

# KZUM approaches a milestone anniversary

## Station beginning 16th year on air



By Mark Baldrige  
Senior Reporter

This weekend KZUM kicks off its fund-raising marathon in celebration of its 15th anniversary as Lincoln's only community radio station.

Dick Noble, general manager of the station since May, and Caroline Tetschner, program director, said the station had big plans for the future.

Noble said he dreamed of a station with a larger underwriter base, more money, and more and better equipment. Cultural diversity is "part of our mission," he said.

"I think, philosophically, that's our reason for being."

Tetschner said she would like to see more variety.

"I'd like to see more women's shows and minorities myself," she said.

And the station is expanding. Plans are in the works to take over more office space next door to its current location on the top floor of the Terminal building at 10th and O streets.

With its expanding facilities, its 80 volunteer disc jockeys and five full-time employees, the station has made a long trip from its more humble origins.

KZUM began, by all accounts, as something quite different from what it has become.

In 1978 KZUM went on the air for the first time, broadcasting from the basement of what was the Open Harvest grocery store — where there were dirt floors and mice in the rafters.

Ron Kurtenbach was there from the beginning.

"If any one person could be said to have started the station, it would be myself," he said.

Known to many Lincolniters as "that guy on channel 14" from the various shows he hosts on the public access station, Kurtenbach is a man of intense political activity.

"I remember going to meetings — about the proposed station — at St.

Mark's, and no one would come," he said. "We waited five, six years to get a license."

"To some extent it came out of the antiwar movement," he said of the station's origins. "It came out of the lack of access in the commercial media for the Left."

"Some of us wanted to change the world," he said.

These days, Kurtenbach said, the station is only a "sophisticated jukebox." But he said he believed all that could change.

"The people have to take the station back from those who have come to misrule it," he said.

"If a hundred subscribers came down to the board elections — on Nov. 14 — they could take over the board."

Such an event would almost be par for the course at a station with such a tumultuous history.

Noble agreed that things often got a little strange around the station.

"This place can be chaotic," he said. "But I'd rather be driven crazy than be bored to death."

There's little chance of that at a radio station that plays every conceivable kind of music at one time or another, and is always looking for more variety.

Besides what Tetschner called the "two mainstays" of the station, jazz and blues, KZUM offers the Grateful Dead Hour, shows that feature polka, Celtic and folk music, reggae, Spanish programming, talk shows and woman's focus music.

"We've got soul or urban — whatever they're calling it this week," Noble said.

