

New stations possible for airwaves

By Patty Pryor

A proposal before the Federal Communications Commission could lead to the creation of as many as four new UHF (ultra-high frequency) television stations in Lincoln next year.

The proposal would allow the FCC to grant permits to low-power stations to operate on unused ultra-high frequencies, said Molly Pauker, FCC attorney.

"UHF stations are just regular stations," she said in a telephone interview from her Washington office, such as Channels 3, 10 and 7 in Lincoln, which carry major network programming.

Low-power stations could provide service to areas that receive little or no television at a reasonably low cost, Pauker said.

The FCC has received more than 2,500 applications to provide low-power or translator service since September 1980, including six applications from Lincoln, she said.

Because of this response, an indefinite freeze was put on applications in April, she said.

Translator service differs from low-power service in that it can only rebroadcast another station's signal,

Pauker explained. In addition to rebroadcasting, a low-power station can originate programming.

Even if the proposal is defeated, Lincoln may still receive additional programming because many of the requests are for translator service, which is already permitted by the FCC.

Applications for both low-power and translator service have been grouped together for about a year.

A decision on the proposal is expected sometime next year, Pauker said, when the FCC's seven commissioners vote on the issue.

"Right now, the proposal is undergoing staff evaluation," she said.

However the staff consists only of Pauker.

"I'm kind of an arm of the commission," she said, "since they don't have time to consider every proposal in detail."

A primary concern in her evaluation is the public interest, she said. The FCC is accepting public opinion on the matter to help gauge this interest.

"Outsiders' opinions are considered very heavily," Pauker said. "They constitute the entire public record on the question."

Educators try new doctorate program

An experiment with a practicum-based doctorate of education will begin next fall at UNL, said Ward Sybouts, director of graduate studies, research and service in the UNL Teachers College.

Eleven candidates have been selected for the program, Sybouts said. They have been principals of junior high schools or high schools for three or more years, and intend to stay in school administration. They must be willing to participate in the modified approach to the degree, reside in an area close enough to be involved with the group and admitted to the regular doctoral program.

Currently UNL has two methods for acquiring a doctoral degree. In addition to the traditional program for resident students, doctoral candidates can pursue their degree by getting 27 hours within 18 months, taking night and summer classes, Sybouts said.

The student taking night and summer classes has less of a chance to discuss concepts with his peers. Sybouts said the experimental program will divide the candidates into two groups: one from the Omaha area and one from Central Nebraska. By taking classes as a group, the candidates will be able to discuss concepts together.

It is also harder for nontraditional students to develop in-depth relationships with their advisers. A committee of UNL faculty, faculty from other institutions (such as UNO faculty for the Omaha-based group and Kearney State College faculty for the central Nebraska group) and practitioners in the field will work with the group to help solve this problem.

Sybouts said many students pursuing their degree through the 27 hours in 18 months method lose the opportunity for laboratory experience. The practicum program will allow students to make use of experience already gained in their field. This experience will also aid them in their research.

D.J. Friesen, the principal of Omaha North High School, is one of the candidates for the program. Friesen, who has been involved in education for 31 years, said he probably would not have attempted to get his doctorate of education if it hadn't been for this program.

"I'm hoping to unite or combine some of the theory of university professors and resident students with some of my practical experience," he said.

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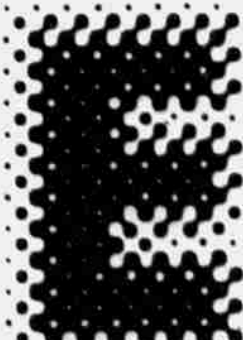
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