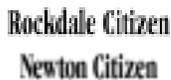


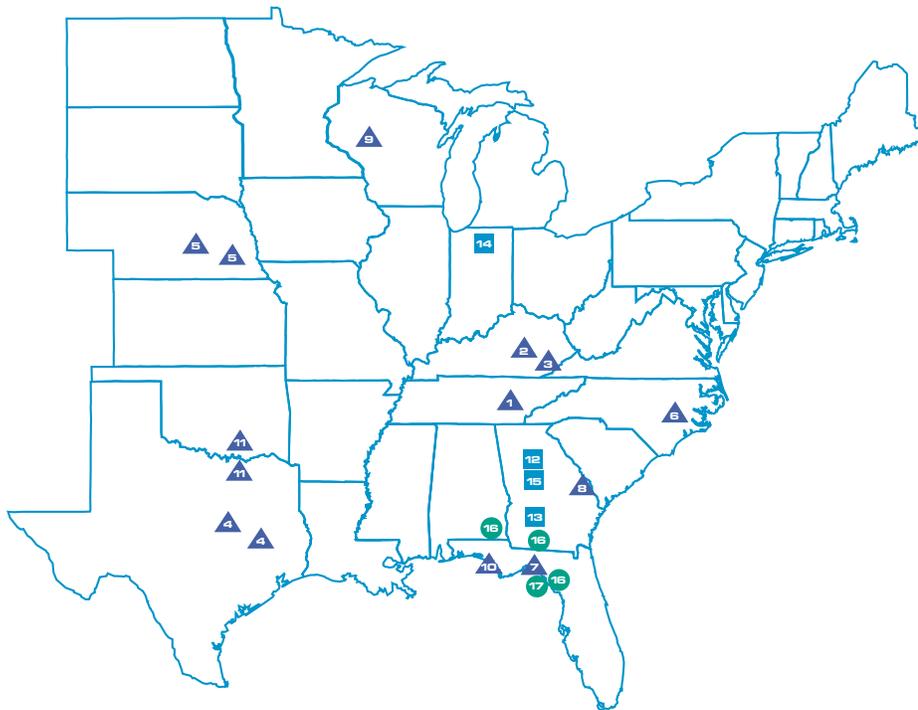
2 0 0 0   A n n u a l   R e p o r t

GRAY

Communications Systems, Inc.



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17



## Television

▲	Station	NW Affiliation	Market	DMA Rank <sup>1</sup>	Station Rank in DMA	News Rank in DMA	TV Households <sup>1</sup>	In-Market Share of Households Viewing TV <sup>1</sup>
1	WVLT	CBS	Knoxville, TN	63	2 <sup>(3)</sup>	3	462,000	23%
2	WKYT	CBS	Lexington, KY	66	1	1	424,000	35
3	WYMT <sup>2</sup>	CBS	Hazard, KY	66	1	1	170,000	28
4	KWTX/KBTX	CBS	Waco/Bryan, TX	94	1	1	287,000	40
5	KOLN/KGIN	CBS	Lincoln/Grand Island, NE	101	1	1	258,000	47
6	WITN	NBC	Greenville, NC	106	2	1	242,000	31
7	WCTV	CBS	Tallahassee, FL/ Thomasville, GA	110	1	1	232,000	57
8	WRDW	CBS	Augusta, GA	113	1 <sup>(3)</sup>	1	230,000	34
9	WEAU	NBC	Eau Claire, WI	126	1	1	192,000	37
10	WJHG	NBC	Panama City, FL	158	1	1	124,000	46
11	KXII	CBS	Sherman, TX/Ada, OK	161	1	1	114,000	72

<sup>1</sup> Source: Nielsen Media Research, November 2000

<sup>2</sup> The market area served by WYMT is an 18-county trading area, as defined by Nielsen, and is included in the Lexington, Kentucky DMA. WYMT's station rank is based upon its ratings position in the 18-county trading area.

<sup>3</sup> Tied in market ranking

## Newspaper

■	Publication	Market	Estimated Population	Households	Circulation
12	Gwinnett Daily Post	Gwinnett County, GA	699,000	251,000	67,000
13	The Albany Herald	Albany, GA	121,000	42,000	30,000 Daily / 33,000 Sunday
14	The Goshen News	Goshen, IN	181,000	66,000	18,000
15	The Rockdale Citizen/ The Newton Citizen	Rockdale and Newton County, GA	131,000	47,000	17,000

## Wireless Messaging and Satellite Uplink

●	Operation	Market	# of Units in Service
16	GrayLink	AL, FL and GA	90,000 pagers
17	Lynqx Communications	United States	13 Uplink Trucks 2 Data Uplink Units

## Financial Highlights

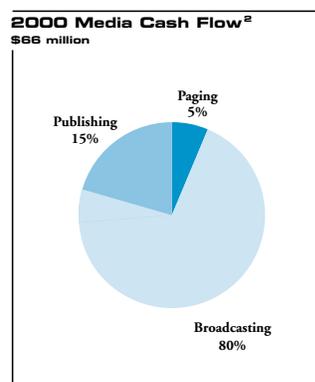
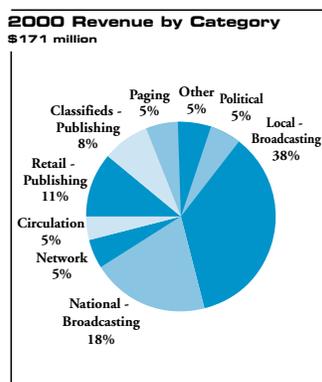
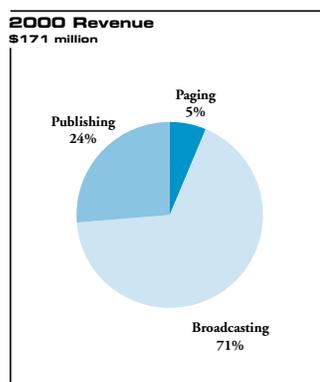
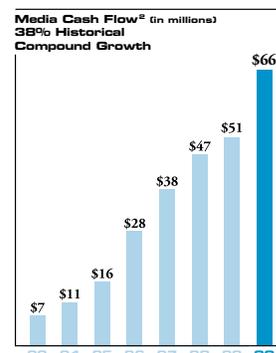
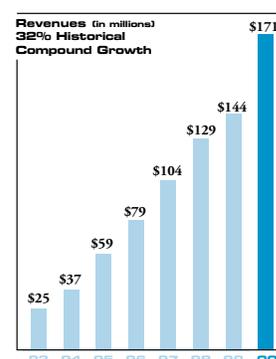
Gray Communications Systems, Inc. was founded in 1891 to publish *The Albany Herald* in Albany, Georgia. Following an initial public offering in 1967, a significant equity investment in 1992 brought a new strategic direction to the Company. With the goal of developing a major media presence in mid-size markets, Gray embarked on a determined and selective growth plan. To date, the Company has increased its properties to 13 television stations, four daily newspapers, a telecommunications and paging business in the Southeast and a satellite uplink business.

Consistent with its overriding commitment to create value for its stockholders, employees and the communities it serves, Gray focuses on three key areas to provide growth:

- Extending exceptional service to local communities
- Improving existing operations through innovative marketing initiatives and focused cost control
- Acquiring selective, well-managed properties in fast-growing mid-size markets with excellent growth potential.

Gray's market-leading operations are well positioned to capitalize on future opportunities for increasing cash flow and property values.

**Gray has a proven record of growth. Gray's compound annual growth rate since 1993 is 32% and 38% respectively, for revenues and Media Cash Flow.<sup>2</sup>**



	Year Ended December 31,				
	2000	Historical 1999	% change	Pro Forma <sup>1</sup> 1999	% change
(in thousands, except percentages)					
<b>Net Revenues:</b>					
Broadcasting	\$ 120,640	\$ 97,015	24 %	\$ 114,419	5 %
Publishing	41,499	37,808	10 %	38,489	8 %
Paging	9,074	9,130	(1)%	9,130	(1)%
Total Net Revenue	<u>171,213</u>	<u>143,953</u>	19 %	<u>162,038</u>	6 %
<b>Media Cash Flow<sup>2</sup>:</b>					
Broadcasting	\$ 53,053	\$ 39,207	35 %	\$ 46,591	14 %
Publishing	10,227	9,130	12 %	9,226	11 %
Paging	2,967	2,607	14 %	2,607	14 %
Total Media Cash Flow <sup>2</sup>	<u>\$ 66,247</u>	<u>\$ 50,944</u>	30 %	<u>\$ 58,424</u>	13 %
<b>Media Cash Flow<sup>2</sup> Margins:</b>					
Broadcasting	44 %	40 %		41 %	
Publishing	25 %	24 %		24 %	
Paging	33 %	29 %		29 %	
Consolidated	39 %	35 %		36 %	

<sup>1</sup>Assumes the 1999 Acquisitions as discussed in Note B to the Company's Audited Consolidated Financial Statements included elsewhere herein were completed January 1, 1999.

<sup>2</sup>See Note J to the Company's Audited Consolidated Financial Statements included elsewhere herein with respect to the computation of Media Cash Flow.

## To Our Shareholders

We are pleased to report that 2000 was another year of substantial growth for Gray. Both 2000 revenues of \$171.2 million and Media Cash Flow of \$66.2 million established new records for Gray. Each of our primary businesses, broadcasting, publishing and paging contributed to the record Media Cash Flow.

Our primary mission remains unchanged. Gray continues to maximize its cash flow by striving to be the primary news and/or entertainment provider to the people living in the communities we serve. We are proud of the excellent news services provided by our television stations and newspapers. Of our thirteen television stations, twelve are the market leaders in local news viewers. The remaining station, WVLT, has made significant progress over the past several years in providing the residents of Knoxville, Tennessee with high quality news programs. Our newspaper publications have also continued to be the leading source of local news in their communities. We are also very proud of the community service projects we provide to the people living in the communities we serve. Gray is fortunate to have dedicated and professional employees who work hard to fulfill the company's primary mission.

During 2000, Gray's broadcast business benefited from a record \$9 million of cyclical political advertising revenue and we will look forward to the return of that revenue source in 2002. Gray's publishing business has continued to grow throughout 2000. The performance of *The Goshen News* since its acquisition in March of 1999 has exceeded our expectations. We are also very pleased at the growth of our suburban Atlanta papers, *The Gwinnett Daily Post* and *The Rockdale Citizen* where aggregate Media Cash Flow increased by \$1 million during 2000 when compared to 1999. We are also pleased that our paging business was able to increase its Media Cash Flow during 2000 by maximizing cost efficiencies.

Gray continuously evaluated its operating expenses during 2000. As a result of this process, the Company was able to reduce its staffing by approximately 100 positions during the course of the year. Gray's efforts to control expenses held the increase in total 2000 operating expense to less than 1%, before depreciation and amortization charges, when compared to the results of 1999 on a pro forma basis for the acquisitions completed during 1999. Gray will continue to closely examine its operating costs during 2001 to identify further efficiencies.

In March of 2000, our Augusta, Georgia station became the first Gray station to broadcast a digital television signal. Currently our Waco, Texas station, KWTX, and our Eau Claire, Wisconsin station, WEAU, are installing digital transmission systems. We expect that several of our other stations will complete similar installations before the end of 2001. Gray currently is striving to have all of its stations broadcasting a digital television signal by May of 2002 to meet the Federal Communications Commission's (the "FCC") mandate to initiate digital broadcasting.

The total capital costs between 2000 and the end of 2002 required to commence digital broadcasting are currently expected to range between \$25 million to \$30 million to provide basic digital broadcast operations at all of our television stations. We recognize that this cost, while material, is a relatively small cost to incur to enable Gray to preserve its rights to hold the FCC licenses necessary to operate its television stations for years to come.

We have noted with interest the proposal by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the "FASB") to change the accounting rules and eliminate the current requirement to annually expense a portion of goodwill and certain other intangible assets, such as FCC licenses, as an amortization charge. While the FASB has not, to date, changed these rules, we believe that if the proposed rules were adopted, Gray would generally be able to report more favorable future results than would be allowed under existing accounting rules.

This year's annual report has a different style from previous years. Over the past several years many companies have adopted a simplified annual report coupled with a copy of the Form 10-K that is filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission each year. With the ready access to information about Gray through its web site at [www.graycommunications.com](http://www.graycommunications.com) and other public information sources, Gray believes that the cost benefit of the traditional annual report can no longer be justified and accordingly has adopted this simpler annual report style for 2000.

In looking ahead to 2001, we believe the year will be challenging due to the natural off year cycle of political revenue as well as an uncertain general economic climate. The Company will continue to reduce operating expenses where appropriate and will aggressively seek revenue opportunities. The current falling interest rate environment and anticipated reductions in the Company's debt levels is expected to favorably impact Gray's interest costs and save an estimated \$4 million over 2000 interest costs based on current forecasts for 2001. Given the operating challenges of 2001, we do not expect to achieve the record setting results of 2000. However, Gray is committed to maximizing its 2001 operating potential to deliver the best possible operating results.

Gray will continue being a leader in operating results and services delivered when measured among its broadcasting, publishing and paging peers. Gray's historic focus has been on the creation of long term value. We continue to believe executing this strategy is in the best interest of all shareholders.



J. Mack Robinson  
President and Chief Executive Officer



Robert S. Prather, Jr.  
Executive Vice President - Acquisitions

## Board of Directors

### **William E. Mayher, III** <sup>(2) (3) (4)</sup>

Chairman of the Board of Gray  
Communications Systems, Inc.  
Retired neurosurgeon

### **J. Mack Robinson** <sup>(3) (4)</sup>

President and Chief Executive Officer of Gray  
Communications Systems, Inc. and  
Chairman of the Executive Committee  
Chairman of the Board of Bull Run  
Corporation, a diversified holding company  
and principal shareholder of Gray  
Chairman of the Board and President of Delta  
Life Insurance Company and Delta Fire and  
Casualty Insurance Company  
Chairman of the Board of Atlantic American  
Corporation, an insurance holding company  
Director *emeritus* of Wachovia Corporation

### **Robert S. Prather, Jr.** <sup>(3) (4)</sup>

Executive Vice President – Acquisitions of Gray  
Communications Systems, Inc.  
President and Chief Executive Officer and a  
director of Bull Run Corporation, a  
diversified holding company and principal  
shareholder of Gray

### **Hilton H. Howell, Jr.**

Executive Vice President of Gray  
Communications Systems, Inc.  
President and Chief Executive Officer of  
Atlantic American Corporation, an  
insurance holding company  
Executive Vice President and General Counsel  
of Delta Life Insurance Company and Delta  
Fire and Casualty Insurance Company  
Vice President and Secretary and a director of  
Bull Run Corporation, a diversified holding  
company and principal shareholder of Gray

### **Richard L. Boger** <sup>(1) (2) (3) (4)</sup>

President and Chief Executive Officer of Export  
Insurance Services, Inc., an insurance  
organization  
President and Chief Executive Officer and a  
director of Lex-Tek International, Inc., a  
computer and internet software development  
company of insurance and bank  
applications  
Chairman of Gray's Management Personnel  
Committee and 1992 Long Term Incentive  
Plan Committee

### **Howell W. Newton** <sup>(1)</sup>

President and Treasurer of Trio Manufacturing  
Co, a textile manufacturing company  
Chairman of Gray's Audit Committee

### **Hugh Norton** <sup>(1) (2) (4)</sup>

President of Norco, Inc., an insurance agency  
One of the founders and directors of  
Community Bank of Georgia  
Real estate developer in Destin, Florida

### **Harriett J. Robinson**

Director of Atlantic American Corporation  
Director of Delta Life Insurance Company and  
Delta Fire and Casualty Insurance Company

### **Committees of the Board**

- <sup>(1)</sup> Audit Committee
- <sup>(2)</sup> 1992 Long Term Incentive Plan Committee
- <sup>(3)</sup> Executive Committee
- <sup>(4)</sup> Management Personnel Committee

---

---

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

---

## FORM 10-K

- Annual report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000
- Transition report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_.

Commission File Number 1-13796

### GRAY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Georgia**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**52-0285030**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**4370 Peachtree Road, NE**  
**Atlanta, GA**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**30319**  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(404) 504-9828**

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

**Class A Common Stock (no par value)**  
**Class B Common Stock (no par value)**  
Title of each class

**New York Stock Exchange**  
**New York Stock Exchange**  
Name of each exchange on which registered

**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: NONE**

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.  
Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.  
[ ]

The aggregate market value of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of March 1, 2001: **Class A and Class B Common Stock; no par value - \$190,660,391**

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's classes of common stock as of March 1, 2001: **Class A Common Stock; no par value - 6,848,467 shares; Class B Common Stock, no par value - 8,746,741 shares**

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE:** The registrant's definitive proxy statement for the annual meeting of shareholders to be filed with the Commission pursuant to Regulation 14A is incorporated by reference into Part III hereof.

---

---

## PART 1

### Item 1. Business

*As used herein, unless the context otherwise requires, the "Company" means Gray Communications Systems, Inc. and its subsidiaries. Unless otherwise indicated, the information herein has been adjusted to give effect to a three-for-two stock split of the Company's Class A Common Stock, no par value (the "Class A Common Stock"), and the Company's Class B Common Stock, no par value (the "Class B Common Stock"), effected in the form of a stock dividend declared on the respective class of common stock on August 20, 1998. Unless otherwise indicated, all station rank, in-market share and television household data herein are derived from the Nielsen Station Index, Viewers in Profile, dated November 2000, as prepared by A.C. Nielsen Company ("Nielsen").*

#### General

The Company currently owns 13 network-affiliated television stations in 11 medium-size markets in the southeastern ("Southeast"), southwestern ("Southwest") and midwestern ("Midwest") United States. In nine of the 11 markets served by the Company, its stations are ranked first in viewing audience and it has the second ranked station in the two remaining markets. The Company has the leading local news operation in ten of the 11 markets in which it operates while the remaining station is ranked third for news viewers. Ten of the stations are affiliated with the CBS Television Network, a division of CBS, Inc. ("CBS"), and three are affiliated with the NBC Television Network, a division of the National Broadcasting Company, Incorporated ("NBC"). The Company also owns and operates four daily newspapers located in the Southeast and the Midwest and a paging business located in the Southeast.

