

Students' Idea Starts FM Station

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LOS ALTOS HILLS — Three years ago, a handful of Foothill College students approached district trustees with an unusual proposal. They wanted to set up a radio station.

Trustees thought the proposal over and decided in favor of the students and a college FM station.

The station, KFJC—at 89.7 on your FM dial—was thus founded and built by students. It first went on the air a year later.

Today the student staffed and operated station is the only one like it on the Peninsula and one of a half-dozen or so in the state.

Today, the station, boasting \$10,000 worth of equipment, may become a model for other college stations.

The station formally goes on the air at its new campus site about Nov. 27.

Instructor Fred Critchfield, a young, soft-spoken, serious man with a background in broadcasting, says letters are coming in from over the nation asking about KFJC.

"Our philosophy has been that this is a transfer program, not a terminal one," Critchfield says.

"That is, we encourage the student to complete his education and not to try to go directly into broadcasting after he leaves Foothill."

"Years ago, anyone with a good resonant voice might be put on the air."

"Today, radio station owners are looking for people with a college education."

"Our purpose, besides giving the student an in-

sight into the administration, economics and philosophy of broadcasting, is to try to get the student to do some critical thinking of his own."

He points out that the college's broadcasting program "provides an outlet for creative talent just as the drama department has its theater and the music department its chorus."

But this is only the beginning. A more extensive program schedule is predicted for the future.

Eventually, the station is expected to expand its hours.

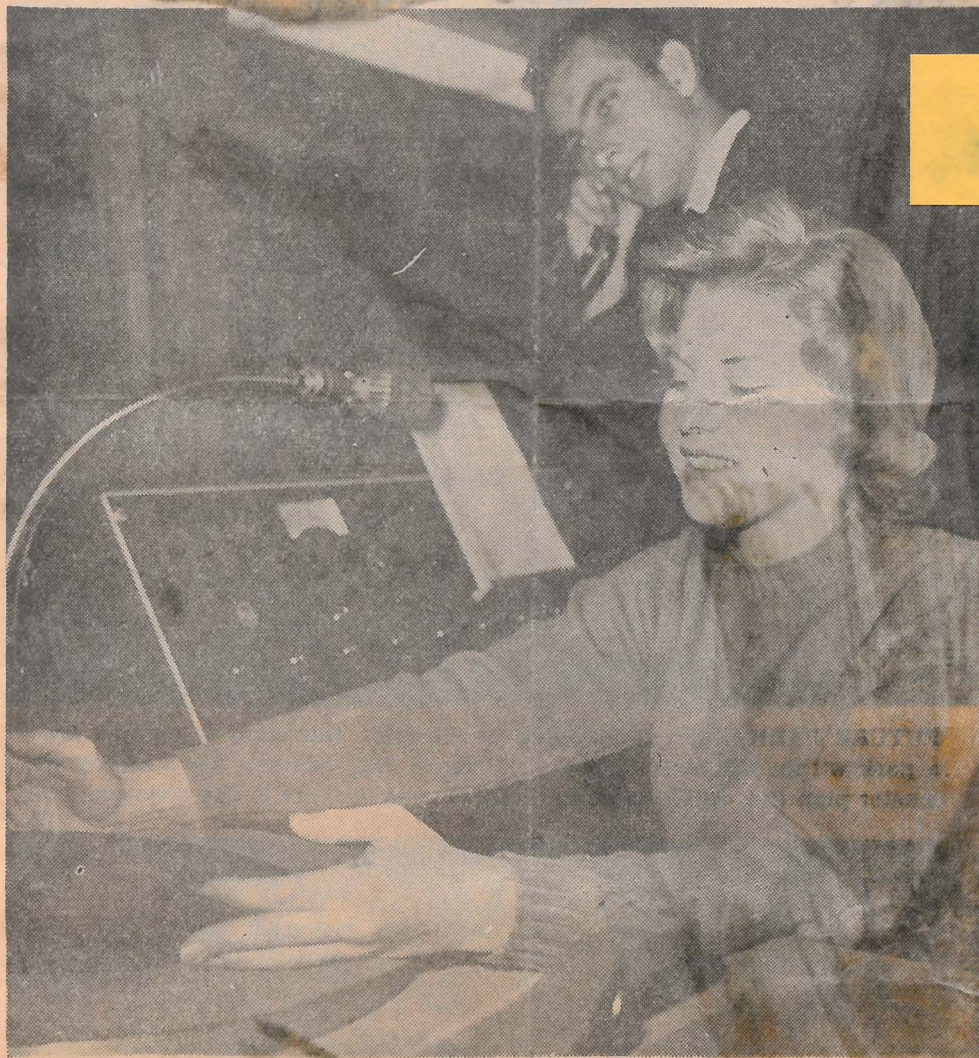
A literature series is expected to be aired by the faculty. "A French and Spanish language series also is contemplated," Critchfield said.

To air a series of reviews and interviews with authors, actors and playwrights will be Herbert Finestein, San Francisco State College instructor, whose work has expanded to the British Broadcasting Co. and over the United States, will broadcast a series of reviews and interviews with actors and playwrights.

Station manager Vic Biondi, said only "middle-of-the-road"-type of music will be presented, like Broadway show tunes, contemporary jazz and folk music chosen from the 6,000 selections in stock.

The station's facilities, include three studios, a master control room and workroom, are located in

the college's modern Mass power transmitter and antenna is located in the Page Mill road near the Communications Building. The station's 10-watt, low Black Mountain area off E.B. Burns ranch in San Mateo County.



THEY'RE READY—Foothill College students Ron Bucholtz, 18, of Cupertino, and Nancy Wassner, 18, of Mountain View, check the controls of the college's FM station before the station formally goes on the air about Nov. 27, at the new campus. The station is one of handful of college stations in the state and the lone one on the Peninsula. It has been on the air the past two years.

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