



KAMU-FM offers variety

By Jay Blinderman
Staff Writer

"Listener-supported radio," is the KAMU-FM slogan, promoting the fact that the station is non-commercial. It also means the station is for listeners and not necessarily for advertisers buying commercial time.

KAMU-FM is a National Public Radio station carrying NPR and American Public Radio programs in addition to its own programming, says station manager Rick Howard.

In terms of music, Howard says the station plays classical, jazz, blue grass, new age and reggae. Non-musical programs include news, a dramatic series and information-based community service broadcasts.

One of the shows listed under the community and special interest category is the Parent Talk program, where two hostesses speak about the problems encountered with child rearing.

Other non-musical programs include a poetry reading and an audiophile show, which is broadcast live from satellite for the best possible sound, Howard says.

But most programs are not aired live, they are taped so that they may be played during a specific time slot.

The taping of programs is where announcers come in. KAMU-FM does not use disc jockeys, rather the station uses announcers, both students and full-time employees, who tape and load programs in addition to monitoring the broadcast facilities.

The station employs five part-time students as announcers. Howard says they are selected on the basis of their knowledge of music and their ability to work with the stations' equipment.

"There's a lot more to being in the radio business than spinning records," Howard says.

The students work up a schedule so that everyone has time to study

for their tests. The schedules also work so that no one who works until 2 a.m. will have to open the next day with a 6 a.m. time slot, Rubin says.

Rhonda Rubin, one of the student announcers, says her main duties are mostly mechanical. Announcers get to announce on a limited basis, going live to give station identification and the local weather reports a couple of times per shift.

Rubin says her main duties include putting tapes in their proper place, keeping the equipment clean and making sure programs get aired on time. On occasion an announcer has to take network feeds from satellites, Rubin says.

"Sometimes something goes wrong and announcers have to take a make good feed," Rubin says. A make up feed is a transmission sent to replace an earlier transmission that for some reason was not properly sent or received.

KAMU-FM broadcasts Monday through Thursday from 6 a.m. to midnight and on weekends from 6 a.m. until 2 a.m.

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