

State and Local

KANM considers change to FM from cable if money available

By Shane Hall
Reporter

KANM, Texas A&M's student-run radio station, could be broadcasting over the FM band within five years, Station Manager Ginger Hudson said Friday.

But costs for the conversion from cable to FM will be substantial, Hudson said.

KANM is now available only to cable subscribers.

To broadcast over FM airwaves, the station will need a license from the Federal Communications Commission.

The station also will need the equipment necessary to carry the FM signal — including an FM transmitter, a transmitter box and a production board, Hudson said.

She estimated this equipment will cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

KANM rents a GTE tower, which broadcasts the station's signal to Cooke Cablevision, Hudson said.

This arrangement can sometimes cause problems because the station must often rely on GTE or Cooke to make repairs when equipment fails, she said.

But if the station switched to FM, the KANM staff would main-



Karen Ellington, a freshman business major from San Antonio, works Monday afternoon as a disc jockey at student radio station KANM 99.9 FM, on the second floor of the Pavilion.

Photo by Jay Janner

tain the new equipment and would not have to rely on an outside party, Hudson said.

In addition to equipment needs, Hudson said, the station is

in need of more space, because the size of the management staff and the number of records in the station's library has grown.

KANM Faculty Adviser Jo

Hudson, not related to Ginger, said the station has applied for the use of three rooms in a new addition to the MSC in its planning stages, she said.

KANM has been broadcasting since 1973.

The station's format is an eclectic mix of alternative music, including new wave, punk, jazz, heavy metal, blues, and reggae.

Hudson said that the format will remain the same if the station makes the transition to FM.

"The strongest point of the station is the alternative programming," she said.

In the last several years, Hudson said, KANM has been trying to raise the money for the needed equipment through various fundraising activities — this semester the station is selling T-shirts and sunglasses.

She said the station also receives money from local business sponsors and from dues paid by the disc jockeys.

Hudson said that some DJs feel they are paying dues to get a show, but they are actually paying to become members of a student organization.

KANM also has benefits at local clubs.

It will have two benefits this fall.

Prosecutors expect sexual-assault law to bring problems

DALLAS (AP) — Prosecutors see additional complications in trying sexual-assault cases because of a new state law allowing victims of sexual assault to use aliases in court.

The law was intended to shield the victim's identity and encourage more victims to prosecute their attackers, said State Sen. Hugh Parmer, D-Fort Worth, the bill's sponsor.

The law, which applies to crimes committed after Jan. 1, 1988, makes it possible for victims of sex crimes to request anonymity in all official records and court proceedings pertaining to their attack.

But prosecutors say the law will cause more problems than it solves.

The law keeps a victim's name out of records that are open to the public, but it does not hide the victim's identity from the defendant accused of the crime, Dallas County Assistant District Attorney Howard Wilson said.

The law could cause other problems, such as making it difficult for attorneys to question jurors about whether they are acquainted with the victim, he said.

Witnesses will have to be coached so that they do not identify the vic-

tim by name during the trial and the use of pseudonyms also could interfere with an attorney's ability to investigate past court cases involving the same victim, he said.

"I don't see the reason for this law," Wilson said. "I don't know who it protects the victim's identity from, except newspapers, and in this area we don't print the victims' names. . . . I think we're going to see a lot of headaches with this that we can't anticipate."

Sue James, senior staff counselor at the Dallas County Rape Crisis and Child Abuse Center, said the law will have little effect on victims, few of whom let concerns about their identities dissuade them from prosecuting their attackers.

"My concern is that we've worked a long time with victims to say you don't have to be ashamed," James said. This law "sort of brings back some of the shame of it."

But Parmer defended the legislation.

"What you're weighing is bureaucratic inconvenience against protecting the victim's identity and, quite frankly, it's worth it," Parmer said.

Study marks state building-rate drop

DALLAS (AP) — Building activity is down in five major Texas cities, tracking a national trend of slow-downs that is linked to an under-heated economy, a Dallas research firm's survey found.

Fewer building permits were issued in the Texas cities over the past year than in the previous 12 months, according to the M-PF Research study released Monday.

With some exceptions, the number of permits was down in every category in each of the five cities during the year that ended June 30.

Austin led the state in building-permit decreases, dropping 45 percent on single-family houses and 77 percent on apartments. Dallas was second at 34 and 78; followed by Fort Worth, 27 and 78 percent; Houston, 10 and 91; and San Antonio, 30 and 70 (the Alamo City's performance was offset by other construction).

