

Yiming Li

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 2nd Quarter of 2023, 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

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

Sincerely,

Yiming Li

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 discussion of issues of concern to African people that rarely gets 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 trend setters. (Wednesdays 6-7 PM)

## 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. (Wednesdays 10-10:30 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. (Mondays 10-11 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)

**A Way With Words** is a weekly hour-long program about language and how we use it. It looks at the cultural, historical, and regional aspects of daily language usage. Callers from across the nation can call in to have the program's hosts answer their questions about language, grammar, and word. Website at [www.waywordradio.org](http://www.waywordradio.org). (Wednesdays 9-10 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 2nd Quarter we broadcast an estimated 2184 minutes or 36.4 hours of PSAs.

April: 1 min/hr (x) 24 hrs/day (x) 30 days = 720 mins.

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

June: 1 min/hr (x) 24 hrs/day (x) 30 days = 720 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 March 1, 2023 to June 1, 2023. This list is by no means exhaustive. The order in which the issues appear does not reflect any priority or significance.

Description of Issue	Program/Segment	Date	Time	Duration	Narration of Type and Description of Program/Segment
Rachel K. Jones on Mifepristone, Donna Murch on Rutgers Labor Action	Counterspin	April 26	10:00 AM	10 min	The Supreme Court has briefly punted their decision on restricting access to medication abortion drug mifepristone. The American Medical Association said that the recent ruling by a Texas federal judge revoking the FDA's approval of mifepristone, which has been in widespread use for more than two decades.
Workers' Rights	Counterspin	May 31	10:00 AM	15 min	Going on strike is something that people with no personal experience are comfortable depicting as frivolous and selfish. That extends to many corporate news reporters, who appear unable to present a labor action as other than, first and foremost, an unwonted interruption of a natural order.
Workers' Rights	Counterspin	April 12	10:00 AM	15 min	Former President Donald Trump was arrested this week, but we're going to talk about another kind of crime: the slow, steady drip drip of crime that doesn't leap out to reporters—the day-to-day crushing of workers' attempts to organize themselves to have a voice in the workplace, not just about their pay, but their well-being and their dignity.

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Reproductive Rights	Law And Disorder	May 22	9:00 AM	10 min	The newest Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett had a message for new lawyers. She said being a lawyer “is but it means to an end. ... and the end is building the kingdom of God.” This ascendant ultra-right wing can best be described as white Christian nationalists. These white Christian nationalists have won significant victories and are on roll. Taking away a woman’s right to control their own bodies in the recent overturn of Roe versus Wade is just the latest example.
Homeless Crisis	Law And Disorder	May 15	9:00 AM	30 min	Humanitarian concerns there disproportionately impact Black and Brown residents. To address this crisis, California legislators have introduced constitutional amendment proposals that would enumerate the right to housing in the state constitution.
Workers’ Rights	Law And Disorder	April 24	9:00 AM	30 min	Sections of the American working class are fighting back. Workers are organizing in Amazon and Starbucks. 9000 of them are on strike at Rutgers University. United Automobile Workers are gearing up for a strike. Polls show that most working people would like to be in a union.
Climate Change	Law And Disorder	April 10	9:00 AM	60 min	A new flagship United Nations report on climate change shows that harmful carbon emissions have never been higher in human history. And that this is proof that the world is on a fast



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					track to disaster, with scientists arguing that it's now or never to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.
Climate Change	Alternative Radio	May 1	10:00 AM	60 min	The crises facing humankind are, to use a much overused but accurate word – unprecedented. Plutocratic power in the hands of the few is a disaster for democracy and our ecosphere.
Climate Change	Alternative Radio	April 17	10:00 AM	60 min	As ecosystems collapse and the climate emergency intensifies, the government often uses its authority to allow the very harm that it is supposed to prevent.
Health	Alternative Radio	April 24	10:00 AM	60 min.	In the 1950s the United States had among the lowest mortality rates and highest life expectancy in the world. Today, other rich nations and quite a number of poor ones have better health outcomes than Americans.
Workers' Rights	In Black America	April 9	5:00 AM	60 min	This week on In Black America, producer and host John L. Hanson, Jr. discusses issues of diversity and inclusion in the workplace with Shondra J. Brown, a Family Nurse Practitioner and author of The Black Professional's Guide: How to Navigate White Privilege in the Workplace.
Health, Reproductive Rights	Democracy Now	June 16	8:00 AM	25 min	Olympic track star Tori Bowie was eight months pregnant and in labor when she died on May 2, according to an autopsy. She was alone in her home at the time and may have suffered from respiratory distress and

