

Broadcasting in Stereo This Week at UA

New transmitting equipment for FM stereo broadcasting will be in operation at station KUAC-FM on the University of Alaska campus this week.

Delays in receiving special multiplex equipment prevented the student-operated station from meeting an earlier broadcast deadline of late November, according to Richard P. Dowling, chief engineer for KUAC-FM.

"We had problems in long delivery because radio stations across the nation are switching to stereo broadcasting. It's a new fad in the industry, and manufacturers have a backlog of orders in meeting the demand for multiplex equipment," Dowling said.

"Now that we have what

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Stereo . . .

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we need, we expect to be broadcasting regularly in stereo within a week. We'll be running test transmissions between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. at first."

The new equipment will allow Interior Alaska FM listeners with multiplex receivers to hear all programs in stereo, according to Charles Northrip, KUAC manager and acting head of the university's Department of Speech, Radio and Drama.

But for listeners with the old, single-signal receivers, the multiplex signal will come through just as before, he explained.

A new studio transmitter and a new tower atop the Student Union Building on the UA campus are expected to boost the power of KUAC five times, beaming the station's programs to areas that heretofore have been unable to receive them, Northrip said.