Nationally, permits for all five of the categories in the study — single-family, multi-family, office, retail and industrial — were down during the 12 months that ended at mid-

year, the U.S. Growth Markets Report said.

In Texas, the study attributes the real estate problems to overbuilding and slow job growth. In Dallas, for example, the number of jobs shrank 2.9 percent during the 12 months ended in June, M-PF said. In Fort Worth, the number of jobs grew, but the rate of growth fell 84 percent.

Dallas nevertheless remains among the top 20 U.S. cities for new home, apartment and commercial construction. The number of home and apartment permits dropped 59 percent during the period, but Dal-

las ranked 15th among all U.S. cities at midyear. At midyear 1986, Dallas ranked fifth nationally.

Los Angeles was ranked first in the latest numbers, followed by Riverside, Calif.; Atlanta; San Diego and Washington, D.C.

The dollar value of permits for commercial construction in Dallas was off 56 percent, but the city ranked 11th nationally even with the lower numbers. Again, Los Angeles held the top position, followed by Washington, Atlanta, Chicago and Detroit.

School buses, truck crash; 16 teen-age students hurt

AUSTIN (AP) — A gravel truck Tuesday slammed into the back of a school bus, sending the bus into another one and injuring 16 high-school students, school and hospital officials said.

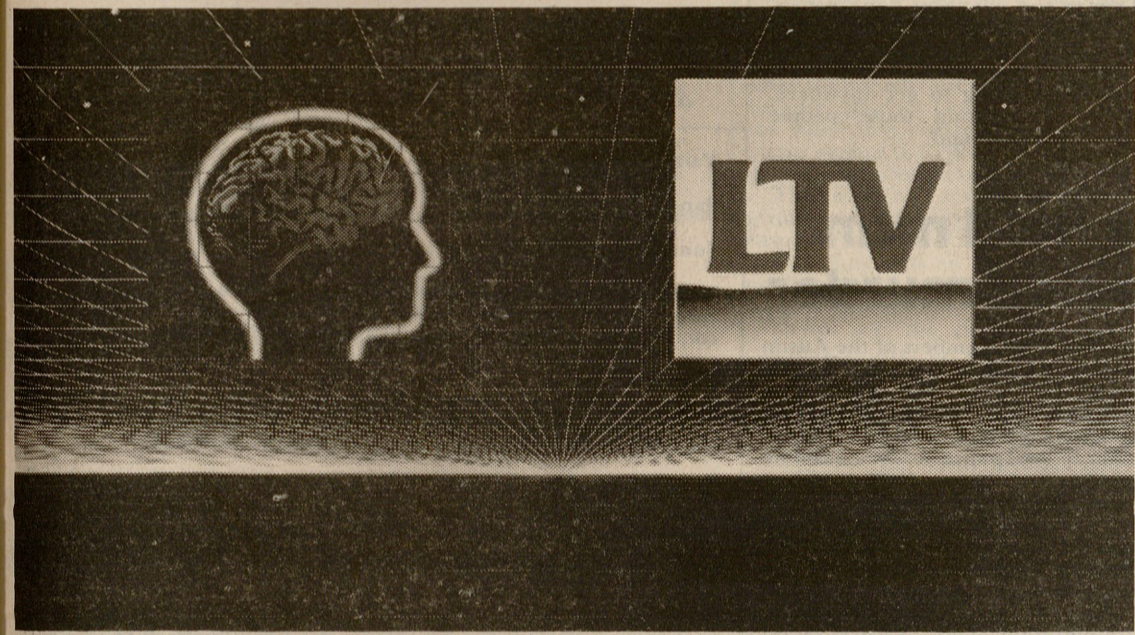
Fred Filley, the school district's assistant director of pupil transportation, said the two buses were stopped at a traffic light at U.S. 183 and U.S. 290 in Northeast Austin at about 4:30 p.m. when the wreck occurred.

He said the truck driver apparently came up behind one of the

buses and failed to stop, striking the bus and sending it into the lead bus.

Both buses were taking students home from Austin Lanier High School.

Nine injured students were taken to Brackenridge Hospital, where spokesman Carolyn Hinckley Boyle said none of the students had suffered serious injury. Seven injured students were taken to St. David's Hospital, according to spokesman Peggy Pickle.



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