

KWAX to catch satellite's beams

By NANCYANN LOFGREN
Of the Emerald

The University's public radio station, along with others around the Northwest, will soon be "experimenting" with a satellite system capable of transmitting radio programs throughout the nation at the speed of light.

By 1981, if all goes well, KWAX and the rest of the nation's public radio stations will be linked to this system, according to Allan Yordy, operations director for KWAX-FM.

Up until now KWAX-FM received its national programming from National Public Radio (NPR) in Washington, via land link. The system is unable to transmit stereo sound programming; all stereo programs have to be taped and mailed.

"This new system will increase the quality of the frequency we get from NPR," Yordy says.

Here's how it will work: Twelve sending stations around the country, including one in Seattle, Washington, will transmit programs to a satellite. The satellite, roaming 22,000 miles above the earth, will beam pro-

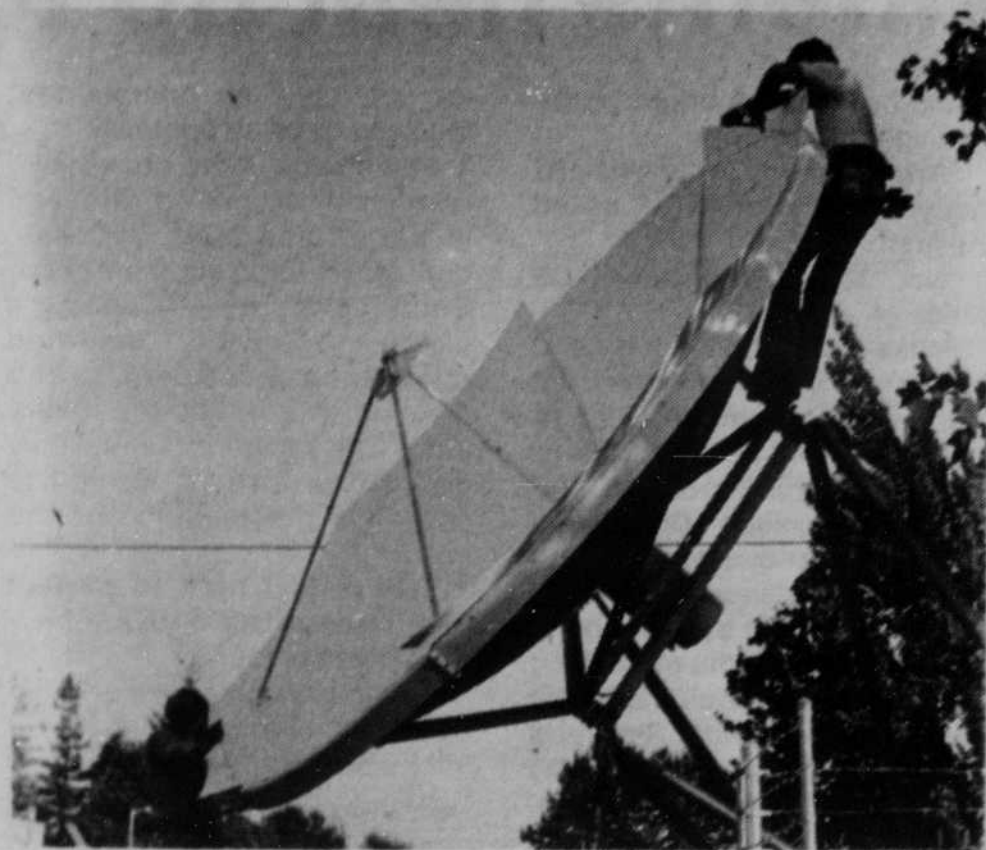


Photo by Erich Boekeitheide

This receiver antenna is part of the new satellite system now under construction for National Public Radio. KWAX-FM, the University's radio station, will receive programs from all over the nation.

grams to 189 receiving stations. Thus, individual stations can choose the programs they wish.

"The system will increase the capacity for more program outlets," Yordy says.

KWAX-FM will be able to receive three programs at a

time. Any valuable programs not broadcasted live will be taped and stored by six tape recorders for later use. In the future, 12 to 20 programs may be received simultaneously, but Yordy says, "I doubt if it'll happen in the near future."

Group refuses to share dorms

The Young Calvinist Federation (YCF), whose 2,400 representatives are forcing the 40 residents of the Earl complex to move to the Hamilton and Bean complexes, still refuses to compromise, according to Marjory Ramey, University assistant director of housing.

The YCF will be holding a five-day conference at the University in August. Because the group has demanded total isolation from any other group staying on campus at that time, the Housing Department has had to reuest that the Earl residents clear out their rooms completely by Aug. 13.

Ramey, at the suggestion of the affected residents, called the YCF leader last week to see if he would compromise. He wouldn't, saying that it wasn't in

the YCF's best interests, Ramey says.

Ramey declined to give the name of the YCF head. "I'm not interested in bringing him into this," she says.

Brian Pearson, an affected resident, has obtained the signatures of 30 out of 40 residents on a petition he circulated last week. He says a source within the Housing Department told him that "Vice pres. (Ray) Hawk has the power to overturn the contract" and let the students stay in their rooms.

Hawk was out of town and could not be reached for comment.

Dick Romm, the assistant director of housing who is trying to smooth out the residents' moving difficulties, said late last week that Pacific Northwest Bell

(PNB) is demanding a \$25 charge for transfer of residents' phones to the new dormitory. PNB won't reduce or eliminate the charge, Romm says, and the Housing Department hasn't decided yet who will pay for it.

Romm did not know how many phones were involved.

Any of the affected students may move back into Earl's Morton and McClure units at the end of the YCF conference if they wish, Romm says. Students who have fall reservations in those units may live there during the interim between summer and fall terms, Romm says, while others may store their belongings in the trunk rooms.

Romm, who is out of town for two weeks, advised residents with special problems to call Donald Lee at 686-4277.

With the increase in program flexibility, the chance of becoming too national is a concern, Yordy says.

"We worry, to some degree, about becoming more national than local."

But Yordy says that KWAX-FM will watch that trend "very carefully" so it won't happen.

Yordy sees the major effect of this new technology in terms of more efficient technical quality, which will enable the station to offer more "quality" classical programming.

"It will enhance that classical bent to programming because of the improvement in quality."

The cost of converting KWAX-FM to satellite technology is \$35,000, paid entirely by NPR.

KWAX-FM should have its system operating by December.

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