In 1993, after the acquisition of a large block of the Class A Common Stock by Bull Run Corporation ("Bull Run"), the Company implemented a strategy to foster growth through strategic acquisitions and certain select divestitures. Bull Run continues to be a principal shareholder of the Company since its investment in 1993. Since January 1, 1994, the Company's significant acquisitions have included 12 television stations, three newspapers, a transportable satellite uplink business and a paging business located in the Southeast, Southwest and Midwest and the divestiture of two stations in the Southeast. As a result of the Company's acquisitions and in support of its growth strategy, the Company has added certain key members of management and has greatly expanded its operations in the television broadcasting and newspaper publishing businesses.

#### Acquisitions and Divestitures

##### *Option to Acquire Equity Investment in Sarkes Tarzian, Inc.*

On January 28, 1999, Bull Run acquired 301,119 shares of the outstanding common stock of Sarkes Tarzian, Inc. ("Tarzian") from the Estate of Mary Tarzian (the "Estate") for \$10.0 million. The acquired shares (the "Tarzian Shares") represent 33.5% of the total outstanding common stock of Tarzian (both in terms of the number of shares of common stock outstanding and in terms of voting rights), but such investment represents 73% of the equity of Tarzian for purposes of dividends as well as distributions in the event of any liquidation, dissolution or other termination of Tarzian. A single shareholder controls a majority of the voting rights of the Tarzian common stock.

The Company has an agreement with Bull Run, whereby the Company has the option of acquiring the Tarzian Shares from Bull Run for \$10.0 million plus related costs. These related costs include but are not limited to Bull Run's investment charges on the incremental debt used to acquire the investment less the aggregate amount of certain payments the Company has paid Bull Run to extend the option period. The Company has the ability to extend the option period in 30-day increments at a fee of \$66,700 per

extension and has extended this option period through December 31, 2001. Total fees capitalized relating to this option are \$3,452,000 and \$742,000 as of December 31, 2000 and 1999, respectively. In connection with the option agreement, the Company granted warrants to Bull Run to purchase up to 100,000 shares of the Company's Class B Common Stock at \$13.625 per share. The warrants vest immediately upon the Company's exercise of its option to purchase the Tarzian Shares. The warrants expire 10 years following the date on which the Company exercises its option. The Company cannot control when or if it would receive any cash distributions from Tarzian including dividends or other distributions on capital stock.

Tarzian owns and operates two television stations and four radio stations: WRCB-TV Channel 3 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, an NBC affiliate; KTVN-TV Channel 2 in Reno, Nevada, a CBS affiliate; WGCL-AM and WTTS-FM in Bloomington, Indiana; and WAJI-FM and WLDE-FM in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Chattanooga and Reno markets are the 86<sup>th</sup> and the 109<sup>th</sup> largest television markets in the United States, respectively, as ranked by Nielsen.

On February 12, 1999, Tarzian filed a complaint against Bull Run and U.S. Trust Company of Florida Savings Bank as Personal Representative of the Estate in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana. Tarzian claims that it had a binding and enforceable contract to purchase the Tarzian Shares from the Estate prior to Bull Run's purchase of the shares, and requested judgment providing that the contract be enforced. On May 3, 1999, the action was dismissed without prejudice against Bull Run, leaving the Estate as the sole defendant. The litigation between the Estate and Tarzian is ongoing and the Company cannot predict when the final resolution of the litigation will occur.

Neither Bull Run's investment nor the Company's potential investment is presently attributable under the ownership rules of the Federal Communications Commission (the "FCC"). If the Company successfully exercises the option agreement, the Company plans to fund the acquisition through its \$300.0 million senior bank loan agreement (the "Senior Credit Facility").

#### *Acquisition of the Texas Stations*

On October 1, 1999, the Company completed its acquisition of all the outstanding capital stock of KWTX Broadcasting Company and Brazos Broadcasting Company, as well as the assets of KXII Broadcasters Ltd. The Company acquired the capital stock of KWTX Broadcasting Company and Brazos Broadcasting Company in merger transactions with the shareholders of KWTX Broadcasting Company and Brazos Broadcasting Company receiving a combination of cash and the Company's Class B Common Stock for their shares. The Company acquired the assets of KXII Broadcasters Ltd. in an all cash transaction. These transactions are referred to herein as the "Texas Acquisitions."

Aggregate consideration (net of cash acquired) paid in the Company's Class B Common Stock and cash was approximately \$146.4 million which included a base purchase price of \$139.0 million, transaction expenses of \$2.8 million and certain net working capital adjustments (excluding cash) of \$4.6 million. In addition to the amount paid, the Company assumed approximately \$600,000 in liabilities in connection with the asset purchase of KXII Broadcasters Ltd. The Company funded the acquisitions by issuing 3,435,774 shares of the Company's Class B Common Stock (valued at \$49.5 million) to the sellers, borrowing an additional \$94.4 million under its Senior Credit Facility and using cash on hand of approximately \$2.5 million.

With the Texas Acquisitions the Company added the following television stations to its broadcast segment: KWTX-TV, the CBS affiliate located in Waco, Texas; KBTX-TV, the CBS affiliate located in Bryan, Texas, each serving the Waco-Temple-Bryan, Texas television market and KXII-TV, the CBS affiliate serving Sherman, Texas and Ada, Oklahoma. Under FCC regulations, KBTX-TV is operated as a satellite station of KWTX-TV. The stations are collectively referred to herein as the "Texas Stations."

### *Acquisition of The Goshen News*

On March 1, 1999, the Company acquired substantially all of the assets of *The Goshen News* from News Printing Company, Inc. and affiliates thereof, for aggregate cash consideration of approximately \$16.7 million including a non-compete agreement (the “Goshen Acquisition”). *The Goshen News* is currently an 18,000-circulation newspaper published Monday through Sunday and serves Goshen, Indiana and surrounding areas. The Company financed the acquisition through borrowings under its Senior Credit Facility.

### *Busse – WALB Transactions*

On July 31, 1998, the Company completed the purchase of all of the outstanding capital stock of Busse Broadcasting Corporation (“Busse”). The purchase price was approximately \$126.6 million, less the accreted value of Busse’s 11 5/8 % Senior Secured Notes due 2000 (the “Busse Senior Notes”). The purchase price of the capital stock consisted of the contractual purchase price of \$112.0 million, associated transaction costs of \$3.9 million, acquisition costs associated with the Busse Senior Notes of \$5.1 million and Busse’s cash and cash equivalents of \$5.6 million. Immediately following the acquisition of Busse, the Company exercised its right to satisfy and discharge the Busse Senior Notes, effectively prefunding the Busse Senior Notes at the October 15, 1998 call price of 106, plus accrued interest. The amount necessary to satisfy and discharge the Busse Senior Notes was approximately \$69.9 million.

Immediately prior to the Company’s acquisition of Busse, Cosmos Broadcasting Corporation acquired the assets of WEAU-TV (“WEAU”) from Busse and exchanged them for the assets of WALB-TV, Inc. (“WALB”), the Company’s NBC affiliate in Albany, Georgia. In exchange for the assets of WALB, the Company received the assets of WEAU, which were valued at \$66.0 million, and approximately \$12.0 million in cash for a total value of \$78.0 million. The Company recognized a pre-tax gain of approximately \$72.6 million and estimated deferred income taxes of approximately \$28.3 million in connection with the exchange of WALB. The Company funded the remaining costs of the acquisition of Busse’s capital stock through borrowings under the Company’s Senior Credit Facility.

As a result of these transactions, the Company acquired the following television stations: KOLN-TV (“KOLN”), the CBS affiliate serving the Lincoln-Hastings-Kearney, Nebraska market; its satellite station KGIN-TV (“KGIN”), the CBS affiliate serving Grand Island, Nebraska; and WEAU, an NBC affiliate serving the La Crosse-Eau Claire, Wisconsin market. These transactions also satisfied the FCC’s requirement for the Company to divest itself of WALB. These transactions are referred to as the “Busse-WALB Transactions.”

### *WITN Acquisition*

In August 1997, the Company acquired substantially all of the assets of WITN-TV (“WITN”), a NBC affiliate serving the Greenville-New Bern-Washington, North Carolina market (the “WITN Acquisition”). The purchase price for the WITN Acquisition was approximately \$41.7 million, including fees, expenses, working capital and other adjustments.

### *GulfLink Acquisition*

In April 1997, the Company acquired all of the issued and outstanding common stock of GulfLink Communications, Inc. (“GulfLink”) of Baton Rouge, Louisiana (the “GulfLink Acquisition”). The GulfLink operations included nine transportable satellite uplink trucks. The purchase price for the GulfLink Acquisition approximated \$5.2 million, including fees, expenses, and certain assumed

liabilities. Subsequent to the GulfLink Acquisition, certain other satellite uplink truck operations of the Company were combined with GulfLink and the operating name was changed to Lynqx Communications.

#### *The First American Acquisition*

In September 1996, the Company purchased from First American Media, Inc. (the “First American Acquisition”) substantially all of the assets of two CBS-affiliated stations, WCTV-TV (“WCTV”) serving Tallahassee, Florida-Thomasville, Georgia and WKXT-TV (“WKXT”) in Knoxville, Tennessee, a satellite uplink business and a paging business. The purchase price for the First American Acquisition was approximately \$183.9 million, including fees, expenses, and working capital and other adjustments. Subsequent to the First American Acquisition, the Company rebranded WKXT with the call letters WVLT (“WVLT”).

#### *Augusta Acquisition*

In January 1996, the Company acquired substantially all of the assets of WRDW-TV (“WRDW”), a CBS affiliate serving Augusta, Georgia (the “Augusta Acquisition”). The purchase price of the Augusta Acquisition was approximately \$37.2 million, including fees, expenses, and certain assumed liabilities.

#### *KTVE Sale*

In August 1996, the Company sold the assets of KTVE Inc. (“KTVE”), its NBC affiliate serving Monroe, Louisiana-El Dorado, Arkansas (the “KTVE Sale”) for approximately \$9.5 million in cash plus the amount of accounts receivable on the date of the closing. The Company recognized a pre-tax gain of approximately \$5.7 million and estimated income taxes of approximately \$2.8 million.

## Television Broadcasting

### *The Company's Stations and their Markets*

As used in the tables for each of the Company's stations and in this section (i) "Total Market Revenues" represent gross advertising revenues, excluding barter revenues, for all commercial television stations in the market, as reported in *Investing in Television 2000 Market Report, Fourth Edition November 2000 Ratings* published by BIA Publications, Inc. (the "BIA Guide"), except for revenues in WYMT-TV's ("WYMT") 18-county trading area which is not separately reported in the BIA Guide; (ii) "in-market share of households viewing television" represents the percentage of the station's audience as a percentage of all viewing by households in the market from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. Sunday through Saturday, including viewing of non-commercial stations, national cable channels and out-of-market stations broadcast or carried by cable in the market as reported by Nielsen for November 2000; (iii) "station rank in DMA" is based on Nielsen estimates for November 2000 for the period from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. Sunday through Saturday; (iv) "station news rank in DMA" is based on Nielsen estimates for November 2000, (v) estimates of population, average household income, effective buying income and retail business sales growth projections are as reported in the BIA Guide; and (vi) television households are as reported by Nielsen for November 2000. Designated Market Area is defined herein as "DMA."

<u>Station</u>	<u>Market</u>	<u>DMA Rank (1)</u>	<u>Commercial Stations in DMA(2)</u>	<u>Station Rank in DMA</u>	<u>Station News Rank in DMA</u>	<u>Television Households(3)</u>	<u>Total Market Revenues in DMA for 2000</u> <i>(in thousands)</i>	<u>In-Market Share of Households Viewing TV</u>
WVLT	Knoxville, TN	63	6	2 (4)	3	462,000	\$77,700	23%
WKYT	Lexington, KY	66	6	1	1	424,000	61,500	35
WYMT(5)	Hazard, KY	66	N/A	1	1	170,000	5,500	28
KWTX/ KBTX (6)	Waco – Temple – Bryan, TX	94	6	1	1	287,000	29,600	40
KOLN/ KGIN (7)	Lincoln-Hastings -Kearney, NE	101	5	1	1	258,000	29,400	47
WITN	Greenville- New Bern- Washington, NC	106	6	2	1	242,000	33,800	31
WCTV	Tallahassee, FL- Thomasville, GA	110	5	1	1	232,000	26,200	57
WRDW	Augusta, GA	113	6	1 (4)	1	230,000	34,500	34
WEAU	La Crosse- Eau Claire, WI	126	5	1	1	192,000	25,800	37
WJHG	Panama City, FL	158	4	1	1	124,000	12,700	46
KXII	Sherman, TX – Ada, OK	161	2	1	1	114,000	8,500	72

- (1) Ranking of DMA served by a station among all DMAs is measured by the number of television households based within the DMA in the November 2000 Nielsen estimates.
- (2) Includes independent broadcasting stations and excludes satellite stations such as KBTX and KGIN.
- (3) Based upon the approximate number of television households in the DMA as reported by Nielsen for November 2000.
- (4) Tied in market ranking.
- (5) The market area served by WYMT is an 18-county trading area, as defined by Nielsen, and is included in the Lexington, Kentucky DMA. WYMT's station rank is based upon its ratings position in the 18-county trading area.
- (6) KBTX is a VHF station located in Bryan, Texas and is operated primarily as a satellite station of KWTX, which is located in Waco, Texas.
- (7) KGIN is a VHF station located in Grand Island, Nebraska and is operated primarily as a satellite station of KOLN, which is located in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The percentage of the Company's total revenues contributed by the Company's television broadcasting segment was approximately 70.5%, 67.4% and 70.6% for the years ended December 31, 2000, 1999 and 1998, respectively.

In the following description of each of the Company's stations, information set forth below concerning estimates of population, Total Market Revenues, average household income, projected effective buying income and projected retail business sales growth has been derived from the BIA Guide. Estimates of television households are as reported by Nielsen for November 2000.

*WVLT, the CBS affiliate in Knoxville, Tennessee*

WVLT, acquired by the Company in September 1996, began operations in 1988. Knoxville, Tennessee is the 63rd DMA in the United States, with approximately 462,000 television households and a total population of approximately 1.2 million. Total Market Revenues in the Knoxville DMA in 2000 were approximately \$77.7 million. According to the BIA Guide, the average household income in the Knoxville DMA in 1998 was \$37,914, with effective buying income projected to grow at an annual rate of 5.5% through 2003. Retail business sales growth in the Knoxville DMA is projected by the BIA Guide to average 5.8% annually during the same period. The Knoxville DMA has six licensed commercial television stations, four of which are affiliated with major networks. The Knoxville DMA also has two public broadcasting stations.

*Market Description.* The Knoxville DMA, consisting of 22 counties in eastern Tennessee and southeastern Kentucky, includes the cities of Knoxville, Oak Ridge and Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The Knoxville area is a center for education, manufacturing, healthcare and tourism. The University of Tennessee's main campus with approximately 26,000 students is located within the city of Knoxville. Leading manufacturing employers in the area include: Lockheed Martin Energy Systems, Inc., DeRoyal Industries, Aluminum Company of North America, Phillips Consumer Electronics North America Corp., Clayton Homes and Sea Ray Boats, Inc.

*WKYT, the CBS affiliate in Lexington, Kentucky*

WKYT, acquired by the Company in September 1994, began operations in 1957. Lexington, Kentucky is the 66<sup>th</sup> largest DMA in the United States, with approximately 424,000 television households and a total population of approximately 1.1 million. Total Market Revenues in the Lexington DMA in 2000 were approximately \$61.5 million. According to the BIA Guide, the average household income in the Lexington DMA in 1998 was \$36,209, with effective buying income projected to grow at an annual rate of 5.2% through 2003. Retail business sales growth in the Lexington DMA is projected by the BIA Guide to average 5.2% annually during the same period. The Lexington DMA has six licensed commercial television stations, including WYMT, WKYT's sister station, five of which are affiliated with major networks. The Lexington DMA also has one public television station.

*Market Description.* The Lexington DMA consists of 39 counties in central and eastern Kentucky. The Lexington area is a regional hub for shopping, business, healthcare, education, and cultural activities and has a comprehensive transportation network and low commercial utility rates. Major employers in the Lexington area include Toyota Motor Corp., Lexmark International, Inc., Verizon Communications Inc., Square D Company, Ashland, Inc., the University of Kentucky and International Business Machines Corporation. Eight hospitals and numerous medical clinics are located in Lexington, reinforcing Lexington's position as a regional medical center. The University of Kentucky's main campus with approximately 25,000 students is also located in Lexington.

*WYMT, the CBS affiliate in Hazard, Kentucky*

WYMT, acquired by the Company in September 1994, began operations in 1985. WYMT has carved out a niche trading area comprising 18 counties in eastern and southeastern Kentucky. This trading area is a separate marketing area of the Lexington, Kentucky DMA with approximately 170,000 television households and a total population of approximately 425,000. WYMT is the only commercial television station in this 18-county trading area. Total Market Revenues in the 18-county trading area for the year ended December 31, 2000, were approximately \$5.5 million. WYMT is the sister station of WKYT and shares many resources and simulcasts some local programming with WKYT.

*Market Description.* The mountain region of eastern and southeastern Kentucky where Hazard is located is on the outer edges of four separate markets: Bristol-Kingsport-Johnson City, Charleston-Huntington, Knoxville and Lexington. Prior to 1985, mountain residents relied primarily on satellite dishes and cable television carrying distant signals for their television entertainment and news. Established in 1985, WYMT is the only local broadcast station received in its 18-county trading area and is primarily delivered by 91 separate area cable systems. The trading area's economy is primarily centered around coal and related industries, such as natural gas and oil.

*KWTX and KBTX, the CBS affiliates in Waco-Temple-Bryan, Texas*

KWTX and KBTX, acquired by the Company in October 1999, began operations in 1955 and 1957, respectively. KWTX is a full power VHF television station located in Waco, Texas. KBTX is a full power VHF television station located in Bryan, Texas and, under FCC rules, is operated primarily as a satellite station to KWTX in order to serve the entire broadcast market. Waco-Temple-Bryan, Texas is the 94th largest DMA in the United States, with approximately 287,000 television households and a total population of approximately 817,000. Total Market Revenues in the Waco-Temple-Bryan DMA in 2000 were approximately \$29.6 million. According to the BIA Guide, the average household income in the Waco-Temple-Bryan DMA in 1998 was \$37,557, with effective buying income projected to grow at an annual rate of 5.2% through 2003. Retail business sales growth in the Waco-Temple-Bryan DMA is projected by the BIA Guide to average 4.8% annually during the same period. The Waco-Temple-Bryan DMA has six licensed commercial television stations (excluding KBTX), five of which are affiliated with major networks. The Waco-Temple-Bryan DMA also has three public television stations.