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					eclampsia, a rare but life-threatening pregnancy complication.
LGBTQ Rights	Democracy Now	June 30	8:00 AM	25 min	In one of the last cases in the Supreme Court's current session, the justices ruled in favor of a wedding website designer who wants to be allowed to refuse service to same-sex couples.
Banking Crisis	Democracy Now	June 2	8:00 AM	30 min	After a contentious battle with the Republican House majority, President Biden and Congress have agreed on a bipartisan deal suspending the debt ceiling until January 1, 2025.created the racial inequality and unequal opportunity to continue.
Climate Change	Democracy Now	May 31	8:00 AM	20 min	We look at how a new Supreme Court ruling awards a major victory to polluters and land developers. In a 5-4 decision last week, the justices sharply limited the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency to protect and preserve wetlands under the Clean Water Act.
LGBTQ Rights	Democracy Now	May 31	8:00 AM	30 min	We go to Kampala, Uganda, to discuss the impact of one of the most draconian anti-LGBTQ laws in the world, just signed by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni.
Banking Crisis	Democracy Now	May 30	8:00 AM	20 min	President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy are urging lawmakers to support a deal to suspend the debt ceiling until January 1, 2025, in order to

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					prevent the United States from defaulting on its debt for the first time in history.
Workers' Rights	Democracy Now	May 2	8:00 AM	15 min	Thousands of screenwriters behind Hollywood movies and TV shows are on strike as of midnight on Tuesday. The Writers Guild of America says its members are struggling to make a living, as rates have fallen and writers have less job security — even as the streaming era has led to an explosion in TV and film production.
Health, Reproductive Rights	Democracy Now	April 24	8:00 AM	15 min	The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday halted a ban and other restrictions on the abortion medication mifepristone, keeping the nation's most popular abortion method available for now as an appeal of the nationwide ban on the pill plays out.
Reproductive Rights	Democracy Now	April 20	8:00 AM	15 min	As the Supreme Court weighs whether to keep mifepristone available nationwide, we speak with Julie Burkhardt, who is on the frontlines of the fight for reproductive justice.
LGBTQ Rights	Democracy Now	April 17	8:00 AM	30 min	We speak with Ugandan LGBTQ activist Frank Mugisha about a draconian new anti-gay bill the country is on the verge of imposing, which makes it a crime to identify as queer, considers all same-sex conduct to be nonconsensual, and even allows for the death penalty in certain cases.

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Workers' Rights	Democracy Now	April 14	8:00 AM	15 min	Faculty at the state-run Rutgers University in New Jersey have entered their fifth day of a historic strike — the first faculty strike in the school's 257-year history.
Reproductive Rights	Democracy Now	April 14	8:00 AM	15 min	We look at the state of abortion access in the United States with The Nation's Amy Littlefield as the Supreme Court is expected to weigh in on a ruling set to take effect Saturday that effectively overrides the Food and Drug Administration's two-decade-old approval of the medication abortion pill mifepristone.
Reproductive Rights	Democracy Now	April 10	8:00 AM	15 min	We speak with Alexis McGill Johnson, president and CEO of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, about the ruling by a Trump-appointed federal judge in Texas to revoke the Food and Drug Administration approval of the abortion pill mifepristone.
Reproductive Rights	Democracy Now	April 10	8:00 AM	15 min	We look at the dueling rulings by two federal judges on the abortion pill mifepristone. A Trump-appointed judge in Texas suspended the Food and Drug Administration's decades-old approval of the drug, while a judge in Washington state ordered the agency to maintain the status quo.
Reproductive Rights	Democracy Now	April 10	8:00 AM	15 min	We look at access to medical abortion pills and advice on how to manage abortions at home

