

Radio moved to Ryle Hall

BY MARGARET HOOPER
Staff Reporter

Last semester, Dobson Radio, 107.5 FM, found itself apartment-hunting after the station was evicted from its home on the fourth floor of Dobson Hall because of building renovations.

Station Manager Matt Gowin said that this semester, fans can find 107.5 FM on the first floor of Ryle, but the location is only temporary — they hope to be back in Dobson next year.

While the station found a new, if temporary, home, it still is working on finding a new name. Gowin said the station is trying to get away from "Dobson Radio," and has been using "Radio 107.5" until the members can decide what to call it.

Gowin said 107.5 FM is completely student-run and operates with fewer playlist guidelines than the Edge, 88.7 FM, which is more closely affiliated with the University.

"The station is more of a club than anything," Gowin said. "We're just a group of kids who love music. Music is our drug."

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Matt Gowin
Station Manager for
107.5 FM

lock. Gowin said he would be handing out the code to his DJs soon and listeners could expect a more regular programming schedule beginning Friday.

Although moving into Ryle has caused some delays, Gowin said that overall, he loves the new location.

"We're in an air-conditioned part of Ryle, and the space is bigger," Gowin said.

Ryle Hall Director Liz Raine said the new location on the first floor also might have some unforeseen benefits for the station.

"They've been having their door open, and you can hear the music in the lounge and outside the cafeteria, which gives them more exposure than they had on the fourth floor of Dobson," Raine said.

Station manager Amber Jones agrees that the location has been beneficial. Jones, who previously worked as the public relations manager for 107.5 FM, said many students are not aware the station exists. This semester, she said, they are going to try to let more students know about 107.5 FM through posters and events.

"Coming up, we're going to have a raffle for Ben Folds CDs," Jones said. "We're also partnering with the [Women's Resource Center] on Sexual Assault Awareness Week on Friday, September 26. We're helping them throw a survivor's celebration on the Mall."

Rushing through rain

Greek rushees ran down the hill near Red Barn Park in pouring rain Monday. This annual event, called Yell-In, allows rushees to announce their chosen sorority. **Brian O'Shaughnessy**
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Mayank Dhungana/Index
Kirkville High School student Marcus Estrada, 16, skates in the parking lot next to the skate shop Wood Pushers.

Skate park raises money

BY T.J. FAUST
Staff Reporter

Local Kirksville skateboarders have grinded their way to victory.

The Organization of Kirksville Skateboarders recently exceeded its goal of raising \$120,000 to fund the new skate park, which is scheduled to be constructed in North Park by the end of this year. The City Council will meet Sept. 15 to approve the plan so that Suburban Rails, a skate park contractor based in Cincinnati, Ohio, can begin construction.

The OKS hoped to finish construction by the end of summer, but it was postponed due to the lack of funding. Local skaters took matters into their own hands to ensure the skate park would be completed by the end of the year.

Freshman Alex Meneely, Kirksville resident and chairman of OKS, helped organize fundraisers to raise the money needed to begin construction on the park. He said OKS fundraisers helped raise about \$8,000 to \$10,000.

Meneely said the city donated \$50,000 as well as the land where the park will be built. He said the city also filled out an annual natural resource grant of \$30,000 to help build the park. Professional skateboarder Tony Hawk donated \$15,000, and the community raised \$25,000.

"The city has been fully behind us from the beginning," Meneely said.

On Aug. 17, Meneely organized the last major fundraiser at Wood Pushers skate shop at 401 E. Northtown Rd. Local skaters helped raise about \$300 at the event.

After spending most of his time fundraising for OKS, Meneely decided to pass his position as chairman on. The owners of Wood Pushers, Ezekiel Sevids and his wife, accepted the leadership role handed down from Meneely.

"Since we've been given the reins of OKS, we are going to start looking at doing clinics for first-time skaters and try to get them orientated on how to do things," Sevids said.

He said he plans on hosting events like pro demonstrations at the park through his connections with the skateboard industry.

Sevids also said he thinks the skate park will have a positive effect on the Kirksville community. He said he hopes the park will attract traffic from out of town that will benefit local businesses.

Marcus Estrada, a 16-year-old local skater, said he's ecstatic about having a skate park in Kirksville.

"It's going to be crazy," Estrada said. "There's been a lot more [skateboarders] since I moved here [two years ago]. I think there will be a lot of people there."

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