*Market Description.* The Waco-Temple-Bryan DMA consists of 14 counties covering a large portion of central Texas and the Brazos Valley. The cities of Waco, Temple, Killeen, Bryan and College Station are the primary economic centers of the region. College Station, Texas is the home of Texas A&M University with approximately 45,000 students and Baylor University is located in Waco, Texas with approximately 13,000 students. The Waco-Temple-Bryan economy centers on education, medical services and U.S. military installations. Leading employers in the area include: Texas A&M University, Raytheon, Baylor University, St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center, Killeen ISD, Scott and White Hospital and the U.S. Army base at Fort Hood Texas.

*KOLN/KGIN, the CBS affiliates in Lincoln-Hastings-Kearney, Nebraska*

KOLN and KGIN, acquired by the Company in July 1998, began operations in 1953 and 1961, respectively. KOLN is a full power VHF television station located in Lincoln, Nebraska. KGIN is a full power VHF television station located in Grand Island, Nebraska and, under FCC rules, is operated primarily as a satellite station to KOLN in order to serve the western portion of the Lincoln-Hastings-Kearney DMA. Lincoln-Hastings-Kearney, Nebraska is the 101st largest DMA in the United States, with approximately 258,000 television households and a total population of approximately 660,000. Total Market Revenues in the Lincoln-Hastings-Kearney DMA in 2000 were approximately \$29.4 million. According to the BIA Guide, the average household income in the Lincoln-Hastings-Kearney DMA in

1998 was \$41,787, with effective buying income projected to grow at an annual rate of 4.6% through 2003. Retail business sales growth in the Lincoln-Hastings-Kearney DMA is projected by the BIA Guide to average 5.2% annually during the same period. The Lincoln-Hastings-Kearney DMA has five licensed commercial television stations, all of which are affiliated with major networks. The Lincoln-Hastings-Kearney DMA also has one public television station.

*Market Description.* The Lincoln-Hastings-Kearney DMA consists of 50 counties covering a large portion of the western two thirds of Nebraska and the northern tier of Kansas. The city of Lincoln is the primary economic center of the region, the capital of Nebraska and home to the University of Nebraska with approximately 23,000 students. The Lincoln-Hastings-Kearney economy centers around state government, education, medical services and agriculture. Leading employers in the area include: the State of Nebraska, the University of Nebraska, Gallup Inc., the Lincoln Public School System and several area hospitals.

*WITN, the NBC affiliate in Greenville-New Bern-Washington, North Carolina*

WITN, acquired by the Company in August 1997, began operations in 1955. Greenville-New Bern-Washington, North Carolina is the 106<sup>th</sup> largest DMA in the United States, with approximately 242,000 television households and a total population of approximately 687,000. Total Market Revenues in the Greenville-New Bern-Washington DMA in 2000 were approximately \$33.8 million. According to the BIA Guide, the average household income in the Greenville-New Bern-Washington DMA in 1998 was \$39,018, with effective buying income projected to grow at an annual rate of 5.6% through 2003. Retail business sales growth in the Greenville-New Bern-Washington DMA is projected by the BIA Guide to average 6.1% annually during the same period. The Greenville-New Bern-Washington DMA has six licensed commercial television stations, four of which are affiliated with major networks. The Greenville-New Bern-Washington DMA also has two public television stations.

*Market Description.* The Greenville-New Bern-Washington DMA consists of 15 counties in eastern North Carolina. Greenville, North Carolina (located 100 miles east of Raleigh) is the primary economic center of the region and home to East Carolina University with approximately 18,000 students. The Greenville-New Bern-Washington economy centers around education, manufacturing and agriculture. Leading employers in the area include: Pitt County Memorial Hospital, NADEP (Naval Rework Facility), East Carolina University, Catalytica Pharmaceuticals, Inc., PCS Phosphate, Rubber Maid Cleaning Products, Inc. and Weyerhaeuser Co.

*WCTV, the CBS affiliate in Tallahassee, Florida-Thomasville, Georgia*

WCTV, acquired by the Company in September 1996, began operations in 1955. Tallahassee, Florida-Thomasville, Georgia is the 110<sup>th</sup> largest DMA in the United States, with approximately 232,000 television households and a total population of approximately 645,000. Total Market Revenues in the Tallahassee-Thomasville DMA in 2000 were approximately \$26.2 million. According to the BIA Guide, the average household income in the Tallahassee, Florida-Thomasville, Georgia DMA in 1998 was \$37,489, with effective buying income projected to grow at an annual rate of 5.1% through 2003. Retail business sales growth in the Tallahassee, Florida-Thomasville, Georgia DMA is projected by the BIA Guide to average 5.0% annually during the same period. The Tallahassee-Thomasville DMA has five licensed commercial television stations, four of which are affiliated with major networks. The Tallahassee-Thomasville DMA also has one public television station.

*Market Description.* The Tallahassee-Thomasville DMA, consisting of 18 counties in the panhandle of Florida and southwest Georgia, includes Tallahassee, the capital of Florida, and Thomasville, Valdosta and Bainbridge, Georgia. The Tallahassee-Thomasville economy centers around state and local government as well as state and local universities which include Florida State University with

approximately 33,000 students, Florida A&M University with approximately 12,000 students, Tallahassee Community College, Thomas College and Valdosta State University. Florida State University and Florida A&M University each have their main campus located within the city of Tallahassee.

*WRDW, the CBS affiliate in Augusta, Georgia*

WRDW, acquired by the Company in January 1997, began operations in 1954. Augusta, Georgia is the 113<sup>th</sup> largest DMA in the United States, with approximately 230,000 television households and a total population of approximately 639,000. Total Market Revenues in the Augusta DMA in 2000 were approximately \$34.5 million. According to the BIA Guide, the average household income in the Augusta DMA in 1998 was \$35,341, with effective buying income projected to grow at an annual rate of 3.7% through 2003. Retail business sales growth in the Augusta DMA is projected by the BIA Guide to average 3.8% annually during the same period. The Augusta DMA has six licensed commercial television stations, four of which are affiliated with a major network. The Augusta DMA also has two public television stations.

*Market Description.* The Augusta DMA consists of 19 counties in eastern Georgia and western South Carolina, including the cities of Augusta, Georgia and North Augusta and Aiken, South Carolina. The Augusta, Georgia area is one of Georgia's major metropolitan/regional centers, with a particular emphasis on health services, manufacturing and the military. The federal government employs military and civilian personnel at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, a nuclear processing plant, and Fort Gordon, a U.S. Army military installation. Augusta has eight large hospitals, which collectively employ approximately 20,000 and reinforce Augusta's status as a regional healthcare center. Augusta is also home to the Masters Golf Tournament, which has been broadcast by CBS for 45 years.

*WEAU, the NBC affiliate in La Crosse-Eau Claire, Wisconsin*

WEAU, acquired by the Company in July 1998, began operations in 1953. La Crosse-Eau Claire, Wisconsin is the 126<sup>th</sup> largest DMA in the United States, with approximately 192,000 television households and a total population of approximately 516,000. Total Market Revenues in the La Crosse-Eau Claire, Wisconsin DMA in 2000 were approximately \$25.8 million. According to the BIA Guide, the average household income in the La Crosse-Eau Claire, Wisconsin DMA in 1998 was \$36,348, with effective buying income projected to grow at an annual rate of 3.8% through 2003. Retail business sales growth in the La Crosse-Eau Claire, Wisconsin DMA is projected by the BIA Guide to average 5.0% annually during the same period. The La Crosse-Eau Claire, Wisconsin DMA has five licensed commercial television stations, four of which are affiliated with major networks. The La Crosse-Eau Claire, Wisconsin DMA also has one public television station.

*Market Description.* The La Crosse-Eau Claire, Wisconsin DMA, consists of 11 counties in west central Wisconsin and two counties in eastern Minnesota. The La Crosse and Eau Claire, Wisconsin economy centers around skilled industry, medical services, agriculture, education and retail businesses. The University of Wisconsin maintains a 10,000 student campus in Eau Claire. Leading employers include Hutchinson Technologies, the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire and several area hospitals.

*WJHG, the NBC affiliate in Panama City, Florida*

WJHG, acquired by the Company in 1960, began operations in 1953. Panama City, Florida is the 158<sup>th</sup> largest DMA in the United States, with approximately 124,000 television households and a total population of approximately 334,000. Total Market Revenues in the Panama City DMA in 2000 were approximately \$12.7 million. According to the BIA Guide, the average household income in the Panama City DMA in 1998 was \$35,858, with effective buying income projected to grow at an annual rate of

5.9% through 2003. Retail business sales growth in the Panama City DMA is projected by the BIA Guide to average 6.1% annually during the same period. The Panama City DMA has four licensed commercial television stations, three of which are affiliated with major networks. In addition, a station in Dothan, Alabama, an adjacent DMA, provides a CBS signal. The Panama City DMA also has one public television station.

*Market Description.* The Panama City DMA consists of nine counties in northwest Florida. The Panama City market stretches north from Florida's Gulf Coast to Alabama's southern border. The Panama City economy centers around tourism, military bases, manufacturing, education and financial services. Panama City is the county seat and principal city of Bay County. Leading employers in the area include: Tyndall Air Force Base, the U.S. Navy Coastal Systems Station, Sallie Mae Servicing Corp., Stone Container Corporation, Arizona Chemical Corporation and Gulf Coast Community College.

#### *KXII, the CBS affiliate in Sherman, Texas – Ada, Oklahoma*

KXII, acquired by the Company in October 1999, began operations in 1956. Sherman, Texas-Ada, Oklahoma is the 161<sup>st</sup> largest DMA in the United States, with approximately 114,000 television households and a total population of approximately 299,000. Total Market Revenues in the Sherman, Texas-Ada, Oklahoma DMA in 2000 were approximately \$8.5 million. According to the BIA Guide, the average household income in the Sherman, Texas-Ada, Oklahoma DMA in 1998 was \$33,692, with effective buying income projected to grow at an annual rate of 5.2% through 2003. Retail business sales growth in the Sherman, Texas-Ada, Oklahoma DMA is projected by the BIA Guide to average 4.9% annually during the same period. The Sherman, Texas-Ada, Oklahoma DMA has two licensed commercial television stations, both of which are affiliated with major networks.

*Market Description.* The Sherman, Texas-Ada, Oklahoma DMA, consists of one county in north central Texas and 10 counties in south central Oklahoma. The Sherman, Texas-Ada, Oklahoma economy centers around medical services, manufacturing and distribution services. Leading employers include Michelin, MEMC Southwest, Globotech, Raytheon, CIGNA, Johnson & Johnson and Texas Instruments.

#### *Satellite Transmission and Production Services*

The Company's satellite transmission and production services business, Lynqx Communications, operates C-band and Ku-band transportable satellite uplink units and provides production management services. Clients include NBC, CBS, ABC and other broadcast and cable services. Currently Lynqx operates 15 mobile satellite uplink units, which is one of the largest fleets in service in the United States.

#### *Industry Background*

There are currently a limited number of channels available for broadcasting in any one geographic area, and the license to operate a television station is granted by the FCC. Television stations which broadcast over the very high frequency ("VHF") band (channels 2-13) of the spectrum generally have some competitive advantage over television stations which broadcast over the ultra-high frequency ("UHF") band (channels above 13) of the spectrum, because the former usually have better signal coverage and operate at a lower transmission cost. However, the improvement of UHF transmitters and receivers, the complete elimination from the marketplace of VHF-only receivers and the expansion of cable television systems have reduced the VHF signal advantage.

Television station revenues are primarily derived from local, regional and national advertising and, to a much lesser extent, from network compensation and revenues from studio and tower space rental and commercial production activities. Advertising rates are based upon a variety of factors, including a program's popularity among the viewers an advertiser wishes to attract, the number of advertisers

competing for the available time, the size and demographic makeup of the market served by the station and the availability of alternative advertising media in the market area. Rates are also determined by a station's overall ratings and in-market share, as well as the station's ratings and share among particular demographic groups, which an advertiser may be targeting. Because broadcast stations rely on advertising revenues, they are sensitive to cyclical changes in the economy. The size of advertisers' budgets, which are affected by broad economic trends, affect the broadcast industry in general and the revenues of individual broadcast television stations.

All television stations in the country are grouped by Nielsen, a national audience measuring service, into approximately 210 generally recognized television markets that are ranked in size according to various formulae based upon actual or potential audience. Each DMA is an exclusive geographic area consisting of all counties in which the home-market commercial stations receive the greatest percentage of total viewing hours. Nielsen periodically publishes data on estimated audiences for the television stations in the various television markets throughout the country.

Four major broadcast networks, ABC, NBC, CBS and FOX dominate broadcast television. Additionally, United Paramount Network ("UPN") and Warner Brothers Network ("WB") have been launched as additional television networks. An affiliate of FOX, UPN or WB receives a smaller portion of each day's programming from its network compared to an affiliate of ABC, NBC or CBS.

The affiliation of a station with ABC, NBC or CBS has a significant impact on the composition of the station's programming, revenues, expenses and operations. A typical affiliate of these networks receives the majority of each day's programming from the network. This programming, along with cash payments ("network compensation"), is provided to the affiliate by the network in exchange for a substantial majority of the advertising time available for sale during the airing of network programs. The network then sells this advertising time and retains the revenues. The affiliate retains the revenues from time sold during breaks in and between network programs and programs the affiliate produces or purchases from non-network sources. In acquiring programming to supplement programming supplied by the affiliated network, the affiliates compete primarily with other affiliates and independent stations in their markets. Cable systems generally do not compete with local stations for programming, although various national cable networks from time to time have acquired programs that would have otherwise been offered to local television stations. In addition, a television station may acquire programming through barter arrangements. Under barter arrangements, which are becoming increasingly popular with both network affiliates and independents, a national program distributor may receive advertising time in exchange for the programming it supplies, with the station paying a reduced or no fee for such programming. Most successful commercial television stations obtain their brand identity from locally produced news programs.

In contrast to a station affiliated with a network, a fully independent station purchases or produces all of the programming that it broadcasts, resulting in generally higher programming costs. An independent station, however, retains its entire inventory of advertising time and all the revenues obtained therefrom. As a result of the smaller amount of programming provided by its network, an affiliate of FOX, UPN or WB must purchase or produce a greater amount of programming, resulting in generally higher programming costs. These affiliate stations, however, retain a larger portion of the inventory of advertising time and the revenues obtained therefrom compared to stations affiliated with the major networks.

Cable-originated programming has emerged as a significant competitor for viewers of broadcast television programming, although no single cable, programming network regularly attains audience levels amounting to more than a small fraction of any single major broadcast network. The advertising share of cable networks has increased as a result of the growth in cable penetration (the percentage of television households which are connected to a cable system). Notwithstanding such increases in cable viewership

and advertising, over-the-air broadcasting remains the dominant distribution system for mass-market television advertising.

#### *Network Affiliation of the Stations*

Each of the Company's stations is affiliated with a major network pursuant to an affiliation agreement. Each affiliation agreement provides the affiliated station with the right to broadcast all programs transmitted by the network with which the station is affiliated. In return, the network has the right to sell a substantial majority of the advertising time during such broadcasts. In exchange for every hour that a station elects to broadcast network programming, the network pays the station a specific network compensation fee, which varies with the time of day. Typically, prime-time programming generates the highest hourly network compensation payments. Such payments are subject to increase or decrease by the network during the term of an affiliation agreement with provisions for advance notices and right of termination by the station in the event of a reduction in such payments. The NBC affiliation agreement for WJHG expires on January 1, 2002 and NBC has provided notice to the Company of its intent to renegotiate the agreement. The NBC affiliation agreements with WITN and WEAU expire on June 30, 2006 and December 31, 2005, respectively and the WEAU agreement renews automatically every five years unless either party notifies the other of its intention to terminate the agreement. The CBS affiliation agreements expire as follows: (i) WVLT, WKYT, WYMT and WCTV, on December 31, 2004, (ii) WRDW on March 31, 2005 and (iii) KWTX, KBTX, KOLN, KGIN and KXII on December 31, 2005. The CBS affiliation agreements for KWTX, KBTX and KXII were renegotiated during the fourth quarter of 2000 and the agreements were extended through December 31, 2005. For the year ended December 31, 2000, combined network compensation for KWTX, KBTX and KXII was \$2.9 million. As a result of these negotiations, network compensation for KWTX, KBTX and KXII will be phased out over the next few years. Although network affiliation agreements have historically been renewed by the Company and the respective networks, the Company can not guarantee that any agreements will be renewed in the future under their current terms.

#### **Newspaper Publishing**

At December 31, 2000, the Company owned and operated five publications comprising four daily newspapers and an advertising shopper, located in the Southeast and Midwest. The percentage of total Company revenues contributed by the newspaper publishing segment was approximately 24.2%, 26.3% and 22.8% for each of the years ended December 31, 2000, 1999 and 1998, respectively.

#### *The Albany Herald*

The Albany Herald Publishing Company, Inc. ("The Albany Herald"), located in Albany, Georgia, publishes *The Albany Herald*, which is a seven-day-a-week newspaper that serves southwest Georgia. The Albany Herald's circulation approximates 33,000 Sunday subscribers and 30,000 daily. The Albany Herald also produces a weekly advertising shopper and other niche publications.

#### *The Rockdale Citizen and the Gwinnett Daily Post*

*The Rockdale Citizen* and the *Gwinnett Daily Post* are newspapers that serve communities in the metro Atlanta area with complete local news, sports and lifestyles coverage together with national stories that directly impact their local communities.

*The Rockdale Citizen/Newton Citizen* is published seven days per week with a circulation of approximately 17,000 subscribers. In 2000, the Company began publication of *The Newton Citizen* for distribution into neighboring Newton County. The Rockdale Citizen is located in Conyers, Georgia, the county seat of Rockdale County, which is 19 miles east of downtown Atlanta. Rockdale County and

Newton County's combined population is estimated to be approximately 131,000. The Sunday edition of the papers commenced in February 2000.

