

WOW-TV objects to Sunrise licensing

By Greg Wees

Sunrise Communications may start broadcasting as a non-profit FM radio station by November if the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) licenses the station over stiff objections from the Meredith Corp., according to Ron Kurtenbach, Sunrise board member.

The Meredith Corp. owns WOW-TV, which broadcasts from Omaha, and has asked the FCC to deny licensing of the new FM station.

In a petition filed with the FCC, Meredith attorneys say the frequencies of the two stations are close enough so that "electrical interference will be caused by the proposed FM signal and the signal of WOW-TV."

The proposed station would be located at FM 89.5 megacycles and would have 10 watts of broadcasting power compared with WOW's 200,000 watts, Kurtenbach added. WOW operates on channel six between frequencies of 82 and 88 megacycles.

The radio transmitter will be located at the Yellow Cab tower on Cornhusker Highway, Kurtenbach said.

WOW charges that the transmitter signal will interfere with TV reception over a two-mile radius. Brandon Nelson, a Sunrise volunteer, admitted there might be some interference near the tower. But he said it would be negligible.

He cited similar cases where the FCC has ruled in favor of the

applicant. Omaha attorney James McShane presently is drafting a response to WOW's charges.

McShane said reports from engineers who helped complete Sunrise's application for license indicate that there will not be interference with WOW's broadcast

signal.

Kurtenbach said the FM station will not broadcast commercials but will feature educational programming and "alternatives to the commercial rock music heard on AM stations."

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Operation POM relays runaways' messages

By Mark Hoffman

The discovery last year of 27 murdered youths in the Houston area, many of them listed as runaways, sparked the development of a program enabling parents of runaways to hear:

"Your daughter called and said she is alive and well."

Operation Peace of Mind (POM) is a national toll-free telephone number that enables runaway youths to leave a message for their parents that they are alive.

Texas Gov. Dolph Briscoe began the program 34 days after Elmer Wayne Henley told police Aug. 8 he had killed Dean Corli, whom he named as mastermind of the

murder ring. Henley then led them to the first of various gravesites where the bodies were found.

Some of the slain youths had been missing for as long as two years, prompting parents of suspected victims to call Houston police and ask why they hadn't done something before.

POM is attempting to give parents, relatives or friends peace of mind by relaying a message for a youth, said Gary Hill, president of CONTACT, Inc., here. CONTACT, a community services referral agency, works with POM. CONTACT's office is on the second floor of the Northwestern Metal Company, North 27 Industrial Park.

POM is located in a conference room of a Houston Holiday Inn. Privately funded and manned by volunteers, the center provides a 24-hour answering service for youths. Runaways can contact POM through a toll-free nation-wide WATS line number (1-800-231-6946).

Operators act as a liaison between the runaway and the person he or she wants to contact, Hill said. The youth is assured that his or her location will not be traced and is asked if he needs help.

That is where CONTACT comes in, Hill said. If a youth asks for help, CONTACT is one of the few agencies in the country that can give the POM operator a number the youth can contact for shelter, food, a job or other services within two hours, Hill said.

"For a kid who is broke, hungry and without a place to stay at 3:30 in the morning, two hours can be an awful long time," he added.

POM has handled more than 4,000 calls since it was started and has called CONTACT about 25 times asking for assistance in locating individuals or agencies that can help the youths in any part of the country.

Only if the youth asks for help, is it necessary for the youth to give his location.

"Our aim is to not leave the kid standing on the edge of a road with nothing going for him," Hill explained.

He said programs such as POM are part of the growing recognition of the number of American youths who have left home. More than one million and possibly as many as two million youths are runaways on any given

day, he said.

Statistics indicate most, more than 70%, are gone for no more than three nights and about 70% go to a friend or relative's house.

But the relatively high number of runaways has caused some states to get involved in programs dealing with the runaway, Hill said. The Florida legislature appropriated \$20,000 to help publicize the POM number. Hill noted and added other states are showing interest in the program.

The present problem POM faces now is publicity, Hill said. "What good is the number if nobody knows it?" he asked.

Babcock appointed as ombudsman

Col. Dan Babcock will take over as temporary ombudsman for UNL beginning Oct. 1, according to Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Ken Bader. Babcock retired Sept. 1 as professor of aerospace studies in the Air Force ROTC program.

Babcock will fill the position left empty when James Suter resigned last spring to become comprehensive planning director of the State Health Dept.

His job will include helping students, faculty and staff who have complaints about the way they are being treated or who are having trouble working through the system at UNL.

The job will be filled on a permanent basis sometime this year but is unlikely to be filled before the beginning of next semester, since only tenured faculty, currently teaching, are being considered for the job, Bader said.

There have been 11 applications for the job so far, according to Larry Braskamp, chairman of the student-faculty administration committee. The deadline is Sept. 27, after which the committee will interview applicants and prepare recommendations for UNL Chancellor James Zumberge, Braskamp said.



Operation Peace of Mind, a national program for runaways has been using the services of a Lincoln based organization, CONTACT, Inc. to help find food and shelter for runaways.