: The fight for Trans rights. Battles have taken center stage especially in school districts over whether a district has the right to report a student's sexual identity status. Also the issue over whether teaching about trans rights should be banned.

Programming: The August 12 episode of Making Contact covered the issue. The program focused on the battles in local districts and court cases that have been brought forward. Daily newscasts also reported on the issue in New Jersey districts such as Middleton. Coverage also reported on the state education department issue that was a setback for parents opposed to districts educating students on LGBTQ issues.

Time: 2 hours

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Issue: The migrant crisis. The state is trying to find a solution to handle the influx of migrants from Latin America.

Programming: The August 20 edition of Pirate News Desk made it the top story of its weekly program. It included discussion with local lawmakers on where to house the migrants. Atlantic city was a major issue but was rejected. Other areas were being considered, including Jersey City and Newark

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Issue: With school starting , district are still working on getting back to normal after covid and the possibility of another round of the virus.

Programming: The September 17 episode of Eye on Education covered the issue. Guests included superintendents from the Teaneck and Morris School Districts plus a professor from Seton Hall University. Discussion centered on dealing with any lingering issues such as attendance , Safety and instruction.