

# Athena High Station on Air in Fall

WGMC-FM, Greece Athena High School's radio station, has been approved for an operating license by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The station, which was over two years in planning, will go on the air when school begins in the fall. It will operate from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day school is open, excluding the summer months, at 90.1 on the FM dial. The station will reach a 10-mile radius of the school.

"Our major goal is to provide a service to the community, to give programming Greece people can't get anywhere else," says W. Hunter Low Jr., chairman of the citizens' FM advisory board.

"We hope to get into things like school

board meetings, high school sports, maybe town board meetings. The more local programming we can produce, the less we will use from outside sources."

The purpose of the station doesn't include serving as a "training station" for adults interested in going into broadcasting, Low adds. It will provide experience to students, however, who might be considering the field, he says.

The station ran two weeks of test programming, four hours each day, the first of June. One part of the tests included equipment checks by an FCC inspector.

The June tests were run with a small staff, but Low expects the personnel who will be completely unpaid, to number about 100 in the fall.

Half of the staff will be adult volunteers and half will be students from Greece's four high schools—Athena, Arcadia, Olympia and Cardinal Mooney.

Three of the station's major positions have already been filled. They are: General managers Louis Betstadt, an English teacher at Athena; chief engineer, Michael Tarkulich, an audio visual technician in the Greece School District; and business manager, Donald McGregor, an accountant at Kodak.

Openings still exist for a program director, personnel director and directors of the various departments, such as news and sports.

"Yes, we might fill these positions with students," said Low. "We're going to pick the person who is best qualified, whether he's an

adult or a student, and one of the big factors will be the applicant's interest."

The station will be supported by the sale of stock and contributions from businesses, as it won't be able to accept paid advertisements.

A total of about \$4,000 has already been raised in the past year from the sale of non negotiable stock, which sells for \$1 a share, but business contributions have been light so far, Low says.

"When you approach a businessman, you have to have something responsible to show him or you won't get anywhere," Low says. "You have to prove you're not going to waste his money. We think we're ready now to do just that."

Low adds the station has a goal of raising another \$10,000.