

Granville to get cable TV system by summer

By JEFF HIDAY
DTH Staff Writer

Granville Towers residents will have cable television soon, possibly this spring. But cable TV for the rest of campus is not yet available.

"The primary reason we're getting it (cable TV) is for the better picture, but the extra channels are a real dividend," Granville General Manager Melvyn P. Rinfret said Wednesday.

But Home Box Office, Showtime and The Movie Channel will not be available because of legal problems, he said. "I guess it's just too public."

But at least 29 channels will be available, a Village Cable representative has said. Village Cable has an exclusive franchise arrangement with Chapel Hill; Alert Cable serves Carrboro.

Although the "movie channels" will not be provided

in Granville, many specialty channels will be available: Entertainment and Sports Programming Network; USA (sports programming); news and weather 24 hours a day; dubbed and subtitled European broadcasts on the Satellite Programming Network; music and music interpretations on the Music Television Network, and two "super stations": WTBS from Atlanta and WOR-TV from New York.

A converter on each television set allows a normal TV to handle 36 channels.

Granville Towers had considered a dish antenna before deciding on cable. But the factors of safety, vandalism, reception and problems of anchoring a dish led them to choose cable, Rinfret said.

Also, Rinfret said, "Village Cable is tied into the students needs." A future-use channel has been set aside by the company for the broadcast of UNC sports. "All in all, it makes more sense," he said.

Rinfret said his staff was investigating the possibility of cable hook-ups in individual rooms. "Right now it looks pretty poor. The cost to wire all 750 rooms would be prohibitive," he said.

Present plans include the wiring of all 26 lounge TVs in the three Granville Towers.

Installation of the cable system depends on the weather, Rinfret said. "We hope to do the ditch-digging during spring break," he said.

Because the pavement in the parking lot must be torn up for the cable line to be laid, the construction will have to be done when the cars are gone, Rinfret said. "If (the lines) can go in March, (the system) hooked up in April, then that's great."

But Rinfret said that summer session students living in Granville definitely would have cable TV.

The cable installation and maintenance will cost Granville students nothing, Rinfret said. "We're putting it in as a capital improvement."

Old-age home sues 3 firms

Operators of the Carol Woods Retirement Community on Weaver Dairy Road filed a \$655,000 suit in Superior Court last Friday against a construction company, an architectural firm and a bonding company involved in building the \$10.9 million complex two years ago.

The breach of warranty suit, is against F.A. Wilhelm Construction Co. Inc. and Woolen Associates Inc., both of Indianapolis, and American Casualty Co. of Reading, Pa.

"(The facility) didn't get built the way it was supposed to," said Chapel Hill attorney William Bayliss, who is representing Carol Woods in the suit. The suit charges Wilhelm with poor workmanship and Woolen of improper inspections while the center was under construction. It also alleges that the firms acted in collusion to defraud the plaintiff by knowingly constructing the center's buildings with defects.

Carol Woods Community has had problems with the complex's flooring, air conditioning, foundation and drainage system, the suit said.

"(But) a lot of work has been done since (the suit), Bayliss said. "Carol Woods is not about to fall down."

The dispute between the retirement community operators and the firms has been going on since construction of the facility, he said.

— WENDELL WOOD

Posters must go

Candidates in the Feb. 9 campus elections are required to remove all remaining campaign posters or be fined \$1 per poster, Neal Lattimore, an elections board member, said Wednesday.

"We've been telling all the candidates we've seen to get the posters down," Lattimore said. By Election Board laws, campaign posters must be removed within 96 hours of the election.

"All the candidates and probably their campaign managers have copies of Election Board laws," he said.

The Elections Board will meet this morning to decide how to remove the remaining campaign posters, he said.

'DTH' sets dates for writing test

The Daily Tar Heel will give writing tests for people interested in becoming staff writers at 7 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. Sign-up sheets for the tests will be posted outside the DTH office, Carolina Union.

Students interested in becoming copy editors should contact Lynn Peithman. Applicants having any questions should stop by the DTH office or call 962-0245 and ask for Ann Peters.

The staff also needs artists and cartoonists. Applicants should bring samples of work to John Drescher or Ann Peters at the DTH office.

'Ragtime' spells big time for actor Howard Rollins

By JOE CINCOTTI
Special to the DTH

For Howard Rollins, 30, it was an overnight success that took 13 years. By playing the enraged but dignified Coalhouse Walker in *Ragtime*, Rollins leapt from obscurity to notoriety and earned an Academy Award nomination.

Rollins, who is being compared with Sidney Poitier and Billy Dee Williams, seems to be surprised by the sudden acclaim *Ragtime* has brought him.

"In the original screenplay there were more characters involved; although the role looked good, it did not stand out so much," he said. "Once the process was finished and certain characters had been eliminated, that 'something else' took focus."

Now that Rollins' performance has taken focus, film, television and theater offers are coming in. Rollins, who had said meaningful parts for black actors were few, said that since performing in *Ragtime* he had been given a broader

choice of parts.

Rollins recently returned to the stage to re-create one of those meaningful roles. This weekend he will appear in *Medal of Honor Rag* at the Playhouse in Fort Bragg.

This play is a probing, disturbing drama based on a true story about the Vietnam conflict and those soldiers who tried to readjust to the United States. Rollins plays black Medal of Honor winner D.J. Jackson, a role he created off Broadway 11 years ago.

"I never saw it as an anti-war play," he said at a recent Playhouse press conference. "I see it as a play that addresses itself to an aspect of war — a soldier's return and the ensuing pain."

Rollins praised the military for producing *Medal of Honor Rag* at Fort Bragg. "I'm very pleased that the army can look at itself and say, 'Yes, this is one possible repercussion.'"

Playhouse director Lee Yopp echoed Rollins' sentiments. "No one has voiced dissent," Yopp said. "In fact, many of

them (career soldiers and Vietnam veterans who attended the opening night performance) said they were glad it was done at Bragg."

Yopp called *Medal of Honor Rag* the most accurate portrayal of the average soldier in the Vietnam War. "In other films or plays, the military man comes off as some kind of a freak," Yopp said. "He doesn't in this."

Yopp attributed this to sensitive writing by playwright Tom Cole and Rollins' own excellent performance. "Howard is so unique and special; he has the potential for greatness," Yopp said after opening

night. "Together he and Ed Dennehy (Rollins' co-star, who plays the psychiatrist) just heat up the stage."

"I told the audience opening night that 10 years from now they will remember being in his presence," Yopp said of Rollins. "We're eavesdropping on a moment in the life of a young man grooming his talent."

Medal of Honor Rag will be presented at 8:15 p.m. today through Sunday and at 2:15 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in Fort Bragg. Tickets are \$5. For more information, call 933-8633.

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