The *Gwinnett Daily Post* is published Tuesday through Sunday and has a circulation of approximately 67,000 subscribers. The *Gwinnett Daily Post*, which was purchased by the Company in January 1995, is located north of Atlanta in Gwinnett County, one of the fastest growing areas in the nation with an estimated population of 699,000. According to Woods and Poole 2000 MSA Profile, Gwinnett County's population is projected to grow by 25% between 1999 and 2004. Since the purchase of the *Gwinnett Daily Post*, the frequency of publication has increased from three to six days per week.

#### *The Goshen News*

The Company acquired *The Goshen News* on March 1, 1999. It is an 18,000 circulation newspaper published Monday through Sunday and serves Goshen, Indiana and surrounding areas. *The Goshen News* also produces a weekly advertising shopper. Since the Company acquired *The Goshen News*, it has added a Sunday edition and converted the Saturday edition to morning delivery.

#### *Industry Background*

Newspaper publishing is the oldest segment of the media industry and, as a result of the focus on local news, newspapers in general, remain an important media for local advertising. Newspaper advertising revenues are cyclical and have generally been affected by changes in national and regional economic conditions. Financial instability in the retail industry, including bankruptcies of larger retailers and consolidations among large retail chains can result in reduced retail advertising expenditures. Classified advertising, which makes up approximately one-third of newspaper advertising expenditures, can be affected by an economic slowdown and its effect on employment, real estate transactions and automotive sales. However, growth in housing starts and automotive sales, although cyclical in nature, generally provide continued growth in newspaper advertising expenditures.

### **Pagers and Paging Services**

#### *The Paging Business*

The paging business, acquired by the Company in September 1996, is based in Tallahassee, Florida and operates in Columbus, Macon, Albany, Thomasville, and Valdosta, Georgia, in Dothan, Alabama, in Tallahassee, Gainesville, Orlando and Panama City, Florida and in certain contiguous areas. In 2000, the Company's paging operations had approximately 90,000 units in service compared to approximately 88,000 units in service in 1999. The percentage of total Company revenues contributed by the paging segment was approximately 5.3%, 6.3% and 6.6% for the years ended December 31, 2000, 1999 and 1998, respectively.

The Company's paging system operates by connecting a telephone call placed to a local telephone number with a local paging switch. The paging switch processes a caller's information and sends the information to a link transmitter which relays the processed information to paging transmitters, which in turn alert an individual pager by means of a coded radio signal. This process provides service to a "local coverage area." To enhance coverage further to its customer base, all of the Company's local coverage areas are interconnected or networked, providing for "wide area coverage" or "network coverage." A pager's coverage area is programmable and can be customized to include or exclude any particular paging switch and its respective geographic coverage area, thereby allowing the Company's paging customers a choice of coverage areas. In addition, the Company is able to network with other paging companies which share the Company's paging frequencies in other markets, by means of an industry standard network paging protocol, in order to increase the geographic coverage area in which the Company's

customers can receive paging service. During 1999, the Company introduced services which allow its paging customers to receive electronic mail on their pagers. In addition, the Company expanded its capability so that individuals may send text messages via the Internet to the Company's paging customers by accessing the paging businesses web page.

A subscriber to the Company's paging services either owns a pager, thereby paying solely for the use of the Company's paging services, or leases a pager, thereby paying a periodic charge for both the pager and the paging services. Of the Company's pagers currently in service, approximately 70% are customer owned and maintained ("COAM") with the remainder being leased. In recent years, prices for pagers have fallen considerably, and thus there has been a trend toward subscriber ownership of pagers, allowing the Company to maintain lower inventory and fixed asset levels. COAM customers historically stay on service longer, thus enhancing the stability of the subscriber base and earnings. The Company is focusing its marketing efforts on increasing its base of COAM users.

### *Industry Background*

Three tiers of carriers have emerged in the paging industry: (i) large nationwide providers serving multiple markets throughout the United States; (ii) regional carriers, like the Company's paging business, which operate in regional markets such as several contiguous states in one geographic region of the United States; and (iii) small, single market operators.

The paging industry has traditionally marketed its services through direct distribution by sales representatives. In recent years, additional channels of distribution have evolved, including: (i) carrier-operated retail stores; (ii) resellers, who purchase paging services on a wholesale basis from carriers and resell those services on a retail basis to their own customers; and (iii) sales agents who solicit customers and are compensated on a salary and commission basis.

### **Additional Information on Business Segments**

Reference is made to *Note J* of notes to consolidated financial statements of the Company for additional information regarding business segments.

### **Competition**

#### *Television Industry*

Competition in the television industry exists on several levels: competition for audience, competition for programming (including news) and competition for advertisers. Additional factors that are material to a television station's competitive position include signal coverage and assigned frequency.

*Audience.* Stations compete for audience based on program popularity, which has a direct effect on advertising rates. A substantial portion of the daily programming on each of the Company's stations is supplied by the network affiliate. During those periods, the stations are totally dependent upon the performance of the network programs to attract viewers. There can be no assurance that such programming will achieve or maintain satisfactory viewership levels in the future. Non-network time periods are programmed by the station with a combination of self-produced news, public affairs and other entertainment programming, including news and syndicated programs purchased for cash, cash and barter, or barter only.

In addition, the development of methods of television transmission of video programming other than over-the-air broadcasting, and in particular, cable television, has significantly altered competition for audience in the television industry. These other transmission methods can increase competition for a

broadcasting station by bringing into its market distant broadcasting signals not otherwise available to the station's audience and also by serving as a distribution system for non-broadcast programming. Historically, cable operators have not sought to compete with broadcast stations for a share of the local news audience. Recently, however, certain cable operators do compete for such audiences and the increased competition could have an adverse effect on the Company's advertising revenues.

Other sources of competition include home entertainment systems, "wireless cable" services, satellite master antenna television systems, low power television stations, television translator stations, direct broadcast satellite ("DBS") video distribution services and the internet.

*Programming.* Competition for programming involves negotiating with national program distributors or syndicators that sell first-run and rerun packages of programming. Each station competes against the broadcast station competitors in its market for exclusive access to off-network reruns (such as *Seinfeld*) and first-run product (such as *Entertainment Tonight*). Cable systems generally do not compete with local stations for programming, although various national cable networks from time to time have acquired programs that would have otherwise been offered to local television stations. Competition exists for exclusive news stories and features as well.

*Advertising.* Advertising rates are based upon the size of the market in which the station operates, a station's overall ratings, a program's popularity among the viewers that an advertiser wishes to attract, the number of advertisers competing for the available time, the demographic makeup of the market served by the station, the availability of alternative advertising media in the market area, aggressive and knowledgeable sales forces and the development of projects, features and programs that tie advertiser messages to programming. Advertising revenues comprise the primary source of revenues for the Company's stations. The Company's stations compete for such advertising revenues with other television stations and other media in their respective markets. The stations also compete for advertising revenue with other media, such as newspapers, radio stations, magazines, outdoor advertising, transit advertising, yellow page directories, direct mail and local cable systems. Competition for advertising dollars in the broadcasting industry occurs primarily within individual markets.

#### *Newspaper Industry*

The Company's newspapers compete for advertisers with a number of other media outlets, including magazines, radio, television and the internet, as well as other newspapers, which also compete for readers with the Company's publications. One of the Company's newspaper competitors is significantly larger than the Company and operates in two of its newspaper markets. The Company differentiates its publications from the other newspaper by focusing on local news and local sports coverage in order to compete with its larger competitor. The Company also seeks to establish its publications as the local newspaper by sponsoring special events of particular community interest.

#### *Paging Industry*

The paging industry is highly competitive. Companies in the industry compete on the basis of price, coverage area offered to subscribers, available services offered in addition to basic numeric or tone paging, transmission quality, system reliability and customer service. The Company competes by maintaining competitive pricing of its product and service offerings, by providing quality, reliable transmission networks and by furnishing subscribers a superior level of customer service.

The Company's primary competitors include those paging companies that provide wireless service in the same geographic areas in which the Company operates. The Company experiences competition from one or more competitors in all locations in which it operates. Some of the Company's competitors have greater financial and other resources than the Company.

The Company's paging services also compete with other wireless communications services such as cellular service. The typical customer uses paging as a low cost wireless communications alternative either on a stand-alone basis or in conjunction with cellular services. However, future technological developments in the wireless communications industry and enhancements of current technology could create new products and services, such as personal communications services and mobile satellite services, which are competitive with the paging services currently offered by the Company. Recent and proposed regulatory changes by the FCC are aimed at encouraging such technological developments and new services and promoting competition. There can be no assurance that the Company's paging business would not be adversely affected by such technological developments or regulatory changes.

## **Federal Regulation of the Company's Business**

### *Television Broadcasting*

*Existing Regulation.* Television broadcasting is subject to the jurisdiction of the FCC under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the "Communications Act") and the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Telecommunications Act"). The Communications Act prohibits the operation of television broadcasting stations except under a license issued by the FCC and empowers the FCC, among other things, to issue, revoke and modify broadcasting licenses, determine the locations of stations, regulate the equipment used by stations, adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of the Communications Act and the Telecommunications Act and impose penalties for violation of such regulations. The Communications Act prohibits the assignment of a license or the transfer of control of a licensee without prior approval of the FCC.

*License Grant and Renewal.* Television broadcasting licenses generally are granted or renewed for a period of eight years but may be renewed for a shorter period upon a finding by the FCC that the "public interest, convenience, and necessity" would be served thereby. The broadcast licenses for each station are effective through the following dates: WVLT - August 1, 2005; WKYT - August 1, 2005; WYMT - August 1, 2005; KOLN and KGIN - June 1, 2006; WITN - December 1, 2004; WRDW - April 1, 2005; WCTV - April 1, 2005; WEAU - December 1, 2005, WJHG - February 1, 2005, KBTX and KWTX - August 1, 2006, and KXII - August 1, 2006. The Telecommunications Act requires a broadcast license to be renewed if the FCC finds that: (i) the station has served the public interest, convenience and necessity; (ii) there have been no serious violations of either the Telecommunications Act or the FCC's rules and regulations by the licensee; and (iii) there have been no other violations, which taken together would constitute a pattern of abuse. At the time an application is made for renewal of a television license, parties in interest may file petitions to deny, and such parties, including members of the public, may comment upon the service the station has provided during the preceding license term and urge denial of the application. If the FCC finds that the licensee has failed to meet the above-mentioned requirements, it could deny the renewal application or grant a conditional approval, including renewal for a lesser term. The FCC will not consider competing applications contemporaneously with a renewal application. Only after denying a renewal application can the FCC accept and consider competing applications for the license. Although in substantially all cases broadcast licenses are renewed by the FCC even when petitions to deny or competing applications are filed against broadcast license renewal applications, there can be no assurance that the Company's stations' licenses will be renewed. The Company is not aware of any facts or circumstances that could prevent the renewal of the licenses for its stations at the end of their respective license terms.

*Multiple Ownership Restrictions.* Currently, the FCC has rules that limit the ability of individuals and entities to own or have an ownership interest above a certain level (an "attributable" interest, as defined more fully below) in broadcast stations, as well as other mass media entities. The current rules limit the number of radio and television stations that may be owned both on a national and a local basis.

On a national basis, the rules preclude any individual or entity from having an attributable interest in co-owned television stations whose aggregate audience reach exceeds 35% of all United States households. Owners of television stations that have an attributable interest in another TV station in the same Nielsen Designated Market Area (“DMA”), or that operate a satellite station in the same market, do not have to include those additional same-market outlets in calculating its 35% aggregate television audience reach cap. A station owner with an attributable interest in a station in a separate market (including time-brokered local marketing agreements (“LMAs”) and satellite stations) must count that additional audience as part of its national aggregate audience.

On a local basis, the FCC recently revised its local market television ownership rules, permitting station owners to realize the efficiencies of certain types of common ownership. The FCC currently allows the common ownership of two television stations without regard to broadcast signal contour overlap if the stations are in separate DMAs. The FCC continues to allow common ownership of two stations in the same DMA if their Grade B contours do not overlap. Entities are permitted to own two television stations with the same DMA if eight full-power independently owned television stations (commercial and noncommercial) will remain post-merger, and one of the co-owned stations is not among the top four-ranked stations in the market based on audience share. The common ownership of two television stations in the same market with an overlapping contour is permitted where the same-market licensee is the only reasonably available buyer and the station purchased is a “failed station” (either off the air for at least four months prior to the waiver application or involved in involuntary bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings) or a “failing” station (having a low audience share and financially struggling during the previous several years). A waiver of the FCC’s ownership restrictions is possible if the applicants for waiver can show that the combination will result in the construction of a previously unbuilt station.

The FCC also substantially modified its rules implementing TV-radio cross-ownership restrictions (the so-called “one-to-a-market” rule). Depending upon the particular circumstances an entity may own up to two television stations and six radio stations or one television station and seven radio stations in a market.

In addition, the Telecommunications Act prohibits common ownership arrangements among the four largest networks (NBC, CBS, ABC and FOX) or between them and UPN and WB. The Telecommunications Act also directs the FCC to revise its rules to permit cross-ownership interests between a broadcast network and cable system. The Telecommunications Act further authorizes the FCC to consider revising its rules to permit common ownership of co-located broadcast stations and cable systems.

Expansion of the Company’s broadcast operations in particular areas and nationwide will continue to be subject to the FCC’s ownership rules and any changes the FCC or Congress may adopt. Any relaxation of the FCC’s ownership rules may increase the level of competition in one or more of the markets in which the Company’s stations are located, particularly to the extent that the Company’s competitors may have greater resources and thereby be in a better position to capitalize on such changes.

Under the FCC’s ownership rules, a direct or indirect purchaser of certain types of securities of the Company could violate FCC regulations if that purchaser owned or acquired an “attributable” or “meaningful” interest in other media properties in the same areas as stations owned by the Company or in a manner otherwise prohibited by the FCC. All officers and directors of a licensee, as well as general partners, unincorporated limited partners and stockholders who own 5% or more of the voting power of the outstanding common stock of a licensee (either directly or indirectly), generally will be deemed to have an “attributable” interest in the licensee. Certain institutional investors, which exert no control or influence over a licensee, may own up to 20% of the voting power of the outstanding common stock before attribution occurs.

The FCC has recently revised its broadcast ownership attribution rules. The attribution rules define what constitutes a “cognizable interest” for purposes of applying the ownership rules. The FCC’s new attribution rule includes a new “equity/debt plus” attribution rule that functions in addition to the current attribution rules. Under the new rule, a holder of a financial interest, whether equity or debt or both of 33% of licensee’s total assets will have an attributable interest in that licensee if it is either a major program supplier to that licensee (supplying more than 15% of a station’s total weekly broadcast programming hours) or if it is a same media market entity (including broadcasters, cable operators and newspapers). All stock, including common and preferred, voting and nonvoting stock, will be counted toward the 33% threshold. Time brokerage of another television station in the same market (including LMAs), for more than 15% of the brokered station’s broadcast hours per week will result in the attribution of the time brokerage arrangement. Except for LMAs, any interest acquired on or after November 7, 1996, is subject to the FCC’s revised ownership and attribution rules. To the best of the Company’s knowledge, no officer, director or 5% stockholder of the Company currently holds an attributable interest in another television station, radio station, cable television system or daily newspaper that is inconsistent with the FCC’s ownership rules and policies or with ownership by the Company of its stations.

*Alien Ownership Restrictions.* The Communications Act restricts the ability of foreign entities or individuals to own or hold interests in broadcast licenses. Foreign governments, representatives of foreign governments, non-citizens, representatives of non-citizens, and corporations or partnerships organized under the laws of a foreign nation are barred from holding broadcast licenses. Non-citizens, collectively, may directly or indirectly own or vote up to 20% of the capital stock of a licensee. In addition, a broadcast license may not be granted to or held by any corporation that is controlled, directly or indirectly, by any other corporation more than one-fourth of whose capital stock is owned or voted by non-citizens or their representatives or by foreign governments or their representatives, or by non-U.S. corporations if the FCC finds that the public interest will be served by the refusal or revocation of such license. The Company has been advised that the FCC staff has interpreted this provision of the Communications Act to require an affirmative public interest finding before a broadcast license may be granted to or held by any such corporation and the FCC has made such an affirmative finding only in limited circumstances. The Company, which serves as a holding company for wholly-owned subsidiaries that are licensees for its stations, therefore may be restricted from having more than one-fourth of its stock owned or voted directly or indirectly by non-citizens, foreign governments, representatives of non-citizens or foreign governments, or foreign corporations.

*Recent Developments.* Congress has recently enacted legislation and the FCC currently has under consideration or is implementing new regulations and policies regarding a wide variety of matters that could affect, directly or indirectly, the operation and ownership of the Company’s broadcast properties. In addition to the proposed changes noted above, such matters include, for example, the license renewal process (particularly the weight to be given to the expectancy of renewal for an incumbent broadcast licensee and the criteria to be applied in deciding contested renewal applications), spectrum use fees, political advertising rates, potential advertising restrictions on the advertising of certain products (such as hard liquor), the rules and policies to be applied in enforcing the FCC’s equal employment opportunity regulations, cable carriage of digital television signals, viewing of distant network signals by direct broadcast satellite services, and the standards to govern evaluation of television programming directed toward children and violent and indecent programming (including the possible requirement of what is commonly referred to as the “v-chip,” which permits parents to program television sets so that certain programming would not be accessible by children). Other matters that could affect the Company’s broadcast properties include technological innovations and developments generally affecting competition in the mass communications industry, such as the recent initiation of direct broadcast satellite service, and the continued establishment of wireless cable systems and low power television stations.

In response to a recent decision of the U. S. Court of Appeals, the FCC has suspended its requirement that licensees widely disseminate information about job openings to all segments of the community to ensure that all qualified applicants, including minorities and women, have sufficient opportunities to compete for jobs in the broadcast industry. It is unknown whether the FCC will reverse these rules at a future date.

*Distribution of Video Services by Telephone Companies.* Recent actions by the FCC, Congress and the courts all presage significant future involvement in the provision of video services by telephone companies. The Company cannot predict either the timing or the extent of such involvement or its effect on the Company.

