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February 21, 2005

WOSU REVERSES DECISION ON CONTROVERSIAL CHILDREN'S SHOW
Station Responds to Pressure from OSU GLBT Alumni Society

COLUMBUS, Ohio—After receiving criticism from the OSU GLBT Alumni Society, local PBS affiliate WOSU announced it will air the controversial “Sugartime!” episode of the *Postcards from Buster* children’s series after an initial decision to not air it.

WOSU will broadcast the program at 7 p.m. on March 25th along with its locally produced public affairs program *Viewpoint*, which will examine issues raised by the controversy. The show typically airs in the late morning with other children’s programming.

According to a station news release, the station felt the *Postcards* episode was consistent with its programming mission but also felt it warranted a primetime airing to give parents more control over their children’s viewing habits.

“We’re happy that WOSU has reversed their decision,” said society President Jack Miner. “But it is still unfortunate that the show requires special treatment with a primetime airing.”

In the episode, a young girl in Vermont introduces cartoon bunny Buster Baxter to her mother and mother’s lesbian partner. The series mission set forth by PBS is to promote tolerance and acceptance in America’s children. Other episodes have included profiles of children from a variety of racial, religious and ethnic backgrounds.

In early February, incoming Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings attacked PBS, saying she had “strong and serious concerns about the episode.” PBS quickly pulled the show from its programming line-up, but producing station WGBH of Boston distributed the episode directly to interested member stations.

Since then, a total of 47 stations have agreed to air the episode. WOSU initially declined to broadcast and the OSU GLBT Alumni Society responded with a critical letter to station manager Tom Rieland. The station announced last week its plans to air at a special time.

The mission of the OSU Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Alumni Society is to promote the best interest of the University’s GLBT alumni, as well as assist with the educational needs of current students. The society does this by providing fellowship and professional relationships among alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the society and by advocating for equality for GLBT alumni, students, faculty and staff.

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