

Money — major hurdle for station WGRC

Construction has begun on radio station WGRC, a 10-watt brainchild of the Greece Central School District's Redesign Council. Despite the approval by the FCC for construction and the walls being erected at Athens High School, the station still has some major hurdles to overcome. The major hurdle is money.

Donn Wishaw, Redesign Coordinator and students Valerie Low, station finance chairman and James Paris, general manager addressed the Greece Council of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce at the Council's noon meeting last week.

Wishaw told the local businessmen that the station, which expects to be on the air next spring, will address itself to the communication problem and the lack of community identity evident in the Town of Greece. "It is not a toy for students to play with," he stated. "It is serious business."

The station plans to present educational programs, call-in shows, opinion programs, musical productions, sports presentations and debates. Also included in plans and programs from the Strasenburg Planetarium and presentations by the Greece Police Department, Fire

Departments, the Drug Referral Center and other organizations. "There will be something for everyone," Paris noted.

WGRC, when in operation, will have a 20-mile radius, sufficient power to cover all of the Town of Greece. It will represent the culmination of countless hours of work, by not only students and faculty members, but hard work and donations from hundreds of interested residents throughout the town from all walks. It is a product of the collaborative spirit of the Redesign program.

The first thought of such a program was the result of the Redesign Council. A feasibility studies was made, after which the Greece Central School Board gave its unanimous approval. The first application for a construction permit from the FCC was rejected. Only after reworking the plans and specifications did the FCC grant its approval. A broadcast license will still be needed after completion. The second victory for the proposed station was a \$2,000 "mini-grant" from the federal government.

The balance of the \$11,000 needed for its construction will have to come from the local community. Several thousands of dollars have already been

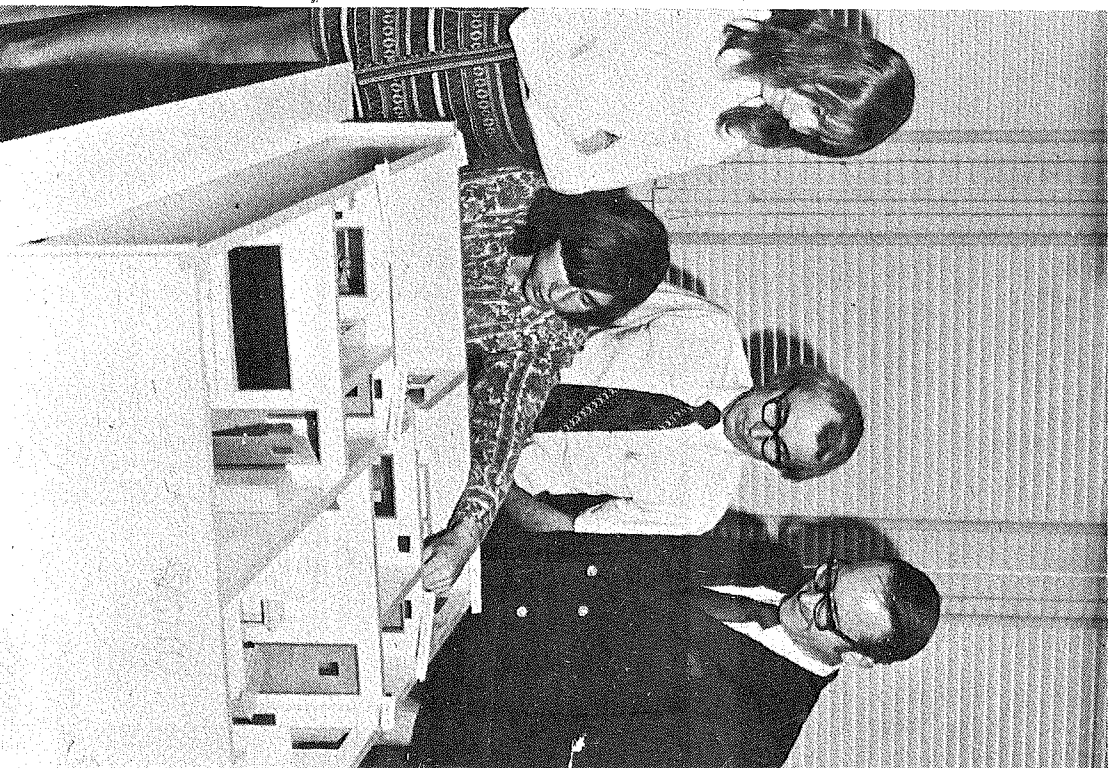
raised by students conducting door-to-door solicitations, fund-raising events, such as dances, and the sale of "stock."

This past weekend, the students have been delivering telephone books to help raise the needed funds. Miss Low, daughter of the chairman of the Station Advisory Committee, reported to

the Chamber that the program was still some \$6,000 short of their goal.

Operating at 90.1 on the FM dial, the station personnel hope to increase the power of the station to 1,300 watts in the future. By increasing the station power, the program could be eligible for aid from the federal government.

WGRC intends to broadcast from their Athens studios from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Valerie Low, finance chairman; James Paris, general manager; Michael Tarkivich, engineering advisor and Donn Wishaw, Redesign coordinator study model of studios of new station.