

rectly, says David Dial, national coordinator, Small Station Association and general manager, WNIN Evansville, Ind. "Localism is important, but is not necessarily a stumbling block," he says.

"The simplest way to look at this is to say this is a geographic overlap,"

says Donald MacCullough, general manager, WLRN Miami. "But when you come to a content or service overlap...what are [the stations] doing?" WLRN provides the children's and adult educational programming that nationally oriented WPBT Miami does not.

"I've already got the economies of

scale," he adds. A merger would not create any efficiencies. For example, two heads of programming still would be needed if WLRN and WPBF merged. "There's no one sitting around.... I'd love someone to come through here looking for fat." They wouldn't find any, he says. ■

## Changing Hands

# Paxson-backed network buys Denver station

By Julie A. Zier

**A** Christian group funded by Home Shopping Network co-founder and Infomall creator Bud Paxson is buying its third TV station.

The Christian Network Inc., a Clearwater, Fla.-based nonprofit/nonstock corporation, is buying KUBD(TV) Denver for \$6.5 million under subsidiary Channel 59 of Denver Inc. (see "Changing Hands" item, below). Channel 59 is a for-profit Florida corporation, according to the contract for KUBD.

Paxson, as part of his Christian missionary work, backed CNI financially during its start-up in 1992, according to Paxson's lawyer, John Feore of Dow, Lohnes & Albertson.

Although Paxson still contributes to CNI, he has resigned from CNI's Board of Stewards and holds no ownership in the group, Feore says.

The programming planned for the channel is called the Worship Channel, which started as a direct satellite feed to cable. The Worship Channel has 87 affiliates, including full- and low-power stations and cable outlets.

The channel programs nature scenes with inspirational Christian music, 800 and 900 telephone numbers for callers to confide in counselors and hear Bible passages, and sermons by pastor and CNI Chairman James West. The bulk of the programming on CNI O&O stations will be the Worship Channel, but Feore says the stations could air

some of Paxson's Infomall Network.

The sellers of KUBD are David Drucker and Charles Ergen. Ergen is chief executive officer of EchoStar Communications, which is planning to launch a direct broadcast satellite service this fall. The proceeds of the KUBD sale will go to Ergen and Drucker's construction of Telemundo affiliate KDEN(TV) ch. 25, licensed to Longmont, Colo., Drucker says.

CNI is the proposed assignee of two other stations: WIRB-TV Orlando-Melbourne-Daytona Beach, Fla., which it is purchasing for \$3.8 million, and WHKE(TV) Kenosha (Milwaukee), Wis., which it is purchasing for \$2.5 million.

KUBD now is a Telemundo affiliate on ch. 59 with 5,000 kw visual, 500 kw aural and antenna 1,109 ft. ■

### The week's tabulation of station sales

**WTOV-TV Steubenville, Ohio; WROC-TV Rochester, N.Y., and WEYI-TV Saginaw, Mich.**

**Price:** \$63.5 million (see BROADCASTING & CABLE, April 24)

**Buyer:** Smith Television Group LP (Robert Smith, president)

**Seller:** Television Station Partners LP (I. Martin Pompadur)

**Facilities:** WTOV-TV: ch. 9, 316 kw visual, 31.6 kw aural, ant. 951 ft.; WROC-TV: ch. 8, 316 kw visual, 48.5 kw aural, ant. 499 ft.; WEYI-TV: ch. 25, 2035 kw visual, 203 kw aural, ant. 1,320 ft.

**Affiliation:** WTOV-TV: NBC; WROC-TV: CBS; WEYI-TV: CBS

**KSLA-TV Shreveport, La.**

**Price:** \$30 million (see BROADCASTING & CABLE, May 15)

**Buyer:** Hillside Broadcasting of Louisiana (Mario and Della Baeza)

#### Proposed station trades

By dollar volume and number of sales

This week:

AMs □ \$978,500 □ 3

FMs □ \$2,826,500 □ 7

Combos □ \$20,000,000 □ 2

TVs □ \$127,270,000 □ 5

Total □ \$151,075,000 □ 17

So far in 1995:

AMs □ \$53,133,119 □ 75

FMs □ \$307,881,721 □ 147

Combos □ \$703,460,300 □ 91

TVs □ \$1,561,502,000 □ 47

Total □ \$2,625,877,140 □ 360

**Seller:** Viacom International Inc.

**Facilities:** ch. 12, 316 kw visual, 40.7 kw aural, ant. 1,800 ft.

**Affiliation:** CBS

**WVEU(TV) Atlanta**

**Price:** \$27 million (see BROADCASTING & CABLE, May 15)

**Buyer:** Viacom International Inc.

**Seller:** Broadcasting Corporation of Georgia (David Harris, president)

**Facilities:** ch. 69, 2,630 kw visual, 263 kw aural, ant. 960 ft.

**Affiliation:** CBS

**WYNK-AM-FM Baton Rouge**

**Price:** \$11.5 million

**Buyer:** Gulfstar Communications Baton Rouge Licensee Inc. (John Barger, president); owns KLVI(AM)-KYKR(FM) Beaumont, KYKS(FM) Lufkin, KKYR-FM Texarkana, KIXS(FM) Victoria, KLTN(FM) Port Arthur and KNUE(FM) Tyler, all Texas; KKYR(AM) Texarkana, Ark., and is pending assignee of KKMY(FM) Orange and KLB(FM) Bloomington, both Texas.

**Seller:** Narragansett Radio LP (Greg