

City takes charge of community access TV

Manager suggests channel will close although participation has increased

Robert A. Heyman
Traveler Staff

The fate of Fayetteville's public access channel remains in doubt after the cable television board voted earlier this month to turn over operation of the channel to the city next month.

Community Access Television, formerly known as Access 4 Fayetteville, will allow its contract with the city to expire on Dec. 31. The city will then operate the channel for a six-month trial period, after which it will decide whether or not to keep the channel on the air.

Jim Goodlander, C.A.T. manager, said it's his guess the city will probably decide to "kill" the channel after the trial period. He said the city is "biting off more than it can chew" by taking over the channel.

"They will have to decide what [content] is obscene," Goodlander said, referring to programs brought in by producers.

He said if the city does decide to edit program content, some people may accuse the city of engaging in censorship.

"If someone cries censorship, that will be all the ammunition the city needs to kill

the channel," he said.

C.A.T.'s policy requires that it does not screen or edit volunteer-produced programs.

In last week's meeting, board members expressed concern over what they perceived as diminished public support for the channel and the controversial nature of some of its programming. Goodlander said those are bad excuses for turning the channel over to the city.

"We've had nothing but positive responses since we moved over to channel eight," he said.

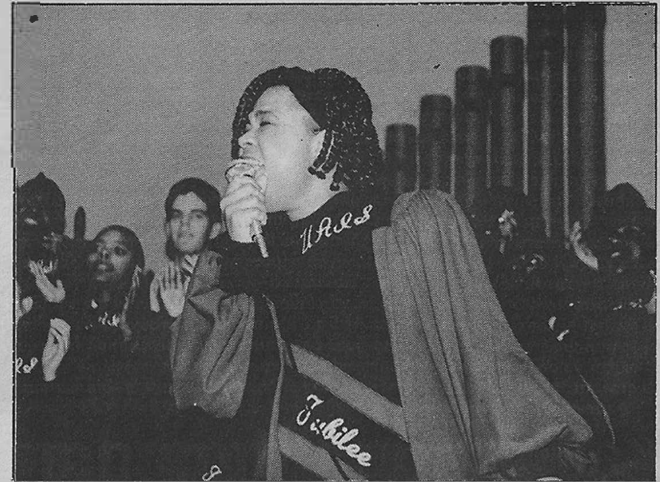
He said the number of volunteer producers has grown from 13 to more than 250 since April of last year. He said 90 of that number are student producers.

Goodlander said C.A.T. serves a valuable educational function for student groups. Even though he has been assured it will remain "business as usual" once the city takes over, he said he wonders just how accessible the channel will be to the community after the change-over.

Also questioned during the meeting was increased funding needed to operate the channel. Officials with C.A.T. requested that the operating budget be increased from the \$50,000 established under the current contract to \$75,000.

Board members said they hoped that these and other difficulties will be remedied once the city assumes control. After six months, the city will decide whether to advertise for bids from a private operator, continue city operation of the channel or discontinue public access altogether.

Hitting a high note



Inspired: Kema Robinson, a soloist for the UA Inspirational Singers, belts out a note at the group's Saturday concert.

Union mail times change

Amanda Fincher
Traveler Staff

The UA mail service, Station One/Postal Plus, has changed its cutoff times for outgoing mail and money orders from 5 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Supervisor H. Keith Lyons announced that the Fayetteville Post Office mail carriers were picking up campus mail at the Arkansas Union earlier due to an increase in mail carriers. He said money orders must especially be turned in earlier.

had some helpful tips for mailing packages.

International packages should include complete content and value of the items inside. The country of origin should be included because some countries have restrictions. For example, Arab countries restrict items from Israel, Lyons said.

If the package will be traveling a great distance, it should be mailed priority or first class. If alternate services are used to mail items, the package should have a physical address listed on it. Complete addresses should always be used.

Packages with brown paper overwrap