*The 1992 Cable Act.* On October 5, 1992, Congress enacted the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992 (the "1992 Cable Act"). The FCC implemented the requirements of the 1992 Cable Act. Certain statutory provisions, such as signal carriage, retransmission consent and equal employment opportunity requirements, have a direct effect on television broadcasting. Other provisions are focused exclusively on the regulation of cable television but can still be expected to have an indirect effect on the Company because of the competition between over-the-air television stations and cable systems.

The signal carriage, or "must carry," provisions of the 1992 Cable Act require cable operators to carry the signals of local commercial and non-commercial television stations and certain low power television stations. Systems with 12 or fewer usable activated channels and more than 300 subscribers must carry the signals of at least three local commercial television stations. A cable system with more than 12 usable activated channels, regardless of the number of subscribers, must carry the signals of all local commercial television stations, up to one-third of the aggregate number of usable activated channels of such system. The 1992 Cable Act also includes a retransmission consent provision that prohibits cable operators and other multi-channel video programming distributors from carrying broadcast stations without obtaining their consent in certain circumstances. The "must carry" and retransmission consent provisions are related in that a local television broadcaster, on a cable system-by-cable-system basis, must make a choice once every three years whether to proceed under the "must carry" rules or to waive that right to mandatory but uncompensated carriage and negotiate a grant of retransmission consent to permit the cable system to carry the station's signal, in most cases in exchange for some form of consideration from the cable operator. Cable systems must obtain retransmission consent to carry all distant commercial stations other than certain "super stations" delivered via satellite. Under rules adopted to implement these "must carry" and retransmission consent provisions, local television stations are required to make an election of "must carry" or retransmission consent at three year intervals. Stations that fail to elect are deemed to have elected carriage under the "must carry" provisions. Other issues addressed in the FCC rules are market designations, the scope of retransmission consent and procedural requirements for implementing the signal carriage provisions. Each of the Company's stations has elected "must carry" status on certain cable systems in its DMA. On other cable systems the Company's stations have entered into retransmission consent agreements. This election entitles the Company's stations to carriage on those systems until at least December 31, 2002.

*Digital Television Service.* In December 1996, the FCC formally approved technical standards for digital advanced television ("DTV"). DTV is a flexible system that will permit broadcasters to utilize a single digital channel in various ways, including providing one channel of high-definition television programming with greatly enhanced image and sound quality or several channels of lower-definition television programming ("multicasting"), and is capable of accommodating subscription video and data services. Broadcasters may offer a combination of services, so long as they transmit at least one stream of free video programming on the DTV channel. The FCC has assigned to each existing full power television station (including each station owned by the Company) a second channel to implement DTV while present television operations are continued on that station's existing analog channel. Although in

some cases a station's DTV channel may only permit operation over a smaller geographic service area than that available using its existing channel, the FCC's stated goal in assigning channels was to provide stations with DTV service areas that will replicate their existing service areas. Recently, the FCC required all stations broadcasting digital signals to replicate their analog service areas by December 31, 2004, or lose interference protection in the areas not replicated. The FCC's DTV rules also permit stations to request new channel assignments and other modifications to their assigned DTV facilities, allowing them to expand their DTV service areas if certain interference criteria are met. Under FCC rules and the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, station owners may be required to surrender one channel in 2006 and thereafter provide service solely in the DTV format. Generally, under current FCC rules each of the Company's stations must construct DTV facilities and commence operations by May 2002. The Company completed its DTV implementation at WRDW, its Augusta, Georgia station, in early 2000. As of February 21, 2001, the Company has commenced such DTV construction at KWTX and WEAU, its Waco, Texas and Eau Claire, Wisconsin stations, respectively. The Company currently intends to complete the necessary DTV construction at all of its stations by the FCC deadline.

In November 1998, the FCC issued a decision to implement the requirement of the Telecommunications Act that it charge broadcasters a fee for offering subscription services on the DTV channel. The FCC decision was to impose a fee of 5% of the gross revenues generated by such services. The FCC also is considering whether and how to extend cable systems' obligations for mandatory carriage of broadcast stations' DTV channels. Finally, the FCC is considering additional public interest obligations on broadcasters' digital operations. The FCC has asked for comment on four general categories of issues: (1) the application of television stations' public interest obligations to the new flexibility and capabilities of digital television, such as multiple channel transmission; (2) how television stations could best serve their communities in terms of providing their viewers information on their public interest activities, and using digital technology to provide emergency information in new ways; (3) how DTV broadcasters could increase access to television programming by people with disabilities, and further the longstanding legislative and regulatory goals of diversity; and (4) whether broadcasters could enhance the quality of political discourse through uses of the airwaves for political issues and debate.

*Direct Broadcasting Satellite Systems.* The FCC has authorized DBS, a service which provides video programming via satellite directly to home subscribers. Congress has enacted the Satellite Home Viewer Improvement Act ("SHVIA") that gives satellite companies the option of providing local broadcast stations to subscribers living in the station's local market area. This is referred to as "local-into-local." SHVIA makes the provision of local channels a choice, not a requirement, for the satellite company. "Local-into-local" means that if a satellite customer lives in an area where the satellite company has decided to provide the service, the customer can receive local television station broadcasts. If the satellite company decides that it will not provide local broadcast stations in an area, the consumer may still receive local broadcast stations by using an antenna or basic cable service. SHVIA defines the "local market" as the DMA. The Company cannot predict the impact of this new service upon the Company's business.

#### *Paging and SMR*

*Federal Regulation.* The Company's paging and special mobile radio ("SMR") operations, acquired by the Company in September 1996, are subject to regulation by the FCC under the Communications Act. The FCC has granted the Company licenses to use the radio frequencies necessary to conduct its paging and SMR operations.

*License Grant and Renewal.* The FCC paging and SMR licenses granted to the Company are for varying terms of up to 10 years, at the end of which renewal applications must be approved by the FCC. The Company holds various FCC radio licenses which are used in connection with its paging and SMR operations. The SMR license expiration dates for these licenses are staggered with only a portion of the licenses expiring in any particular calendar year. Paging licenses will expire during calendar year 2009.

Licenses in the paging and SMR services normally enjoy a license renewal expectancy and the vast majority of license renewal applications are granted in the normal course. Although the Company is unaware of any circumstances which could prevent the grant of renewal applications, no assurance can be given that any of the Company's licenses will be free of competing applications or will be renewed by the FCC. Furthermore, the FCC has the authority to restrict the operations of licensed facilities or to revoke or modify licenses. None of the Company's licenses have ever been revoked or modified involuntarily, and such proceedings by the FCC are rarely undertaken.

Pursuant to Congressional mandate, the FCC has adopted rules regarding the award of license authorizations by competitive bidding. Pursuant to those rules, the FCC may award licenses for new or existing services by auction, as done with the 800 MHz and 900 MHz SMR bands. The FCC began awarding geographic area and paging licenses by auction in February 2000. There can be no assurance that the Company will be able to procure additional spectrum, or expand its existing paging and SMR networks into new service areas.

The winner of the geographic area license has the right to use a certain frequency or block of frequencies throughout the licensed service area, may construct and operate its transmitters in its authorized service area without prior FCC approval, provided that the construction of the transmitter would not constitute a major environmental action under the FCC rules. The market area licensee is required, however, to protect incumbent licensees from the potential for harmful co-channel interference. The FCC has completed auctions to license various radio services on a market area basis including the 800 MHz trunked SMR auction, which concluded in December 1997. In these auctions, successful bidders have made significant auction payments in order to obtain spectrum. The Company was a successful bidder for a portion of the spectrum licenses for the Tallahassee, Florida; Albany and Columbus, Georgia and Auburn, Alabama Economic Area Markets. The Company received FCC grants of these market area licenses and subsequently sold such interests to Nextel South Corporation ("Nextel"). The Company also entered into an option agreement with Nextel for the purchase and sale of all of its other 800 MHz geographic licenses covering certain markets in south Georgia and north Florida. If Nextel exercises its option, prior FCC consent to the proposed transaction is required before the Company may consummate the sale to Nextel. In such instance, the Company anticipates that it will obtain the FCC's consent to the transaction in the normal course, although it is possible a competitor could file a protest against the transaction. In the event a protest is filed, any grant of the FCC's consent would be delayed, or could possibly be withheld.

## **Employees**

As of March 1, 2001, the Company had 1,284 full-time employees, of which 863 were employees of the Company's television stations, 349 were employees of the Company's publications, 57 were employees of the Company's paging operations and 15 were corporate and administrative personnel. None of the Company's employees are represented by unions. The Company believes that its relations with its employees are satisfactory.

## Item 2. Properties

The Company's principal executive offices are located at 4370 Peachtree Road, NE, Atlanta, Georgia, 30319.

The types of properties required to support television stations include offices, studios, transmitter sites and antenna sites. A station's studios are generally housed with its offices in business districts. The transmitter sites and antenna are generally located in elevated areas to provide optimal signal strength and coverage. The types of properties required to support newspaper publishing include offices, facilities for printing presses and production and storage. Paging properties include leased retail, office and tower space.

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the Company's significant properties.

### *Television Broadcasting*

Station/ Property Location	Use	Owned or Leased	Approximate Size	Expiration of Lease
WVLT Knoxville, TN	Office and studio	Owned	18,000 sq. ft. building	—
	Transmission tower site	Leased	Tower space	Month to Month
WKYT Lexington, KY	Office, studio and transmission tower site	Owned	34,500 sq. ft. building on 20 acres	—
WYMT Hazard, KY	Office and studio	Owned	21,200 sq. ft. building on 2 acres	—
	Transmission tower site	Leased	—	June 2005
	Transmitter building and improvements	Owned	1,248 sq. ft. building	—
KWTX Waco, TX	Office and studio	Owned	34,000 sq. ft. building on 4 acres	—
	Transmission tower site	Owned	27.9 acres	—
KBTX Bryan, TX	Office and studio	Owned	7,000 sq. ft. building on 23.4 acres	—
	Transmission tower site	Owned Leased	1,300 sq. ft. building on 560 acres	March 2023

Station/ Property Location	Use	Owned or Leased	Approximate Size	Expiration of Lease
Calvert, TX	Transmission tower site	Owned	80 sq. ft. building and 96 sq. ft. building on 3.1 acres	—
Falls County, TX	Transmission tower site	Owned	128 sq. ft. building on 2 acres	—
KOLN				
Beaver Crossing, NE	Transmission tower site	Owned	120 acres	—
Lincoln, NE	Office and studio	Owned	28,044 sq. ft. building on 5 acres	—
Bradshaw, NE	Transmission tower site	Owned	8 acres	—
KGIN				
Heartwell, NE	Transmission tower site	Owned	71 acres	—
Grand Island, NE	Office and studio	Leased	5,153 sq. ft.	Dec. 2003
WITN				
Washington, NC	Office and studio	Owned	19,600 sq. ft. building	—
Grifton, NC	Transmitter building	Owned	4,190 sq. ft. building	—
Grifton, NC	Transmission tower site	Leased	9 acres	Jan. 2029
WCTV				
Tallahassee, FL	Office and studio	Owned	20,000 sq. ft. building on	—
		Leased	37 acres	Dec. 2014
Metcalf, GA	Transmission tower site	Owned	182 acres	—
WRDW				
North Augusta, SC	Office and studio	Owned	17,000 sq. ft. building	—
	Transmission tower site	Owned	143 acres	—
WEAU				
Eau Claire, WI	Office and studio	Owned	16,116 sq. ft. of buildings on 2 acres	—
Township of Fairchild, WI	Transmitter building & Transmission tower site	Owned with easement	2,304 sq. ft. building on 6 acres	—

Station/ Property Location	Use	Owned or Leased	Approximate Size	Expiration of Lease
<b>WJHG</b>				
Panama City, FL	Office and studio	Owned	14,000 sq. ft. building on 4 acres	—
Youngstown, FL	Transmission tower site	Owned	17 acres	—
<b>KXII</b>				
Sherman, TX	Office and studio	Owned	12,813 sq. ft. building on 3 acres	—
Madill, OK	Transmission tower site	Owned	1,200 sq. ft. building on 97 acres	—
Ardmore, OK	Studio and offices	Owned	3,000 sq. ft. building on 1.5 acres	—
Paris, TX	Translator tower site	Owned	65 sq. ft. building on 4.1 acres	—
<b>Lynqx Communications</b>				
Baton Rouge, LA	Office and repair site	Leased	3,400 sq. ft.	Jan. 2003
Tallahassee, FL	Office	Owned	1,000 sq. ft.	—

***Publishing***

Newspaper/ Property Location	Use	Owned or Leased	Approximate Size	Expiration of Lease
The Albany Herald Publishing Company, Inc., Albany, GA	Offices and production facility for <i>The Albany Herald</i>	Owned	83,000 sq. ft. building	—
Post Citizen Media, Inc. Conyers, GA	Offices for <i>The Rockdale Citizen/The Newton Citizen</i>	Owned	20,000 sq. ft. building	—

Newspaper/ Property Location	Use	Owned or Leased	Approximate Size	Expiration of Lease
Post Citizen Media, Inc. (Continued)				
Conyers, GA	Offices and production facility for <i>The Rockdale Citizen/The Newton Citizen</i> and the <i>Gwinnett Daily Post</i>	Leased	20,000 sq. ft. building	May 2002
Lawrenceville, GA	Offices for the <i>Gwinnett Daily Post</i>	Leased	11,000 sq. ft. building	Month to Month
Goshen, IN	Offices and production facility for <i>The Goshen News</i>	Owned	21,000 sq. ft. building on 0.6 acres	—

**Paging**

Property Location	Use	Owned or Leased	Approximate Size	Expiration of Lease
Albany, GA	Sales Office	Leased	1,500 sq. ft.	Apr. 2001
Columbus, GA	Sales Office	Leased	2,200 sq. ft.	Dec. 2002
Lumpkin Road	Sales Office	Leased	2,800 sq. ft.	May 2002
Dothan, AL	Sales Office	Leased	800 sq. ft.	Feb. 2002
Macon, GA	Sales Office	Leased	1,260 sq. ft.	Nov. 2001
Tallahassee, FL	Sales Office	Leased	1,800 sq. ft.	Aug. 2002
Tallahassee, FL	Gen. and Admin. Office	Leased	2,400 sq. ft.	Mar. 2002
Thomasville, GA	Sales Office	Leased	300 sq. ft.	June 2002
Valdosta, GA	Sales Office	Leased	800 sq. ft.	Month to Month
Panama City, FL	Sales Office	Leased	1,050 sq. ft.	Month to Month
Gainesville, FL	Sales Office	Leased	1,100 sq. ft.	Month to Month
Orlando, FL	Sales Office	Leased	2,000 sq. ft.	Apr. 2001

The paging operations also lease space on various towers in Florida, Georgia and Alabama. These tower lease terms range from month-to-month to expiration dates through 2005.

### **Item 3. Legal Proceedings**

The Company is not a party to any legal proceedings in which an adverse outcome would have a material adverse effect, either individually or in the aggregate, upon the Company.

### **Item 4. Submission of Matters to a vote of Security Holders**

No matters were submitted to a vote of security holders of the Company during the fourth quarter of the fiscal year covered.

### **Executive Officers of the Registrant**

Set forth below is certain information with respect to the executive officers of the Company as of February 28, 2001:

**J. Mack Robinson**, age 77, has been the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer since 1996. Mr. Robinson has served as Chairman of the Board of Bull Run Corporation, a principal stockholder of the Company, since 1994, Chairman of the Board and President of Delta Life Insurance Company and Delta Fire and Casualty Insurance Company since 1958, President of Atlantic American Corporation, an insurance holding company, from 1988 until 1995 and Chairman of the Board of Atlantic American Corporation since 1974. He serves as a director of the following companies: Bankers Fidelity Life Insurance Company, American Independent Life Insurance Company, Georgia Casualty & Surety Company, American Southern Insurance Company and American Safety Insurance Company. He is director *emeritus* of Wachovia Corporation. He is the Chairman of the Executive Committee and a member of the Management Personnel Committee of the Company's Board of Directors. Mr. Robinson is the husband of Harriett J. Robinson and the father-in-law of Hilton H. Howell, Jr.

**Robert S. Prather, Jr.**, age 56, has been Executive Vice President-Acquisitions of the Company since 1996. He has served as President and Chief Executive Officer and a director of Bull Run Corporation, a principal stockholder of the Company, since 1992. He serves as a director of Rawlings Sporting Goods Company, Inc. and The Morgan Group, Inc. He is a member of the Executive Committee and Management Personnel Committee of the Company's Board of Directors.

**Hilton H. Howell, Jr.**, age 39, has been the Company's Executive Vice President since September 2000. He has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Atlantic American Corporation, an insurance holding company, since 1995 and Executive Vice President from 1992 to 1995. He has been Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Delta Life Insurance Company and Delta Fire and Casualty Insurance Company since 1991, and Vice Chairman of Bankers Fidelity Life Insurance Company and Georgia Casualty & Surety Company since 1992. He has been a director, Vice President and Secretary of Bull Run Corporation, a principal stockholder of the Company, since 1994. Mr. Howell also serves as a director of the following companies: Atlantic American Corporation, Bankers Fidelity Life Insurance Company, Delta Life Insurance Company, Delta Fire and Casualty Insurance Company, Georgia Casualty & Surety Company, American Southern Insurance Company, American Safety Insurance Company, Association Casualty Insurance Company and Association Risk Management General Agency. He is the son-in-law of J. Mack Robinson and Harriett J. Robinson.

**Robert A. Beizer**, age 61, has served as Vice President for Law and Development and Secretary of the Company since 1996. From June 1994 to February 1996 he was of counsel to Venable, Baetjer, Howard & Civiletti, a law firm, in its regulatory and legislative practice group. From 1990 to 1994, Mr. Beizer was a partner in the law firm of Sidley & Austin and was head of their communications practice group in Washington, D.C. He is a past president of the Federal Communications Bar Association and has served as a member of the ABA House of Delegates.

**James C. Ryan**, age 40, has served as the Company's Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since October 1998. He was the Chief Financial Officer of Busse Broadcasting Corporation from 1987 until its acquisition by the Company in 1998.

