

Big changes for KZUM

By Chris McCubbin
Senior Reporter

Today's radio dial is a lot like a Dr. Pepper commercial — a vast bleak wasteland of conformity where a few brave souls comb the dark corners and backwaters looking for something, you know, something different.

Lincoln's own cache of non-conformity is KZUM radio (99.3 and 89.5 FM). KZUM is community access, non-commercial, listener-supported public radio. According to P.T. Martin, KZUM station manager, this means "We (KZUM) provide what people want to hear, and hopefully people will support us for it."

A look at "Horizons," KZUM's quarterly program guide/newsletter, shows a mixed bag of programs indeed. Blues, jazz, soul, New Age and space music, foreign language shows, political commentary from both the right and left-wing perspectives. Progressive rock programs air every night of the week.

Anybody with a good idea for a radio show can become a KZUM programmer. Would-be DJs need only submit a proposal and put in 10 hours of volunteer work at the station. After training a programmer is expected to put in volunteer time equal to his weekly time on-the-air. Open time slots are usually available for new programs.

'We (KZUM) provide what people want to hear, and hopefully people will support us for it.'

— P.T. Martin

KZUM's roots go back to the early '70s when the Federal Communications Commission set aside an educational band on the FM dial. This started a wave of community radio stations all across the country. It was during this first wave of community radio that a small group of Lincolniters started on the long road that would culminate in KZUM. As of 1986 the station has been broadcasting for eight years.

1986-87 is going to be remembered as a banner year in KZUM history.

On July 1 the station moved from old headquarters at 10th and Q to new offices in the basement of the Terminal Building at 10th and O. According to Martin the new location is a better location for the station's tower, and it's roomier — the old location had a small lobby and one tiny studio. At the Terminal Building there are a lobby, two studios, and an office. Most utilities are paid at the new location. And, best of all, the new place is air conditioned.

An even bigger change is coming up next year. KZUM has received authorization from the FCC to increase its power to 1500 watts. The station is currently broadcasting at 10 watts of power. Martin said that the station is currently audible in a two-mile radius from the downtown tower and from the transmitter at KOLN TV. At the new wattage the station will be available to the entire Lincoln area and to most of the outlying communities, Martin said.

The educational radio band interferes with television reception on channel 6. Because of complaints from television stations broadcasting on channel 6 across the country, the FCC froze power increases on educational band stations for several years. The freeze has only recently been lifted, Martin said.

Martin said that 10 watt stations are not protected by the FCC. This means that if a higher power station requests a frequency that a 10 watt station has been using, that request will probably be granted, driving the 10 watt station off the air. For this reason, Martin said, a power increase for KZUM is essential.

Estimated cost of the power increase is \$43,000, Martin said. Three-fourths of the money has already been provided by a grant from the Department of Communication's Public Telecommunications Funding Project. A substantial donation has also been received from Burlington Northern, Martin said. KZUM still needs about \$10,000. The station is looking for further grants and corporate donations in addition to support from the Lincoln community, she said.

Martin said if all goes according to schedule the power increase should take effect by April 1 of next year.



Linda Story/Daily Nebraskan

Disc jockey Jim Anderson at the KZUM studios.



"Where do I go to place a classified ad in the Daily Nebraskan?"

We're located downstairs in the Nebraska Union, right under the Colonial Room

Daily Nebraskan
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

nebraska union • room 34 • Ph. 472-2588

"Where are they?"

Posters.

Dirt Cheap

Records & Gifts
217 N. 11th 477-6061



What Will You Find at Your Bookstore?

● **New & Used Textbooks**
(over 30,000 USED TEXTBOOKS)

● **General Reading Books**
(over 50,000 titles to choose from)

● **College Supplies**
(all necessary items for all classes)

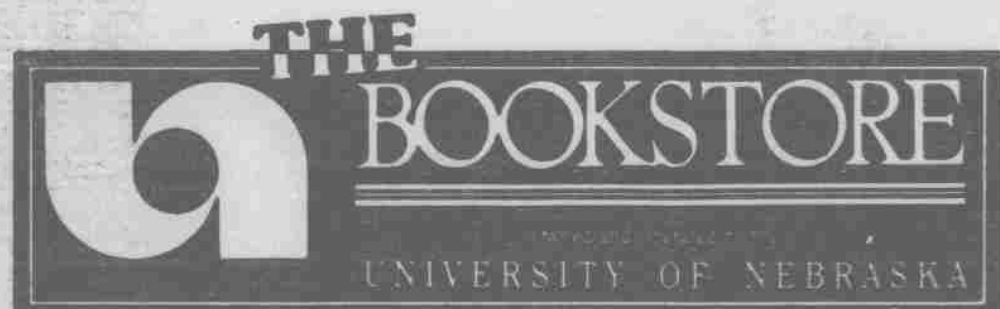
● **Big Red Clothing**
(everything for the Big Red Fan)

● **Student Services Available**

(mail service, typewriter rental, western union, film processing, UPS, movie rental, continuous book buyback, gift certificates)

STORE HOURS
Monday-Friday 8 to 5:30
Saturday 9 to 5

RUSH WEEK
Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday 8 to 5 Saturday 9 to 5



Plaza Level City Campus Union — 472-7300
Garden Level East Campus Union — 472-1746