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Tanna Kinnaman/DN

Scott Harrold, "Closet Comedian," in the room where he films his "Cosmic Comedy Show."

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Channel

Continued from Page 1

thing Johanns said they didn't like, didn't watch and didn't use.

Rick Kiolbasa, Cablevision director of government and public relations, said \$100,000 would be spent to provide public access this year. That cost will be shared by about 75,000 Lincoln subscribers — or about \$1.33 per subscriber.

The city conducted a survey of 400 Lincoln cable subscribers in February.

Sixty-six percent of those who responded said they never watched Channel 14, and 86 percent said they would not be willing to pay to keep the channel.

"If they don't want to pay for it," Johanns said, "I believe they shouldn't have to pay for it."

While the politicians debate the issue, Harrold has been fighting to keep his show on the air. He calls it the "Cosmic Comedy Show," and said that reviewing adult movies was only part of his show.

Mostly, he said, the show is a way to develop his own acting abilities.

"It's my workshop where I develop characters," he said.

But it's the nudity that bothers his critics. Harrold said he showed short, "tasteful" clips from adult movies.

He said he had shown only frontal nudity except for one scene of a woman stripping, which was shot from 50 feet away. He said he had not shown any graphic sex scenes.

Harrold said he would fight the elimination of Channel 14 and would pursue a lawsuit if necessary.

Ultimately, the issue for Harrold is one of principle.

"I think adults have the right to

"That's what the mayor and the City Council should be concerned about, not about unconstitutionally eliminating one of the few remaining public forums we have today."

ANDREA COLLINS

Nebraska Civil Liberties Union director

watch what they want to watch," he said.

The Nebraska Civil Liberties Union also is fighting the elimination.

Andrea Collins, interim director, said eliminating Channel 14 would violate the U.S. Constitution.

"If the city chooses to eliminate Channel 14," she said, "they will be in violation of the First Amendment."

She said that when the City of Lincoln and Cablevision agreed that Cablevision must have a public access channel in order to operate in Lincoln, a "public forum" was created.

Under various federal laws, public authorities may not censor or prevent free speech in public forums. Traditionally, a public forum was a park or street corner where people gathered to debate issues.

Johanns said the public forum argument was impractical. He said that if the argument was taken to its extreme, newspapers would be required to provide a blank page every day for public expression, and radio stations would have to provide a free hour of air time.

Collins sent a letter to City Council members and the mayor, urging them to find another way to achieve their goals.

The letter suggested that the con-

troversy be used to improve Channel 14, rather than to eliminate it.

"That's what the mayor and the City Council should be concerned about," the letter states, "not about unconstitutionally eliminating one of the few remaining public forums we have today."

Collins said the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union was still researching the issue and did not have any immediate action planned.

"We're waiting for the council to take further action," she said.

The council's first action would be to vote for or against beginning negotiations with Cablevision about what to do with Channel 14, Kiolbasa said.

If the city and Cablevision agree to eliminate the channel, he said, not every present user will be left in the cold.

Religious programmers, who make up half of the channel's approximate 50 users, would be offered the chance to move to Channel 20, the faith and values channel. Others might be able to use Channel 21, educational access, or Channel 5, the government access channel.

As for those whose programming would not fit on those three channels?

"They probably wouldn't have a home," Kiolbasa said.

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Intro to E-Mail

Thursday, September 21	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Bancroft Hall, 239
Friday, September 22	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Bancroft Hall, 239
Monday, September 25	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Bancroft Hall, 239
Tuesday, September 26	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Bancroft Hall, 239
Tuesday, September 26	5:00 - 6:30 p.m.	Bancroft Hall, 239
Friday, September 29	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Bancroft Hall, 239
Friday, September 29	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Bancroft Hall, 239

Advanced E-Mail

Wednesday, September 27	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Bancroft Hall, 239
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Electronic News

Thursday, September 28	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Bancroft Hall, 239
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