**Thomas J. Stultz**, age 49, has served as Vice President of the Company and President of the Company's Publishing Division since 1996. Prior to joining the Company, he served as Vice President of Multimedia Newspaper Company, a division of Multimedia, Inc. from 1988 to 1995, having responsibility for developing and coordinating Multimedia's newspaper marketing initiatives and directly supervising several Multimedia daily and non-daily publications.

**Ray M. Deaver**, age 60, has served as the Company's Regional Vice President-Texas since October 1999. He was the President and General Manager of KWTX Broadcasting Company and President of Brazos Broadcasting Company from November 1997 until their acquisition by the Company in October 1999. Since prior to 1995, he was Vice President of KWTX Broadcasting Company and Brazos Broadcasting Company. He has approximately 39 years of experience in the broadcast industry. Mr. Deaver is currently the Chairman of the CBS Television Network Affiliates Advisory Board.

**Frank J. Jonas**, age 54, has served as the Company's Regional Vice President-Midwest since June 2000. He was the President and General Manager of KOLN/KGIN-TV, Lincoln and Grand Island, Nebraska, since 1985. The Company acquired KOLN/KGIN-TV in 1998. Mr. Jonas has approximately 28 years of experience in the broadcast industry.

**Wayne M. Martin**, age 54, has served as the Company's Regional Vice President-Television since 1998. In 1998, he was also appointed President of WVLT-TV, the Company's subsidiary in Knoxville, Tennessee. Since 1993, Mr. Martin has served as President of Gray Kentucky Television, Inc., a subsidiary of the Company, which operates WKYT-TV, in Lexington, Kentucky and WYMT-TV, in Hazard, Kentucky. Mr. Martin has approximately 15 years of experience in the broadcast industry.

## PART II

### Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity and Related Stockholder Matters

Since June 30, 1995, the Company's Class A Common Stock, no par value, (the "Class A Common Stock") has been listed and traded on The New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") under the symbol "GCS." Since September 24, 1996, the date of its initial issuance, the Company's Class B Common Stock, no par value, (the "Class B Common Stock") has also been listed and traded on the NYSE under the symbol "GCS.B." The following table sets forth the high and low sale prices of the Class A Common Stock and Class B Common Stock as well as the cash dividend declared for the periods indicated. The high and low sales prices of the Class A Common Stock and the Class B Common Stock are as reported by the NYSE.

	Class A Common Stock			Class B Common Stock		
	High	Low	Cash Dividends Declared Per Share	High	Low	Cash Dividends Declared Per Share
<b>2000</b>						
First Quarter	\$18.13	\$11.75	\$0.02	\$13.69	\$10.75	\$0.02
Second Quarter	12.38	9.75	0.02	11.75	9.50	0.02
Third Quarter	11.50	9.94	0.02	11.13	9.50	0.02
Fourth Quarter	16.25	11.00	0.02	15.50	10.38	0.02
<b>1999</b>						
First Quarter	\$19.38	\$16.63	\$0.02	\$14.81	\$13.13	\$0.02
Second Quarter	20.00	15.13	0.02	14.13	12.25	0.02
Third Quarter	20.13	16.69	0.02	15.38	13.25	0.02
Fourth Quarter	18.75	16.94	0.02	14.75	11.63	0.02

As of March 1, 2001, the Company had 6,848,467 outstanding shares of Class A Common Stock held by approximately 673 stockholders and 8,746,741 outstanding shares of Class B Common Stock held by approximately 754 stockholders. The number of stockholders includes stockholders of record and individual participants in security position listings as furnished to the Company pursuant to Rule 17Ad-8 under the Exchange Act.

The Company has paid a dividend on its Class A Common Stock since 1967 and its Class B Common Stock since its initial offering in 1996. In 1996, the Company amended its Articles of Incorporation to provide that each share of Class A Common Stock is entitled to 10 votes and each share of Class B Common Stock is entitled to one vote. The Articles of Incorporation, as amended, require that the Class A Common Stock and the Class B Common Stock receive dividends on a *pari passu* basis. There can be no assurance of the Company's ability to continue to pay any dividends on either class of Common Stock.

The Senior Credit Facility and the Company's Senior Subordinated Notes due 2006 (the "Notes") each contain covenants that restrict the ability of the Company to pay dividends on its capital stock. However, the Company does not believe that such covenants currently limit its ability to pay dividends at the recent quarterly rate of \$0.02 per share. In addition to the foregoing, the declaration and payment of dividends on the Class A Common Stock and the Class B Common Stock are subject to the discretion of the Board of Directors. Any future payments of dividends will depend on the earnings and financial position of the Company and such other factors as the Board of Directors deems relevant.

## Item 6. Selected Financial Data

Set forth below is certain selected historical consolidated financial data of the Company. This information should be read in conjunction with the Company's audited consolidated financial statements and related notes thereto appearing elsewhere herein and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations."

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2000	1999(1)	1998(2)	1997 (3)	1996 (4)
(in thousands except per share data)					
<b>Statements of Operations Data</b>					
Revenues	\$171,213	\$143,953	\$128,890	\$103,548	\$ 79,305
Operating income (5)	31,098	22,060	24,927	20,730	16,079
Net income (loss)					
before extraordinary charge	(6,212)	(6,315)	41,659	(1,402)	5,678
Net income (loss) before extraordinary charge available to common stockholders	(7,224)	(7,325)	40,342	(2,812)	5,302
Net income (loss) before extraordinary charge available to common stockholders per common share (6):					
Basic	(0.47)	(0.57)	3.38	(0.24)	0.65
Diluted	(0.47)	(0.57)	3.25	(0.24)	0.62
Cash dividends per common share (6)	\$ 0.08	\$ 0.08	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.05

### Balance Sheet Data (at end of period):

Total assets	\$ 636,772	\$ 658,157	\$468,974	\$345,051	\$298,664
Long-term debt (including current portion)	374,887	381,702	270,655	227,076	173,368
Total stockholders' equity	\$ 155,961	\$ 168,188	\$126,703	\$ 92,295	\$ 95,226

- (1) Reflects the operating results of the Texas Acquisitions, completed October 1, 1999 and the Goshen Acquisition, completed on March 1, 1999, as of their respective acquisition dates. See *Note B* to the Company's audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere herein.
- (2) Reflects the operating results of the Busse-WALB Transactions as of July 31, 1998, the closing date of the respective transactions. See *Note B* to the Company's audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere herein.
- (3) Reflects the operating results of the WITN Acquisition and the GulfLink Acquisition, as of their respective acquisition dates, August 1, 1997 and April 24, 1997, respectively.
- (4) In 1996, the Company completed the First American Acquisition, the Augusta Acquisition and the KTVE Sale. Reflects the operating results of the properties acquired, as well as the sale of KTVE as of their respective acquisition, or disposition dates. The Company also incurred an extraordinary charge of \$3,158,960 in connection with an early extinguishment of debt.
- (5) Operating income excludes gain on disposition of television stations of \$72.6 million recognized for the exchange of WALB in 1998 and \$5.7 million recognized for the sale of KTVE-TV in 1996. Operating income also excludes charges relating to valuation adjustments of goodwill and other assets of \$2.1 million for the year ended December 31, 1998.

- (6) On August 20, 1998, the Company's Board of Directors declared a 50% stock dividend, payable on September 30, 1998, to stockholders of record of the Class A Common Stock and Class B Common Stock on September 16, 1998. This stock dividend effected a three for two stock split. All applicable share and per share data have been adjusted to give effect to the stock split.

## **Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**

### **Results of Operations of the Company**

#### *Introduction*

The following analysis of the financial condition and results of operations of Gray Communications Systems, Inc. (the “Company”) should be read in conjunction with the Company’s audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included elsewhere herein.

As discussed below, the Company has acquired several television stations and a newspaper since January 1, 1998. The Company’s acquisitions have been accounted for under the purchase method of accounting. Under the purchase method of accounting, the results of operations of the acquired businesses are included in the accompanying consolidated financial statements as of their respective acquisition dates. The assets and liabilities of acquired businesses are included based on an allocation of the purchase price.

#### *1999 Acquisitions*

On October 1, 1999, the Company completed its acquisition of all the outstanding capital stock of KWTX Broadcasting Company and Brazos Broadcasting Company, as well as the assets of KXII Broadcasters Ltd. The Company acquired the capital stock of KWTX Broadcasting Company and Brazos Broadcasting Company in merger transactions with the shareholders of KWTX Broadcasting Company and Brazos Broadcasting Company receiving a combination of cash and the Company’s Class B Common Stock for their shares. The Company acquired the assets of KXII Broadcasters Ltd. in an all cash transaction. These transactions are referred to herein as the “Texas Acquisitions.”

Aggregate consideration (net of cash acquired) paid in the Company’s Class B Common Stock and cash was approximately \$146.4 million which included a base purchase price of \$139.0 million, transaction expenses of \$2.8 million and certain net working capital adjustments (excluding cash) of \$4.6 million. In addition to the amount paid, the Company assumed approximately \$600,000 in liabilities in connection with the asset purchase of KXII Broadcasters Ltd. The Company funded the acquisitions by issuing 3,435,774 shares of the Company’s Class B Common Stock (valued at \$49.5 million) to the sellers, borrowing an additional \$94.4 million under its \$300.0 million senior bank loan agreement (the “Senior Credit Facility”) and using cash on hand of approximately \$2.5 million.

With the Texas Acquisition the Company added the following television stations to its broadcast segment: KWTX-TV the CBS affiliate located in Waco, Texas; KBTX-TV the CBS affiliate located in Bryan, Texas, each serving the Waco-Temple-Bryan, Texas television market and KXII-TV the CBS affiliate serving Sherman, Texas and Ada, Oklahoma. Under Federal Communications Commission (the “FCC”) regulations, KBTX-TV is operated as a satellite station of KWTX-TV. The stations are collectively referred to herein as the “Texas Stations.”

On March 1, 1999, the Company acquired substantially all of the assets of *The Goshen News* from News Printing Company, Inc. and affiliates thereof, for aggregate cash consideration of approximately \$16.7 million including a non-compete agreement (the “Goshen Acquisition”). Based on the allocation of the purchase price, the excess of the purchase price over the fair value of the net tangible assets was approximately \$14.1 million. *The Goshen News* is currently an 18,000-circulation newspaper published Monday through Sunday and serves Goshen, Indiana and surrounding areas. The Company financed the acquisition through borrowings under its Senior Credit Facility.

On July 31, 1998, the Company completed the purchase of all of the outstanding capital stock of Busse Broadcasting Corporation (“Busse”). The purchase price was approximately \$126.6 million, less the accreted value of Busse’s 11 5/8 % Senior Secured Notes due 2000 (the “Busse Senior Notes”). The purchase price of the capital stock consisted of the contractual purchase price of \$112.0 million, associated transaction costs of \$3.9 million, acquisition costs associated with the Busse Senior Notes of \$5.1 million and Busse’s cash and cash equivalents of \$5.6 million. Immediately following the acquisition of Busse, the Company exercised its right to satisfy and discharge the Busse Senior Notes, effectively prefunding the Busse Senior Notes at the October 15, 1998 call price of 106 plus accrued interest. The amount necessary to satisfy and discharge the Busse Senior Notes was approximately \$69.9 million. Based on the final allocation of the purchase price, the excess of the purchase price over the fair value of net tangible assets acquired was approximately \$121.6 million.

Immediately prior to the Company’s acquisition of Busse, Cosmos Broadcasting Corporation acquired the assets of WEAU-TV (“WEAU”) from Busse and exchanged them for the assets of WALB-TV, Inc. (“WALB”), the Company’s NBC affiliate in Albany, Georgia. In exchange for the assets of WALB, the Company received the assets of WEAU, which were valued at \$66.0 million, and approximately \$12.0 million in cash for a total value of \$78.0 million. The Company recognized a pre-tax gain of approximately \$72.6 million and estimated deferred income taxes of approximately \$28.3 million in connection with the exchange of WALB. The Company funded the remaining costs of the acquisition of Busse’s capital stock through borrowings under the Company’s Senior Credit Facility.

As a result of these transactions, the Company acquired the following television stations: KOLN-TV (“KOLN”), the CBS affiliate serving the Lincoln-Hastings-Kearney, Nebraska market; its satellite station KGIN-TV (“KGIN”), the CBS affiliate serving Grand Island, Nebraska; and WEAU, an NBC affiliate serving the La Crosse-Eau Claire, Wisconsin market. These transactions also satisfied the FCC’s requirement for the Company to divest itself of WALB. The transactions described above are referred to as the “Busse-WALB Transactions.” WEAU, KOLN and KGIN are referred to collectively as the “Busse Stations.”

### *General*

The Company derives its revenues from its television broadcasting, publishing and paging operations. The operating revenues of the Company’s television stations are derived from broadcast advertising revenues and, to a much lesser extent, from compensation paid by the networks to the stations for broadcasting network programming. The operating revenues of the Company’s publishing operations are derived from advertising, circulation and classified revenue. Paging revenue is derived primarily from the leasing and sale of pagers. Certain information concerning the relative contributions of the Company’s television broadcasting, publishing and paging operations is provided in *Note J* of the Notes to the audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere herein.

In the Company’s broadcasting operations, broadcast advertising is sold for placement either preceding or following a television station’s network programming and within local and syndicated programming. Broadcast advertising is sold in time increments and is priced primarily on the basis of a program’s popularity among the specific audience an advertiser desires to reach, as measured by Nielsen Media Research (“Nielsen”). In addition, broadcast advertising rates are affected by the number of advertisers competing for the available time, the size and demographic makeup of the market served by the station and the availability of alternative advertising media in the market area. Broadcast advertising rates are the highest during the most desirable viewing hours, with corresponding reductions during other hours. The ratings of a local station affiliated with a major network can be affected by ratings of network programming.

Most broadcast advertising contracts are short-term, and generally run only for a few weeks. Approximately 53% of the gross revenues of the Company's television stations for the year ended December 31, 2000, were generated from local advertising, which is sold primarily by a station's sales staff directly to local accounts, and the remainder represented primarily by national advertising, which is sold by a station's national advertising sales representative. The stations generally pay commissions to advertising agencies on local, regional and national advertising and the stations also pay commissions to the national sales representative on national advertising.

Broadcast advertising revenues are generally highest in the second and fourth quarters each year, due in part to increases in consumer advertising in the spring and retail advertising in the period leading up to and including the holiday season. In addition, broadcast advertising revenues are generally higher during even numbered election years due to spending by political candidates, which spending typically is heaviest during the fourth quarter.

The Company's publishing operations' advertising contracts are generally entered into annually and provide for a commitment as to the volume of advertising to be purchased by an advertiser during the year. The publishing operations' advertising revenues are primarily generated from local advertising. As with the broadcasting operations, the publishing operations' revenues are generally highest in the second and fourth quarters of each year.

The Company's paging subscribers either own pagers, thereby paying solely for the use of the Company's paging services, or lease pagers, thereby paying a periodic charge for both the pagers and the paging services. The terms of the lease contracts are month-to-month, three months, six months or twelve months in duration. Paging revenues are generally equally distributed throughout the year.

The broadcasting operations' primary operating expenses are employee compensation, related benefits and programming costs. The publishing operations' primary operating expenses are employee compensation, related benefits and newsprint costs. The paging operations' primary operating expenses are employee compensation and other communications costs. In addition, the broadcasting, publishing and paging operations incur overhead expenses, such as maintenance, supplies, insurance, rent and utilities. A large portion of the operating expenses of the broadcasting, publishing and paging operations is fixed, although the Company has experienced significant variability in its newsprint costs in recent years.

#### *Broadcasting, Publishing and Paging Revenues*

Set forth below are the principal types of broadcasting, publishing and paging revenues earned by the Company's broadcasting, publishing and paging operations for the periods indicated and the percentage contribution of each of the Company's total broadcasting, publishing and paging revenues, respectively (dollars in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,					
	2000		1999		1998	
	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%
<b>Broadcasting</b>						
Net Revenues:						
Local	\$ 65,152	38.1%	\$ 57,078	39.7%	\$ 47,258	36.7%
National	31,043	18.1%	26,742	18.6%	23,824	18.5%
Network compensation	8,311	4.9%	6,480	4.5%	5,549	4.3%
Political	9,021	5.3%	622	0.4%	7,876	6.1%
Production and other	7,113	4.1%	6,093	4.2%	6,500	5.0%
	<u>\$120,640</u>	<u>70.5%</u>	<u>\$ 97,015</u>	<u>67.4%</u>	<u>\$ 91,007</u>	<u>70.6%</u>
<b>Publishing</b>						
Revenues:						
Retail	\$ 19,569	11.4%	\$ 17,760	12.3%	\$ 14,159	11.0%
Classifieds	13,031	7.6%	12,039	8.4%	9,106	7.1%
Circulation	7,659	4.5%	6,791	4.7%	5,315	4.1%
Other	1,240	0.7%	1,218	0.9%	750	0.6%
	<u>\$ 41,499</u>	<u>24.2%</u>	<u>\$ 37,808</u>	<u>26.3%</u>	<u>\$ 29,330</u>	<u>22.8%</u>
<b>Paging</b>						
Revenues:						
Paging lease, sales and service	<u>\$ 9,074</u>	<u>5.3%</u>	<u>\$ 9,130</u>	<u>6.3%</u>	<u>\$ 8,553</u>	<u>6.6%</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$171,213</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>\$143,953</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>\$128,890</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

#### Year Ended December 31, 2000 to Year Ended December 31, 1999

*Revenues.* Total revenues for the year ended December 31, 2000 increased \$27.2 million, or 18.9%, over the prior year, to \$171.2 million from \$144.0 million. This increase was primarily attributable to the effect of (i) increased revenues resulting from the acquisition of the Texas Stations and *The Goshen News*, (ii) increased political broadcast revenue and (iii) increased publishing revenues from existing publishing operations. The current year results include 12 months of operations for the Texas Stations and *The Goshen News* as compared to three months and ten months, respectively, in the prior year.