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					with Dr. Linda Prine, physician and co-founder of the Miscarriage and Abortion Hotline. Prine says the hotline is increasingly busy and now has 70 clinicians taking calls for 18 hours each day.
Reproductive Rights	Democracy Now	April 10	8:00 AM	15 min	When U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk ruled Friday the Food and Drug Administration's two-decade old approval of the leading abortion drug mifepristone violates the law, he cited the 19th century Comstock Act, a so-called anti-vice law that prohibits the mailing of contraceptives and instruments or drugs that can be used in an abortion.
LGBTQ Rights	Democracy Now	April 3	8:00 AM	20 min	On Friday, a Federal Judge in Memphis, Tennessee, temporarily blocked a law signed by Tennessee Governor Bill Lee banning drag shows in public, and legal experts say it will likely continue to be blocked all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.
Health	David Packman Show	June 26	7:00 AM	15 min	We discuss whether scientists and doctors should debate antivaxxers in the context of the recent conflict between Joe Rogan, Dr. Peter Hotez, Elon Musk, and others
Health	David Packman Show	June 22	7:00 AM	15 min	Trump continues to struggle when talking about the COVID-19 vaccines to his right-wing base

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Climate Change	David Packman Show	June 15	7:00 AM	15 min	On the Bonus Show: Texas prepares for another brutal heat wave, Cornel West also wants Green Party nomination despite running under People's Party, Tesla's self-driving system may not be that great, much more...
LGBTQ Rights	David Packman Show	June 18	7:00 AM	15 min	Radical Republican Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene continues her anti-trans rhetoric, wildly claiming that trans people in bathroom "want to have sex with you" during a Turning Point USA event for women
LGBTQ Rights	David Packman Show	May 30	7:00 AM	15 min	A deeper look at the issue of "men in women's sports," also known as transgender women in women's sports
LGBTQ Rights	David Packman Show	May 25	7:00 AM	15 min	A deeper look at the issue of "men in women's sports," also known as transgender women in women's sports
Reproductive Rights	David Packman Show	May 15	7:00 AM	15 min	On the Bonus Show: George Santos agrees to settle lawsuit in Brazil, NC Governor vetoes 12-week abortion ban, SCOTUS outlawed split juries yet hundreds remain in prison, much more...
LGBTQ Rights	David Packman Show	April 26	7:00 AM	10 min	Missouri about to force trans adults and teens to de-transition.
LGBTQ Rights	David Packman Show	April 21	7:00 AM	15 min	Newsmax hots Eric Bolling delivers a barely intelligible anti-transgender rant, falsely equating transphobia, racism, and disabilities

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LGBTQ Rights	David Packman Show	May 4	7:00 AM	15 min	Florida Republicans have passed a disgusting, and arguably unenforceable, "pronoun" bill
Reproductive Rights	David Packman Show	May 3	7:00 AM	15 min	Right-wing content creator Steven Crowder and right-wingers would like women to have to stay married if they can't point to "fault" for a divorce
Reproductive Rights	David Packman Show	April 19	7:00 AM	15 min	Elon Musk and Tucker Carlson talk about the urge to impregnate women in part two of their deranged Fox News interview
LGBTQ Rights	David Packman Show	April 12	7:00 AM	15 min	Florida State Representative Webster Barnaby compares transgender people to "demons and limbs"
Health	David Packman Show	April 4	7:00 AM	15 min	Doctor Shira Doron, Chief Infection Control Officer for Tufts Medicine Health System and the hospital epidemiologist at Tufts Medical Center in Boston joins David to discuss the latest data on the question of whether masks work to control the spread of COVID-19

## **Special Features**

WRCT has continued to provide unique programming to CMU and the community through our special broadcasts.