

# movies on tap

## KANM ten years old tomorrow

by Louis Hilgartner  
Battalion reporter

After playing musical chairs with facilities, personnel, and finances, KANM (the student-run radio station) has finally found a home — just in time for its 10th birthday.

The station has survived numerous moves and financial and equipment problems since first hitting the air on Oct. 8, 1973.

Plans for the station originated in February 1973, when the Texas A&M Student Government decided it had the funds and interest to establish a radio station operated totally by students.

A positive note for the budding station was that it needed no license to operate. The Federal Communications Commission classifies stations such as KANM as "stations serving the public interest" and is not under the same restrictions as "community access stations."

Equipment was ordered and arrangements were made with Midwest Video to get KANM on the air. KANM made its first broadcast from a small back room at Midwest on Oct. 8, 1973.

Heavily underfinanced, the station began with two home stereo turntables and a couple of electric cables hooked up to the Midwest system — through a hole in the wall.

Although the Student Government technically was in charge of KANM and was responsible for its growth, enthusiasm waned. The station was kept alive only through the efforts of the various program directors and station managers who refused to let it sink.

From the beginning, KANM has allowed the disc jockeys to set their own formats regarding what kind of records to play and on-the-air announcing style.

As a result, the majority of the DJs over the years have been "in the biz," as the saying goes, more for the pure enjoyment of playing music instead of any rewards, says Todd Gross, who is in his sixth year as station manager.

These "jocks" helped the station gain a cult following, and the station expanded its facilities to another room, this time in the back of the Ridgecrest barber shop.

*Then came an historic event for KANM in December 1980. For the first time, a studio was set up on campus.*

Up until this time, KANM had been broadcasting only on Midwest cable (Student Government's originally aimed to have KANM on the airwaves, but the idea was put on a back burner and left to freeze). With the station's new growth came the time to increase the audience.

This expansion was done by wiring up with Community Cablevision, which gave KANM the ability to reach all local cable subscribers.

Although expanding its audience, the station only was able to upgrade its facilities when several electrical engineering students volunteered to make or repair equipment for the station as

part of their engineering courses.

A lack of continued financial support and Student Government's waning interest created the need for volunteer work. Most of the money needed for the station's operation came from private contributions from former DJs and program directors who already had graduated. This continues to be a source of funds for the station.

Student Government's lack of interest continued and resulted in the disbanding of the Student Radio Board — the committee in Student Government that theoretically was in charge of KANM — in the fall of 1977. This left the student-run station with little direction from the University.

In the spring of 1978, the station packed up and moved out of the barber shop and into an office in the Briarwood apartments' recreation room.

By now, the equipment built by student engineers was in bad shape and the station's signal was getting weak.

Then came an historic event for KANM in December 1980. For the first time, a studio was set up on campus. Broadcasting resumed in a small room of B-1 lounge. But once again equipment problems plagued the station and kept it from getting off the ground.

By the summer of 1981, suffering from a lack of financial support, the station folded its tent again and hit the trail. This time the destination was Gross's apartment. With almost no room in his apartment, he stacked up the records that weren't being used, covered them with a mattress and slept on them.

In the fall of 1981 KANM



photo by Donn Friedman

**Todd Gross, station manager, works on KANM's production board, the latest addition to the studio.**

found another new home — in Goodwin Hall. For only the second time in the station's eight year existence, it was on campus.

Although the new facilities were the best in the station's history, once again equipment failures and problems with the cable connections and phone lines limited the station's signals.

This prompted Gross to sever all former ties with Student Government and establish new ones directed toward getting the station on more solid ground. Among his requests were that the station be allowed to apply for money from the University and be assigned a faculty adviser.

Upon completion of the renovation of the Animal Pavilion, KANM moved again in the

spring of 1983. Surplus equipment from KZZY in San Antonio was donated to the station, and the signal problems which plagued the station have been solved, for the most part.

"We're still working the bugs out," Gross says.

Part of the new system involves a better connection on General Telephone's local lines and a new link with Community and Midwest.

With the donation of the equipment from KZZY, a new dimension is being added to the Pavilion studio.

For the first time, KANM will have the capability to record its own commercial spots. The same equipment will double as a backup for the on-air system in case of malfunction. KANM

see RADIO, page 13

## Volunteers provide tours at exhibits

by Robin Black  
Battalion reporter

Texas A&M University Art Exhibits Docents group is celebrating its fourth birthday this fall. The anniversary also marks the group's success and growth, says liaison chairman Ruth Clearfield.

As defined in Webster's New World Dictionary, a docent is a person who gives tours through a museum or other exhibit and discusses and comments on the material observed.

The Texas A&M docents are a group of about 40 volunteers who work as a part of the cultural development department of the University Art Exhibits, giving guided tours of the various art exhibits brought to the University each year.

The volunteers, who are trained before each exhibit by either faculty members with ex-

pertise in the area involved or by the artist himself, work entirely on a volunteer basis and include University employees and community members not otherwise involved with Texas A&M.

Clearfield says the members are involved with the docents program simply because of a sincere interest in art.

"We have docents whose vocations range from nurses to lawyers," she says.

Most of the volunteers have no formal training in art, although some may have had art history classes in college, or had some background in a particular type of art or art period, Clearfield says.

"Occasionally some of us will sit in on an art history class," she says, "but most of the training we get is the one or two sessions before each exhibit."

The docents are at the exhibits to give information about artists

and their work, Clearfield says, especially during the lunch hour when there traffic through the exhibit is the greatest.

They also give tours to groups from the University and groups such as senior citizens and public school students.

Until this year, the docents worked exclusively on tours for the University's temporary exhibits.

This year, however, they have begun a study of the University's permanent collection of art, including paintings, sculpture and wood carvings.

Clearfield says the group soon hopes to give visitors tours of the University's permanent collection, along with an explanation of the art and the artist's history.

The organization was begun in the fall of 1979 as an extension of the cultural development por-

tion of the University Art Exhibits program.

Clearfield says the group was the brainchild of J. Wayne Stark, special assistant to president for

cultural development, who wanted a body of volunteers to staff the various art exhibits brought to the University.

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