Broadcasting revenues increased \$23.6 million, or 24.4%, over the prior year, to \$120.6 million from \$97.0 million. Revenue from the Texas Stations, which were acquired on October 1, 1999, increased broadcasting revenues by \$17.9 million over that of the prior year. Revenues from the Company's existing broadcasting operations continuously owned since January 1, 1999, increased \$5.7 million, or 6.3%, over the prior year, to \$96.5 million from \$90.8 million. This \$5.7 million increase was due primarily to increased political advertising revenue of \$7.9 million and increased production and other revenues of \$783,000 offset, in part, by decreased local revenues of \$2.5 million, decreased national revenues of \$156,000 and decreased network compensation of \$267,000. For all locations, political advertising revenue was \$9.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2000, compared to \$622,000 for the prior year.

Publishing revenues increased \$3.7 million, or 9.8%, over the same period of the prior year, to \$41.5 million from \$37.8 million. The increase in publishing revenues was due primarily to increased revenues from the Company's existing publishing operations and from the revenues generated by *The Goshen News*, which was acquired on March 1, 1999. Revenues from the Company's existing publishing operations continuously owned since January 1, 1999 increased \$3.0 million, or 9.0%, over the same

period of the prior year, to \$35.8 million from \$32.8 million. The primary components of the \$3.0 million increase in revenues from existing operations were increases in retail advertising, classified advertising and circulation revenue of \$1.4 million, \$920,000 and \$651,000, respectively. Revenue from *The Goshen News* increased publishing revenues by \$724,000 over that of the prior year.

Paging revenue remained at \$9.1 million for 2000 and 1999. The Company had approximately 90,000 pagers and 88,000 pagers in service at December 31, 2000 and 1999, respectively.

*Operating expenses.* Operating expenses for the year ended December 31, 2000 increased \$18.2 million, or 14.9%, over the prior year, to \$140.1 million from \$121.9 million. The increase resulted primarily from the Company's acquisitions in 1999.

Broadcasting expenses increased \$9.1 million or 15.5%, over the year ended December 31, 2000, to \$67.8 million from \$58.7 million. The expenses of the Texas Stations accounted for an increase in broadcasting expenses of \$9.0 million. Operating expenses of the stations continuously owned since January 1, 1999, had increases in payroll and general operating expenses that were largely offset by decreases in syndicated film expense. The increase in payroll expenses of the stations continuously owned since January 1, 1999 was limited to 0.7% as a result of a cost reduction plan instituted by the Company in 2000.

Publishing expenses for the year ended December 31, 2000 increased \$2.6 million, or 9.1%, from the same period of the prior year, to \$31.4 million from \$28.8 million. The increase in publishing expenses was due primarily to increased expenses from the Company's existing publishing operations and from the expenses of *The Goshen News*, which was acquired on March 1, 1999. Expenses of the Company's publishing operations owned since January 1, 1999 increased \$2.3 million, or 9.0%, over the same period of the prior year, to \$27.6 million from \$25.3 million. The increase in expenses at the Company's existing publishing operations was due primarily to increased payroll of \$715,000, increased newsprint expense of \$637,000 and increased other operating expenses of \$933,000.

Paging expenses decreased \$415,000, or 6.3%, over the same period of the prior year, to \$6.1 million from \$6.6 million. The decrease in paging expenses reflected an expense reduction plan instituted by the Company in the current year.

Corporate and administrative expenses increased \$146,000 or 4.2%, over the prior year, to \$3.6 million from \$3.4 million. This increase was primarily attributable to increased payroll expense.

Depreciation of property and equipment and amortization of intangible assets was \$31.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2000, as compared to \$24.5 million for the prior year, an increase of \$6.7 million, or 27.6%. This increase was primarily the result of higher depreciation and amortization costs resulting from the Texas Acquisitions and the Goshen Acquisition in 1999.

*Miscellaneous income (expense), net.* Miscellaneous income increased \$445,000, or 132.4%, to \$781,000 for the year ended December 31, 2000 from \$336,000 for the year ended December 31, 1999. The change in miscellaneous income (expense) of \$445,000 was due primarily to the gain of \$522,000 recognized upon the sale of a real estate investment in December 2000.

*Interest expense.* Interest expense increased \$9.0 million, or 28.8%, to \$40.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2000 from \$31.0 million for the year ended December 31, 1999. This increase was attributable primarily to increased levels of debt resulting from the financing of the Texas Acquisitions

and the Goshen Acquisition in 1999 and higher interest rates on the Company's floating rate debt that is not subject to an interest rate swap agreement.

*Income tax expense (benefit).* Income tax benefit for the year ended December 31, 2000 and 1999 was \$1.9 million and \$2.3 million, respectively.

*Net loss available to common stockholders.* Net loss available to common stockholders of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2000 and 1999 was \$7.2 million and \$7.3 million, respectively.

### **Year Ended December 31, 1999 to Year Ended December 31, 1998**

*Revenues.* Total revenues for the year ended December 31, 1999 increased \$15.1 million, or 11.7%, over the prior year, to \$144.0 million from \$128.9 million. This increase was primarily attributable to the net effect of (i) increased revenues resulting from the acquisition of the Texas Stations, *The Goshen News* and the Busse Stations, (ii) increased publishing revenues from existing publishing operations and (iii) increased paging revenues. These increases were partially offset by decreased revenues resulting from the disposition of WALB and decreased political advertising revenue.

Broadcasting revenues increased \$6.0 million, or 6.6%, over the prior year, to \$97.0 million from \$91.0 million. The revenue from the Texas Stations increased broadcasting revenues by \$6.2 million. The revenue from the Busse Stations increased broadcasting revenues by \$9.7 million. These increases were partially offset by a decrease of \$6.8 million in revenues resulting from the sale of WALB and by a decrease in political advertising revenue in 1999.

On a pro forma basis, assuming the Texas Acquisitions and the Busse-WALB Transactions had been effective January 1, 1998, broadcasting revenues for the year ended December 31, 1999 decreased \$4.5 million, or 3.8%, over the prior year, to \$114.4 million from \$118.9 million. The pro forma decrease in broadcasting revenue reflects a decrease in political advertising revenues of \$8.3 million offset in part by an increase in local advertising of \$4.2 million.

On a pro forma basis, assuming the acquisition of the Texas Stations had been effective on January 1, 1998, broadcasting revenues for the Texas Stations for the year ended December 31, 1999 increased \$531,000, or 2.3%, when compared to the prior year to \$23.6 million from \$23.1 million. The pro forma increase in revenue for the Texas Stations reflects an increase in local revenue of \$2.1 million offset in part by a decrease in political advertising revenue of \$1.1 million and national revenue of \$474,000, respectively.

On a pro forma basis, assuming the acquisition of the Busse Stations had been effective on January 1, 1998, broadcasting revenues for the Busse Stations for the year ended December 31, 1999 decreased \$1.8 million, or 8.6%, when compared to the same period of the prior year to \$19.1 million from \$20.9 million. The decrease in revenue on a pro forma basis for the Busse Stations was due primarily to a decrease in political advertising revenue of \$1.6 million in 1999.

Broadcasting revenues from operations continuously owned since January 1, 1998 decreased \$3.2 million, or 4.3%, over the same period of the prior year, to \$71.7 million from \$74.9 million. This decrease was due primarily to a decrease in political advertising revenue of \$5.5 million offset in part by increased local revenue of \$2.3 million.

Publishing revenues increased \$8.5 million, or 28.9%, over the same period of the prior year, to \$37.8 million from \$29.3 million. The increase in publishing revenues was due primarily to increased revenues from the Company's existing publishing operations and from the revenues generated by *The*

*Goshen News*, which was acquired on March 1, 1999. Revenues from the Company's existing publishing operations continuously owned since January 1, 1998 increased \$3.5 million, or 11.9%, over the same period of the prior year, to \$32.8 million from \$29.3 million. The primary components of the \$3.5 million increase in revenues from existing operations were increases in retail advertising, classified advertising and circulation revenue of \$1.3 million, \$1.6 million and \$349,000, respectively. *The Goshen News* provided revenues of \$5.0 million from the date of its purchase through December 31, 1999. On a pro forma basis, assuming that the Goshen Acquisition had been completed on January 1, 1998, revenue for *The Goshen News* increased \$887,000, or 18.6%, to \$5.7 million from \$4.8 million, as compared to the same period of the prior year.

Paging revenue increased \$577,000, or 6.7%, over the same period of the prior year, to \$9.1 million from \$8.6 million. The increase was attributable primarily to an increase in the number of pagers in service. The Company had approximately 88,000 pagers and 86,000 pagers in service at December 31, 1999 and 1998, respectively.

*Operating expenses.* Operating expenses for the year ended December 31, 1999 increased \$17.9 million, or 17.2%, over the same period of the prior year, to \$121.9 million from \$104.0 million. The increase resulted primarily from the Company's acquisitions in 1999 and 1998, net of the 1998 disposition of WALB.

Broadcasting expenses increased \$5.7 million or 10.7%, over the year ended December 31, 1999, to \$58.7 million from \$53.0 million. The expenses from the Texas Stations and Busse Stations accounted for an increase in broadcasting expenses of \$3.2 million and \$5.4 million respectively. This increase was partially offset by a decrease in expenses of \$2.9 million resulting from the disposition of WALB.

On a pro forma basis, assuming the Texas Acquisitions and the Busse-WALB Transactions had been effective January 1, 1998, broadcasting expenses for the year ended December 31, 1999 increased \$1 million, or 1.4%, over the same period of the prior year, to \$68.6 million from \$67.6 million. This change reflects increases in syndicated film and other costs offset in part by decreased payroll costs.

On a pro forma basis, assuming the Texas Acquisitions had been effective on January 1, 1998, broadcasting expenses for the Texas Stations for the year ended December 31, 1999 increased \$843,000, or 6.9%, to \$13.1 million from \$12.2 million. On a pro forma basis, assuming the acquisition of the Busse Stations had been effective on January 1, 1998, broadcasting expenses for the Busse Stations for the year ended December 31, 1999 increased \$125,000, or 1.3%, to \$9.6 million from \$9.5 million.

Broadcasting expenses from operations continuously owned since January 1, 1998 were essentially unchanged between 1999 and 1998 at \$45.8 million per year. During 1999, decreases in payroll and other expenses of \$110,000 and \$600,000, respectively, offset an increase in syndicated film costs of \$704,000.

Publishing expenses for the year ended December 31, 1999 increased \$4.6 million, or 18.9%, from the same period of the prior year, to \$28.8 million from \$24.2 million. The increase in publishing expenses was due primarily to increased expenses from the Company's existing publishing operations and from the expenses of *The Goshen News*. Expenses from the Company's publishing operations owned since January 1, 1998 increased \$1.1 million, or 4.5%, over the same period of the prior year, to \$25.3 million from \$24.2 million. The increase in expenses at the Company's existing publishing operations was due primarily to payroll and transportation costs associated with increased circulation at one of the Company's daily newspapers. *The Goshen News* recorded expenses of \$3.5 million for the year ended December 31, 1999. On a pro forma basis, assuming that the Goshen Acquisition had been completed on January 1, 1998, expenses for *The Goshen News* increased \$426,000, or 11.6%, to \$4.1 million from \$3.7 million, as compared to the same period of the prior year reflecting in part the commencement of a Sunday edition as of August 1, 1999.

Paging expenses increased \$932,000 or 16.6%, over the same period of the prior year, to \$6.6 million from \$5.6 million. The increase was attributable primarily to an increase in payroll and other costs associated with an increase in the number of pagers in service.

Corporate and administrative expenses increased \$385,000 or 12.6%, over the same period of the prior year, to \$3.4 million from \$3.1 million. This increase was primarily attributable to increased payroll expense.

Depreciation of property and equipment and amortization of intangible assets was \$24.5 million for the year ended December 31, 1999, as compared to \$18.1 million for the prior year, an increase of \$6.4 million, or 35.0%. This increase was primarily the result of higher depreciation and amortization costs resulting from the Texas Acquisitions and the Goshen Acquisition in 1999 and the acquisition of the Busse Stations in 1998.

*Gain on exchange of television station.* In 1998, the Company recognized a pre-tax gain of approximately \$72.6 million and estimated deferred income taxes of approximately \$28.3 million in connection with the exchange of WALB. No similar transaction occurred in 1999.

*Valuation adjustments of goodwill and other assets.* In 1998, the Company recognized an expense of \$2.1 million for a decrease in the value of certain assets for the year ended December 31, 1999. No comparable expense was incurred in 1999.

*Miscellaneous income (expense), net.* Miscellaneous income for the year ended December 31, 1999 was \$336,000 and miscellaneous expense for the year ended December 31, 1998 was \$242,000. The change in miscellaneous income (expense) of \$578,000 was due primarily to the gain of \$450,000 recognized upon the sale of a portion of the Southwest Georgia Shopper, Inc. in February 1999.

*Interest expense.* Interest expense increased \$5.5 million, or 21.9%, to \$31.0 million for the year ended December 31, 1999 from \$25.5 million for the year ended December 31, 1998. This increase was attributable primarily to increased levels of debt resulting from the financing of the Texas Acquisitions and the Goshen Acquisition in 1999 and the financing of the acquisition of the Busse Stations in 1998.

*Income tax expense (benefit).* Income tax benefit for the year ended December 31, 1999 was \$2.3 million and income tax expense for the year ended December 31, 1998 was \$28.1 million. The decrease in income tax expense of \$30.4 million was due primarily to the recognition of a net loss before tax in the current year as compared to the effect of a \$72.6 million gain on exchange of a television station in connection with the disposition of WALB in 1998.

*Net income (loss) available to common stockholders.* Net loss available to common stockholders of the Company was \$7.3 million for the year ended December 31, 1999 as compared to net income available to common stockholders of the Company of \$40.3 million for the year ended December 31, 1998, a decrease of \$47.6 million. The primary reason for the decrease was due to the net gain of \$44.3 million recorded for the disposition of WALB in 1998.

## **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

The Company's net working capital was \$13.2 million and \$10.3 million at December 31, 2000, and 1999, respectively. The Company's cash provided from operations was \$22.8 million, \$20.8 million and \$20.1 million in 2000, 1999 and 1998, respectively. Management believes that current cash balances, cash flows from operations and available funds under its Senior Credit Facility will be adequate to

provide for the Company's capital expenditures, debt service, cash dividends and working capital requirements.

On October 1, 1999 and in connection with the Texas Acquisitions, the Senior Credit Facility was amended to provide borrowings up to \$300.0 million. Prior to the amendment, the Senior Credit Facility consisted of a \$100.0 million revolving commitment (the "Revolving Commitment") and a \$100.0 million term loan commitment ("Term Loan A Commitment"). The increase in committed available credit was effected by the addition of a second \$100.0 million term loan commitment ("Term Loan B Commitment").

Under the Senior Credit Facility, the Company, at its option, can borrow funds at an interest rate equal to the London Interbank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") plus a premium or at an interest rate equal to the lender's prime rate ("Prime") plus a premium. As a result of the 1999 amendment, the interest rates payable by the Company for funds borrowed under the Revolving Commitment and Term Loan A Commitment increased as follows: the premium over Prime increased from a range of 0.0% to 0.5% to a range of 0.0% to 1.75% and the premium over LIBOR increased from a range of 0.75% to 2.25% to a range of 1.25% to 3.0%. Under the new Term Loan B Commitment, funds can be borrowed at Prime plus 1.75% to 2.0% and/or LIBOR plus 3.0% to 3.25%. The premium above Prime and/or LIBOR payable by the Company will be determined by the Company's operating leverage ratio that is calculated quarterly.

The amount borrowed by the Company and the amount available to the Company under the Senior Credit Facility at December 31, 2000, was \$214.5 million and \$63.0 million, respectively. The effective interest rate on such borrowings at December 31, 2000 approximated 9.7%.

The Senior Credit Facility contains restrictive provisions which, among other things, limit the Company's ability to incur indebtedness, limit capital expenditures in 2000, 2001 and 2002 to not more than \$15.5 million per year and require the Company to meet certain financial ratios. The Company's 10<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2006 contain restrictive provisions similar to the provisions of the Senior Credit Facility.

The Company's net cash used in investing activities was \$8.3 million, \$126.8 million and \$55.3 million in 2000, 1999 and 1998, respectively. The amount of cash used in 2000 resulted primarily from equipment purchases. The amount of cash used in 1999 resulted primarily from the Texas Acquisitions and the Goshen Acquisition. The amount of cash used in 1998 resulted primarily from the acquisition of Busse partially offset by the exchange of WALB.

The Company used \$14.1 million in cash financing activities in 2000 and provided \$105.8 million and \$34.7 million in cash by financing activities in 1999 and 1998, respectively. In 2000, cash used in financing activities resulted primarily from a net long-term debt payment of \$6.8 million, dividend payments of \$2.1 million and a preferred stock redemption of \$5.0 million. In 1999, the net cash provided by financing activities resulted primarily from borrowing under the Senior Credit Facility to finance the Texas Acquisitions and the Goshen Acquisition. In 1998, net cash provided by financing activities resulted primarily from borrowings on long-term debt (net of repayments) of \$43.5 million partially offset by redemptions of preferred stock of \$7.6 million.

During 2000, 1999 and 1998, the Company purchased 11,361 shares of its Class B Common Stock, 20,000 shares of its Class B Common Stock and 30,750 shares of its Class A Common Stock, respectively, at the then prevailing market prices for such shares.

Subject to certain limitations, holders of the Series A Preferred Stock are entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by the Board of Directors, out of funds of the Company legally available for payment, cumulative cash dividends at an annual rate of \$800 per share. Subject to certain limitations, holders of

the Series B Preferred Stock are entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by the Board of Directors, out of the funds of the Company legally available for payment, cumulative dividends at an annual rate of \$600 per share, except that the Company at its option may pay such dividends in cash or in additional shares of Series B Preferred Stock valued, for the purpose of determining the number of shares (or fraction thereof) of such Series B Preferred Stock to be issued, at \$10,000 per share.

The Company regularly enters into program contracts for the right to broadcast television programs produced by others and program commitments for the right to broadcast programs in the future. Such programming commitments are generally made to replace expiring or canceled program rights. Payments under such contracts are made in cash or the concession of advertising spots for the program provider to resell, or a combination of both. At December 31, 2000, payments on program license liabilities due in 2001, which will be paid with cash from operations, were approximately \$5.5 million. The Company paid \$5.6 million for program broadcast rights in 2000.

