

Carrboro Sets Dial for New Station

By **ROBERT ALBRIGHT**
Staff Writer

Despite opposition from larger radio stations and the National Association of Broadcasters, the town of Carrboro can now make plans to ride the airwaves with its own local radio station.

The U.S. Federal Communications Commission broke new ground last week when it adopted a proposal allowing nonprofit organizations access to low-band, which means less powerful, FM radio service.

The FCC's decision, which was finalized Thursday, outlined rules for non-commercial groups interested in starting a radio station.

Carrboro Alderman Mark Dorosin, who proposed starting a local radio station in Carrboro, said the town would greatly benefit from the FCC's new FM service.

"Carrboro needs access to news that's more relevant to people locally," he said. "It's important for small groups to have access to the waves."

Dorosin said his proposed radio station, which would likely take several months for FCC approval, would differ from mainstream stations because of its focus on local news and events in Carrboro.

Although there has been strong support from Carrboro residents and officials, other local and national groups have expressed concern over the interference caused by newly started FM radio stations.

While the broadcasting association, a national radio lobbying group, has led the opposition against the FCC's ruling, local radio stations have also expressed concern over the possibility of jammed airwaves.

WUNC Radio, a local station in

Chapel Hill, is set at 91.5 on the radio dial. Station engineer David C. Wright said any stations established near WUNC's location on the radio would cause problems.

"I have grave concerns about interference," he said. "(WUNC) has listeners in northern Durham that have trouble listening to us because there is a station four channels away at 90.7."

FCC media relations spokesman David Fiske said the FCC ensured that interference would not be a problem when low-band stations were established.

"Low-powered stations will only be licensed where there is not any interference," he said.

Fiske also said the new plan helped nonprofit agencies, including small towns, in obtaining their own radio station.

"There are hundreds of uses under

this new plan," he said. "(The FCC) welcomes comments, and we feel that we need to meet localized needs."

Under the FCC's ruling, Fiske said 10-watt and 100-watt stations would be offered. Ten-watt stations would reach an area with a listening radius up to two miles, and the 100-watt stations would reach a listening radius up to 3 1/2 miles.

Since Carrboro's town limits are not very expansive, Dorosin said a 100-watt station would perfectly serve the town's needs.

"It is particularly suited for this community," he said.

"Carrboro needs a station because today's radio is moving further away from news that is relevant to people locally."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

Plan for Smaller Stations Raises Broadcaster Doubt

The FCC has set provisions for small, community-based radio stations to transmit over FM airwaves.

By **ALICIA GADDY**
Staff Writer

FM radio is going small-time. The Federal Communications Commission voted Thursday to allow community-oriented groups to form noncommercial, low-power FM (LPFM) radio stations.

But while local-minded supporters think the new stations will benefit the community, broadcasters fear it will harm existing stations.

The new measure would provide two types of stations. The first would cover a radius of one to two miles. The second would broadcast over a 3 1/2-mile radius.

Cheryl Leanza, Media Access Project deputy director, said the new stations would diversify radio. She said applications to create one of the new types of stations would be accepted in the spring or early summer of this year. "By this fall, they may be on-air," Leanza said.

A recent FCC press release outlined several guidelines for LPFM stations:

- LPFM stations would be licensed for eight-year renewable contracts.

- The stations must operate at least 36 hours per week.

- The stations must comply with FCC guidelines on sponsorship identification, political programming, obscenity and enacting the Emergency Alert System.

- The stations must remain community-minded. The guidelines require small FM stations to have physical headquarters, a campus or 75 percent of

board members living within 10 miles of the station.

- During the first two years, no entity would be allowed to own more than one station nationwide.

- Stations currently operating without FCC approval would not be allowed to obtain a LPFM license.

David Fiske, an FCC spokesman, said the stations would provide opportunities to people who wanted to be involved in broadcasting but did not have the means.

"This will find new voices for the airwaves," Fiske said.

Proponents say the stations would not hurt larger commercial FM stations.

But detractors contend that LPFM stations will cause major interference problems, resulting in static similar to that heard on the AM frequency.

Two out of five FCC commissioners who determined whether or not to allow the new stations voted against the proposal. Opponents included Harold Furchtgott-Roth, who did not support the decision to allow LPFM licensing because he feared the new stations would harm existing license-holders and their listeners, while producing little in benefit to consumers.

Furchtgott-Roth's concerns stemmed from a provision of the plan requiring the FCC to cut back regulations keeping stations from utilizing closely adjacent frequencies when creating new stations.

Furchtgott-Roth also said the FCC's elimination of channel protections would cause major interference problems, especially in metropolitan areas.

"The FM dial is already very crowded," he said. "People who are currently tuned in would begin to experience interference from these new stations."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Campus Calendar

Today

4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - There will be an **a.p.p.l.e.s. summer internship** information session in Union 208.

6 p.m. - The group **Carolina Animal Rights and Equality** will hold its first meeting of the semester in 103 Bingham Hall.

7:30 p.m. - The **Scuba Club** will hold a general interest meeting at Ham's restaurant for its spring membership drive.

9:30 p.m. - The **Disney College Program Alumni Association** will hold an information session in Union 220.

All students interested in summer and fall internships with Disney's program are encouraged to attend the session.

Wednesday

6 p.m. - **Special Populations** will hold a meeting in the Campus Y basement for those interested in getting involved in working with special people.

Thursday

7 p.m. - Chi Omega sorority will host a **Women in Medicine** panel discussion for those interested in learning about balancing a career in medicine and a family.

Three female physicians and a hospital administrator will speak about their experiences.

The discussion will be held at the Chi Omega House, located at 313 E. Franklin St.

8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - The **UNC Student Jazz Combos** will give a free concert titled "A Little Bit of Blue" in the Union Cabaret.

The concert is open to the public and

is sponsored by the Carolina Union Activities Board.

Items of Interest

- Those students with a service idea that will better the community and who need money to implement their plan can apply for an **a.p.p.l.e.s. service-learning Social Entrepreneurship Program**.

New or existing student-designed organizations are eligible and can earn a grant and service-learning academic credit.

Applications are available at the a.p.p.l.e.s. office.

- The deadline for freshmen or sophomores interested in applying to be in the **Honors Program** is Wednesday.

Applications are available in 225 Graham Memorial.

- **Alpha Phi Omega**, a service fra-

ternity, is holding spring rush.

An informal meeting for interested students will be held at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in 220 Chase Hall.

Formal rush will be at 7 p.m. Thursday in 209 Manning Hall.

For more information, contact Kate at 968-3293.

- **Class of '38 Summer Fellowship** Abroad applications are available at the International Center, located in Union 116.

Five awards of \$3000 each are available for sophomores and juniors to pursue a project of personal or career interest.

For more information, call 962-5661.

- **Conversation Partner** applications for the spring semester are available at the International Center, which is located in Union 116.

English-speaking volunteers meet with foreign students one-on-one for an hour of conversation.

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