

Quarterly Issues and Programs
WSOU FM
4th Quarter
Oct. 1-Dec. 31 ,2023

Issue: There has been an increase in anti-Semitism as a result of the Israeli Hamas war. Everything from local synagogues to college campuses have been dealing with the problem.

Programming: Several programs have addressed the problem. Primarily the issue has been a regular topic on the WSOU weekly news program Pirate News Desk and on daily newscasts. Shows on October 21, 28 Nov. 5, 12 and Dec. 3 all covered the war and the problem of anti-Semitism. In addition there was coverage of continued protests in support of Palestinians. Much of the discussion focused on humanitarian aid.

Total time: 2hours

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Issue: Social media has become an issue not only for people in the media but for regular people, especially kids. Parents are worried that their children are being affected by what they deal with on social media, things such as bullying and unreasonable expectations.

Programming: The issue of the affects of social media on daily lives was covered in the November 4 episode of Making Contact, an issue based program. Sociologists discussed the role parents can take to help their kids. The constant barrage of media effect on kids was explained by professionals who are treating children. The dependence on social media was explored also. Total time: 30 minutes.

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Issue: There has been growing concern over immigration. Migrants from Mexico and Latin America are crossing the border and many northern cities are being asked to make room for them. New Jersey is among the areas being selected. The problem has caused conflict between federal and state officials and residents.

Programming: Several shows have tackled this issue. Making Contact on October 14th addressed the conflict with local officials around the nation. The New Jersey angle was covered on Pirate News Desk on November 11th. Among the voices heard was the Governor and mayors, including the mayor of Atlantic City, which is one of the prime areas earmarked for immigrants.

Time: 1 hour

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Issue: New Jersey Senator Robert Menendez was indicted on charges of fraud and misuse of his position. Menendez and his wife were charged in the case. Menendez has denied the charges and has refused to resign from office despite charges from his own Democratic party.

Programming: The October first episode of Pirate News Desk covered the issue with reaction from area lawmakers. Discussion also included political analysis with educators from Seton Hall University. Comments also included remarks from Menendez.

Episodes on November 4th and 11th also touched on the issue.

Time: 30 minutes.

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Issue: The war in the Middle East has resulted in serious reactions locally. Protests have popped up on college campuses and in neighborhoods both in New Jersey and New York. Law enforcement has been trying to limit any confrontations.

Programming: The issue of rival protests has been covered as part of daily newscasts. The topic was a regular part of Pirate News Desk, the weekly news show produced by the station news

department. It was also the topic of Making Contact in its Dec. 3 episode. The Program Global Current, also a locally produced show discussed the issue several times from an international point of view on November 19th and Dec.

Time: 1 hour.

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Issue: School districts around the state are dealing with the issue of trans rights. Parents have been vocal on each side. Some want a restriction on what is being taught while others want no limits.

Programming: The issue has been covered by Making contact on a national level. October 13th episode discussed the topic with parents and school administrators. Pirate News Desk handled the topic in its October 14 program with interviews and reporting with local school officials.

Time: 1 hour

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Issue: There is rising concern over the use of AI. Much of the focus has been on the entertainment industry but educators are also very worried about the effects. Those effects range from using AI to do normal school work and research.

Programming: Global Current, our politically based show focused on Artificial Intelligence on its Dec. 10 program. The episode interviewed an esteemed guest who is an expert on AI and the ominous concept of weaponization. Professor Dr. Birgitta Dresch-Langley is a director of research at the National Center of Scientific Research with extensive experience regarding Artificial Intelligence. Pirate News Desk also addressed the impact of AI on its Dec. 17 program.

Time: 1 hour