

# Abel 6 FM jockeys for listeners with indoor marathon

By Alice Hrnicek

Next Monday's five-mile running marathon in the halls of Abel six is the kind of event one could expect from KC88 FM, a radio station operating from the sixth floor of Abel Hall.

KC88 is co-operated by two freshmen, Scott Persson and Mark Cockson, and broadcasting graduate Joe Eisenberg, with broadcasts every Monday from 9 p.m. to midnight.

Eisenberg came up with the idea of the marathon when brainstorming for unusual activities to get people interested in the radio station, he said.

According to Cockson, the station can be picked up by any ordinary FM radio within the Abel-Sandoz complex. Within the last week, a transmitter was completed in the Harper-Schramm-Smith complex, and listeners there received their first taste of the trio's work Monday.

"We have a big potential audience," Persson said. "We don't care how many listen as long as we are entertaining someone."

### Response will decide

He said about 1,500 students live in Abel-Sandoz and even more in Harper-Schramm-Smith.

Cockson said if response to the marathon was great enough it could become an annual event held in January or February.

Before the event, the station will run commentaries, interviews and speculations. During the race, Eisenberg will cover the live progress of the runners.

"Hopefully we'll have some really good runners," Persson said. "We'll encourage any UNL students to join."

"The reason we're doing it is we've never done it before," Persson said. He said that the publicity prizes will be an incentive for the non-profit race. KETV Channel 7 and several newspapers have expressed interest in covering the marathon.

Persson said that anyone interested in competing, timing or counting should call 472-8205 or 472-8198.

### Involve people

"The reason we started this is that we wanted to do something that involved a lot of people," Persson added.

Another project in the planning stages is a Star Trek Festival to be broadcast on the channel four network. Eisenberg has collected 40 episodes on videotape and the station could broadcast up to six continuous hours of the show.

"We need a response," Persson said. "If students want it, we'll do it."

Persson said he would like to sponsor a weightlifting contest and a water volleyball tournament.

"This should take over where existing programs in the halls leave off," Eisenberg said.

The station originated with Eisenberg in 1972 when he lived in Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity. At that time, he ran the station by himself with broadcasts every week-night. Later, he moved his equipment to the 11th floor of Abel where he continued until he graduated in 1976.

### Station revived

Because all three of the owners are ham operators, they became interested in reviving the idea in the fall of 1978. The station swung into action at the beginning of the second semester.

The program is geared to requests by students, but includes comedy and news, Cockson said.

"Most radio stations are for the people who run them," he said. "This one's for the students. We will cover whatever they want."

Eisenberg owns the music library, which is activated by computer cross-reference, to handle requests. He has collected more than 200 tapes with 25 songs each by recording music borrowed from friends and fans.

KC88 deals with requests from dedications to reading poetry, Cockson said.

"The phone will ring for a solid hour or more when we're broadcasting," he said. "We get more positive feedback than negative. People call up and say we're doing great."

No license is required for the station because the power is limited to one-tenth of a watt, no more than is found in an ordinary wall outlet. For this reason, KC88 has no connection with the university.

### Thrown out

"We'd get thrown out for broadcasting the things we do, not necessarily because they're bad, but because they're things you don't ordinarily hear on a radio show," Persson said.

Cockson said ideas are adapted from comedy shows and other sources to fit the university.

"We hit the regents a lot, but we are not involved in student politics, religious activities or anything else that might get us in hot water," Persson said. "We don't attack these areas. Instead, we stay away from comedy on anything questionable."

Now that the station has successfully set up a satellite in Harper-Schramm-Smith,

the staff is planning to branch out even farther. A broadcasting major in Nelhardt is trying to set up a sister station which will reach Cather-Pound, Nelhardt and the sororities and fraternities.

"I only experimented with the concept of multiple transmitters," Eisenberg said. "They've begun implementing it."

Eventually, these satellites will create their own programs.

"Theoretically, the system could cover all the campus buildings. It would be impractical to expand past the university because there is no money. Now the biggest return in building up the audience is psychological," he said.

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