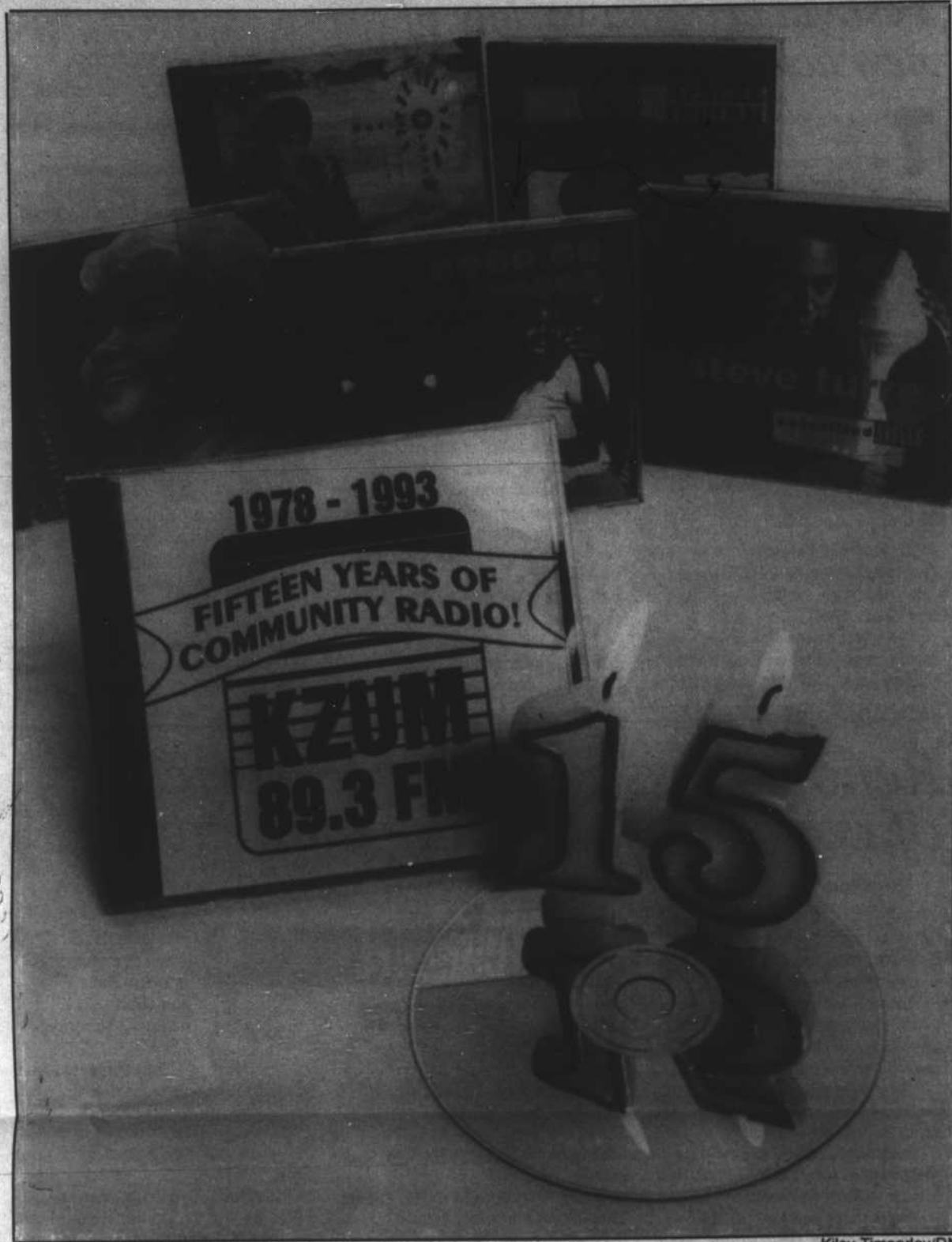
"And anything you hear on KZUM you can be sure there is no commercial motive," Tetschner said.

The station takes in most of its money through members and underwriters.

"We tell our underwriters that, if they listen to the station 24 hours a day, they'll hear something they don't like," Noble said.

"Something that pisses me off is that Lincoln has a terrible self-image," he said.

Noble and Tetschner said they hoped that would change, at least as far as community radio was concerned, as KZUM worked to gain a higher profile in the coming years.



Kiley Timperley/DN

Lincoln's KZUM celebrates 15 years on the air with a fundraising telethon this weekend. KZUM is the city's only community radio station.

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Courtesy of Castle Rock Entertainment

A brilliant surgeon (Alec Baldwin) and the wife of a college dean (Nicole Kidman) are inextricably drawn together in a web of intrigue in the new movie "Malice."

## Lack of action slows 'Malice'



### "Malice"



Although the film "Malice" is being hyped as "web of intrigue,

betrayal and deception," it's too loosely woven to stay together.

Most of the advertising has pushed Alec Baldwin ("The Hunt for Red October") as this high-and-mighty, evil-minded doctor that likes to play God in the operating room.

Let's just say that you shouldn't believe everything you see. Baldwin's character isn't going to win any popularity awards, but he's not the Antichrist with a scalpel either.

Andy Safian (Bill Pullman, "Spaceballs") and his wife Tracy (Nicole Kidman, "Far and Away") are newlyweds living in Massachusetts, attempting to restore their Victorian house.

Andy is a college dean who is deeply concerned about the serial rapist who is terrorizing the campus on which he works. On top of that, he is worried about Tracy, who has been suffering from ab-

See MALICE on 11