In 2000, the Company made \$9.4 million of capital expenditures, relating primarily to the broadcasting and publishing operations. Of this amount, \$5.7 million was paid in 2000. The remaining \$3.7 million was accrued at December 31, 2000 and is payable in January 2002. In 2000, the Company allocated \$5.4 million of its total capital expenditures toward implementing digital television (“DTV”) broadcast operations at several of the Company’s television stations. Generally, under current FCC rules each of the Company’s stations must construct DTV facilities and commence operations by May 2002. The Company completed its DTV implementation at WRDW, its Augusta, Georgia station, in early 2000. As of February 21, 2001, the Company has commenced such DTV construction at KWTX and WEAU, its Waco, Texas and Eau Claire, Wisconsin stations, respectively. The Company currently intends to complete the necessary DTV construction at all of its stations by the FCC deadline. At present, the Company anticipates incurring approximately \$12.5 million of DTV capital expenditures during 2001 and \$10 million in 2002 including a capital lease of approximately \$2.3 million for tower facilities at WVLT, its Knoxville, Tennessee station. Total capital expenditures, including DTV capital expenditures, for 2001 are anticipated to be approximately \$15.0 million.

Each of the Company’s television stations is affiliated with a major network pursuant to an affiliation agreement. The CBS affiliation agreements for KWTX-TV, KBTX-TV and KXII-TV were renegotiated and extended through December 31, 2005. As a result of these renewal negotiations, network compensation for these three television stations will be phased out over the next few years. For the year ended December 31, 2000, combined network compensation for KWTX-TV, KBTX-TV and KXII-TV was \$2.9 million. Of the remaining ten television stations, the current agreements are subject to renewal in 2002, 2004, 2005 and 2006.

The Company and its subsidiaries file a consolidated federal income tax return and such state or local tax returns as are required. As of December 31, 2000, the Company anticipates, for federal and certain state income taxes, that it will generate taxable operating losses for the foreseeable future.

Management does not believe that inflation in past years has had a significant impact on the Company’s results of operations nor is inflation expected to have a significant effect upon the Company’s business in the near future.

#### **Option to Acquire Equity Investment in Sarkes Tarzian, Inc.**

On January 28, 1999, Bull Run Corporation (“Bull Run”), a principal shareholder of the Company, acquired 301,119 shares of the outstanding common stock of Sarkes Tarzian, Inc. (“Tarzian”) from the Estate of Mary Tarzian (the “Estate”) for \$10.0 million. The acquired shares (the “Tarzian Shares”) represent 33.5% of the total outstanding common stock of Tarzian (both in terms of the number of shares of common stock outstanding and in terms of voting rights), but such investment represents 73% of the

equity of Tarzian for purposes of dividends as well as distributions in the event of any liquidation, dissolution or other termination of Tarzian. A single shareholder controls a majority of the voting rights of the Tarzian common stock.

The Company has an agreement with Bull Run, whereby the Company has the option of acquiring the Tarzian Shares from Bull Run for \$10.0 million plus related costs. These related costs include but are not limited to Bull Run's investment charges on the incremental debt used to acquire the investment less the aggregate amount of certain payments the Company has paid Bull Run to extend the option period. The Company has the ability to extend the option period in 30-day increments at a fee of \$66,700 per extension and has extended this option period through December 31, 2001. Total fees capitalized relating to this option are \$3,452,000 and \$742,000 as of December 31, 2000 and 1999, respectively. In connection with the option agreement, the Company granted warrants to Bull Run to purchase up to 100,000 shares of the Company's Class B Common Stock at \$13.625 per share. The warrants vest immediately upon the Company's exercise of its option to purchase the Tarzian Shares. The warrants expire 10 years following the date at which the Company exercises its option. The Company can not control when or if it would receive any cash distributions from Tarzian including dividends or other distributions on capital stock.

Tarzian owns and operates two television stations and four radio stations: WRCB-TV Channel 3 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, an NBC affiliate; KTVN-TV Channel 2 in Reno, Nevada, a CBS affiliate; WGCL-AM and WTTS-FM in Bloomington, Indiana; and WAJI-FM and WLDE-FM in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Chattanooga and Reno markets are the 86<sup>th</sup> and the 109<sup>th</sup> largest television markets in the United States, respectively, as ranked by Nielsen.

On February 12, 1999, Tarzian filed a complaint against Bull Run and U.S. Trust Company of Florida Savings Bank as Personal Representative of the Estate in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana. Tarzian claims that it had a binding and enforceable contract to purchase the Tarzian Shares from the Estate prior to Bull Run's purchase of the shares, and requested judgment providing that the contract be enforced. On May 3, 1999, the action was dismissed without prejudice against Bull Run, leaving the Estate as the sole defendant. The litigation between the Estate and Tarzian is ongoing and the Company can not predict when a final resolution of the litigation will occur.

#### **Cautionary Statements for Purposes of the "Safe Harbor" Provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act**

This annual report on Form 10-K contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. When used in this annual report, the words "believes," "expects," "anticipates," "estimates" and similar words and expressions are generally intended to identify forward-looking statements. Statements that describe the Company's future strategic plans, goals, or objectives are also forward-looking statements. Readers of this annual report are cautioned that any forward-looking statements, including those regarding the intent, belief or current expectations of the Company or management, are not guarantees of future performance, results or events and involve risks and uncertainties, and that actual results and events may differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements as a result of various factors including, but not limited to, (i) general economic conditions in the markets in which the Company operates, (ii) competitive pressures in the markets in which the Company operates, (iii) the effect of future legislation or regulatory changes on the Company's operations, (iv) high debt levels and (v) other factors described from time to time in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The forward-looking statements included in this annual report are made only as of the date hereof. The Company undertakes no obligation to update such forward-looking statements to reflect subsequent events or circumstances.

## **Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

Based on the Company's floating rate debt outstanding at December 31, 2000, a 100 basis point increase in market interest rates would increase the Company's interest expense and the Company's loss before income taxes for the year by approximately \$1.7 million.

The fair market value of long-term fixed interest rate debt is also subject to interest rate risk. Generally, the fair market value of fixed interest rate debt will increase as interest rates fall and decrease as interest rates rise. The estimated fair value of the Company's total long-term fixed rate debt at December 31, 2000 was approximately \$155.6 million, which was approximately \$4.4 million less than its carrying value. A hypothetical 100 basis point decrease in the prevailing interest rates at December 31, 2000 would result in an increase in fair value of total long-term debt by approximately \$8.5 million. Fair market values are determined from quoted market prices where available or based on estimates made by investment bankers.

## Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

	<u>Page</u>
Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of Gray Communications Systems, Inc.	
Report of Independent Auditors . . . . .	45
Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2000 and 1999 . . . . .	46
Consolidated Statements of Operations for the years ended December 31, 2000, 1999 and 1998 . . . . .	48
Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2000, 1999 and 1998 . . . . .	49
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2000, 1999 and 1998 . . . . .	50
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements . . . . .	51

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Board of Directors and Stockholders  
Gray Communications Systems, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Gray Communications Systems, Inc., as of December 31, 2000 and 1999 and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders' equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2000. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Gray Communications Systems, Inc., at December 31, 2000 and 1999, and the consolidated results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2000, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

Ernst & Young LLP

Atlanta, Georgia  
January 29, 2001

**GRAY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC.**  
**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2000</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,214,838	\$ 1,787,446
Trade accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$845,000 and \$1,008,000, respectively	30,321,372	30,338,425
Recoverable income taxes	1,196,408	2,053,025
Inventories	1,472,377	1,051,960
Current portion of program broadcast rights, net	3,723,988	3,538,441
Other current assets	670,718	803,410
Total current assets	39,599,701	39,572,707
Property and equipment:		
Land	4,905,121	4,983,221
Buildings and improvements	16,639,424	16,066,082
Equipment	106,783,692	98,771,472
	128,328,237	119,820,775
Allowance for depreciation	(55,730,599)	(39,443,291)
	72,597,638	80,377,484
Other assets:		
Deferred loan costs, net	8,203,055	9,656,586
Goodwill and other intangibles, net:		
Licenses and network affiliation agreements	436,255,773	448,346,122
Goodwill	73,978,230	76,218,410
Consulting and noncompete agreements	1,381,545	1,869,368
Other	4,755,793	2,115,847
	524,574,396	538,206,333
	<b>\$636,771,735</b>	<b>\$658,156,524</b>

**GRAY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC.**  
**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (Continued)**

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2000</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>Liabilities and stockholders' equity</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Trade accounts payable (includes \$200,000 and \$-0- payable to Bull Run Corporation, respectively)	\$ 4,452,911	\$ 4,275,411
Employee compensation and benefits	6,630,078	5,163,973
Accrued expenses	1,631,490	3,161,581
Accrued interest	6,875,294	9,233,909
Current portion of program broadcast obligations	3,605,960	3,870,893
Deferred revenue	3,015,044	3,212,814
Current portion of long-term debt	200,000	316,000
Total current liabilities	26,410,777	29,234,581
Long-term debt	374,687,052	381,385,942
Other long-term liabilities:		
Program broadcast obligations, less current portion	303,308	428,867
Supplemental employee benefits	525,151	921,832
Deferred income taxes	72,935,799	75,389,829
Other deferred liabilities	3,650,115	-0-
Acquisition related liabilities	2,298,734	2,607,492
	79,713,107	79,348,020
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' equity		
Serial Preferred Stock, no par value; authorized 20,000,000 shares; issued and outstanding 861 and 1,350 shares, respectively (\$8,605,788 and \$13,500,000 aggregate liquidation value, respectively)	8,605,788	13,500,000
Class A Common Stock, no par value; authorized 15,000,000 shares; issued 7,961,574 shares, respectively	10,683,709	10,683,709
Class B Common Stock, no par value; authorized 15,000,000 shares; issued 8,708,820 shares, respectively	116,486,600	116,379,482
Retained earnings	28,793,364	37,373,183
	164,569,461	177,936,374
Treasury Stock at cost, Class A Common, 1,113,107 and 1,127,282 shares, respectively	(8,338,718)	(8,546,285)
Treasury Stock at cost, Class B Common, 24,257 and 110,365 shares, respectively	(269,944)	(1,202,108)
	155,960,799	168,187,981
	<b>\$636,771,735</b>	<b>\$658,156,524</b>

See accompanying notes.

**GRAY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC.**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS**

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2000</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1998</b>
Operating revenues:			
Broadcasting (less agency commissions)	\$120,639,853	\$ 97,014,737	\$ 91,006,506
Publishing	41,499,521	37,808,328	29,330,080
Paging	<u>9,073,629</u>	<u>9,129,702</u>	<u>8,552,936</u>
	171,213,003	143,952,767	128,889,522
Expenses:			
Broadcasting	67,770,063	58,660,663	52,967,142
Publishing	31,408,235	28,781,501	24,197,169
Paging	6,136,157	6,550,529	5,618,421
Corporate and administrative	3,594,113	3,448,203	3,062,995
Depreciation	16,889,172	12,855,449	9,690,757
Amortization of intangible assets	<u>14,317,733</u>	<u>11,595,919</u>	<u>8,425,821</u>
	<u>140,115,473</u>	<u>121,892,264</u>	<u>103,962,305</u>
	31,097,530	22,060,503	24,927,217
Gain on exchange of television station (net of \$780,000 paid to Bull Run Corporation in 1998)	-0-	-0-	72,646,041
Valuation adjustments of goodwill and other assets	-0-	-0-	(2,073,913)
Miscellaneous income and (expense), net	<u>781,251</u>	<u>335,871</u>	<u>(241,522)</u>
	31,878,781	22,396,374	95,257,823
Interest expense	<u>39,957,362</u>	<u>31,021,039</u>	<u>25,454,476</u>
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE INCOME TAXES	(8,078,581)	(8,624,665)	69,803,347
Federal and state income taxes (benefit)	<u>(1,866,767)</u>	<u>(2,309,966)</u>	<u>28,143,981</u>
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(6,211,814)	(6,314,699)	41,659,366
Preferred dividends	<u>1,012,374</u>	<u>1,010,000</u>	<u>1,317,830</u>
NET INCOME (LOSS) AVAILABLE TO COMMON STOCKHOLDERS	<u>\$ (7,224,188)</u>	<u>\$ (7,324,699)</u>	<u>\$ 40,341,536</u>
Weighted average outstanding common shares-basic	15,496,847	12,837,912	11,922,852
Stock compensation awards	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>481,443</u>
Weighted average outstanding common shares-diluted	<u>15,496,847</u>	<u>12,837,912</u>	<u>12,404,295</u>
Income (loss) per share available to common stockholders:			
Basic	\$ (0.4)	\$ (0.5)	\$ 3.38
Diluted	\$ (0.4)	\$ (0.5)	\$ 3.25

See accompanying notes.

**GRAY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC.**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY**

	<u>Preferred Stock</u>		<u>Class A Common Stock</u>		<u>Class B Common Stock</u>		<u>Retained Earnings</u>	<u>Class A Treasury Stock</u>		<u>Class B Treasury Stock</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Shares</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Shares</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Shares</u>	<u>Amount</u>		<u>Shares</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Shares</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
Balance at December 31, 1997	2,060	\$20,600,000	7,961,574	\$10,358,031	5,273,046	\$ 66,397,804	\$ 6,603,191	(1,172,882)	\$(9,011,369)	(250,185)	\$(2,652,509)	\$ 92,295,148
Net income	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	41,659,366	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	41,659,366
Common Stock cash dividends (\$0.06) per share	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(715,209)	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(715,209)
Preferred Stock dividends	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(1,317,830)	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(1,317,830)
Issuance of Treasury Stock:												
401(k) plan	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	180,821	-0-	-0-	-0-	29,305	310,703	491,524
Directors' stock plan	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	30,652	-0-	-0-	-0-	84,300	893,763	924,415
Non-qualified stock plan	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	9,597	(491,917)	74,100	1,015,254	1,500	15,900	548,834
Purchase of Class A Common Stock	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(30,750)	(582,567)	-0-	-0-	(582,567)
Issuance of Series B Preferred Stock	51	509,384	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	509,384
Purchase of Series B Preferred Stock	(761)	(7,609,384)	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(7,609,384)
Income tax benefits relating to stock plans	-0-	-0-	-0-	325,678	-0-	173,511	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	499,189
Balance at December 31, 1998	1,350	13,500,000	7,961,574	10,683,709	5,273,046	66,792,385	45,737,601	(1,129,532)	(8,578,682)	(135,080)	(1,432,143)	126,702,870
Net loss	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(6,314,699)	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(6,314,699)
Common Stock cash dividends (\$0.08) per share	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(1,027,322)	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(1,027,322)
Preferred Stock dividends	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(1,010,000)	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(1,010,000)
Issuance of Treasury Stock:												
401(k) plan	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	126,944	-0-	-0-	-0-	44,715	487,039	613,983
Non-qualified stock plan	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(12,397)	2,250	32,397	-0-	-0-	20,000
Issuance of Class B Common Stock	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	3,435,774	49,452,053	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	49,452,053
Purchase of Class B Common Stock	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(20,000)	(257,004)	(257,004)
Income tax benefits relating to stock plans	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	8,100	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	8,100
Balance at December 31, 1999	1,350	13,500,000	7,961,574	10,683,709	8,708,820	116,379,482	37,373,183	(1,127,282)	(8,546,285)	(110,365)	(1,202,108)	168,187,981
Net loss	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(6,211,814)	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(6,211,814)
Common Stock cash dividends (\$0.08) per share	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(1,239,921)	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(1,239,921)
Preferred Stock dividends	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(1,012,374)	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(1,012,374)
Issuance of Treasury Stock:												
401(k) plan	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	53,071	(34,143)	-0-	-0-	59,969	666,295	685,223
Non-qualified stock plan	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	54,047	(81,567)	14,175	207,567	37,500	408,453	588,500
Purchase of Class B Common Stock	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(11,361)	(142,584)	(142,584)
Issuance of Series B Preferred Stock	11	105,788	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	105,788
Purchase of Series A Preferred Stock	(500)	(5,000,000)	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(5,000,000)
Balance at December 31, 2000	861	\$ 8,605,788	7,961,574	\$10,683,709	8,708,820	\$116,486,600	\$28,793,364	(1,113,107)	\$(8,338,718)	(24,257)	\$(269,944)	\$155,960,799

See accompanying notes.

**GRAY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC.**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2000</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>Operating activities</b>			
Net income (loss)	\$ (6,211,814)	\$ (6,314,699)	\$ 41,659,366
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation	16,889,172	12,855,449	9,690,757
Amortization of intangible assets	14,317,733	11,595,919	8,425,821
Amortization of deferred loan costs	1,537,047	1,253,277	1,097,952
Amortization of program broadcast rights	5,306,672	5,340,187	4,250,714
Gain on disposition of television station	-0-	-0-	(72,646,041)
Valuation adjustments of goodwill and other assets	-0-	-0-	2,073,913
Payments for program broadcast rights	(5,614,129)	(4,953,672)	(4,209,811)
Supplemental employee benefits	(242,662)	(206,372)	(252,611)
Common Stock contributed to 401(K) Plan	685,223	613,983	491,524
Deferred income taxes	(2,454,030)	(2,738,500)	26,792,795
(Gain) loss on asset sales	(391,549)	(114,063)	332,042
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Trade accounts receivable	17,053	(2,865,849)	(302,905)
Recoverable income taxes	856,617	(327,490)	406,749
Inventories	(139,437)	255,897	(344,393)
Other current assets	139,392	106,829	342,674
Trade accounts payable	185,677	1,734,641	(797,447)
Employee compensation and benefits	1,361,105	(260,827)	1,283,150
Accrued expenses	(921,133)	1,147,105	79,644
Accrued interest	(2,358,615)	3,625,775	1,074,768
Deferred revenue	(197,770)	94,328	625,149
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>22,764,552</u>	<u>20,841,918</u>	<u>20,073,810</u>
<b>Investing activities</b>			
Acquisition of television businesses	-0-	(97,079,854)	(122,455,774)
Acquisition of newspaper business	-0-	(16,869,140)	-0-
Disposition of television business	-0-	-0-	76,440,419
Purchases of property and equipment	(5,702,494)	(11,711,893)	(9,270,623)
Proceeds from asset sales	634,832	1,722,932	318,697
Payments on purchase liabilities	(592,570)	(900,688)	(551,917)
Other	(2,615,431)	(1,941,081)	220,390
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(8,275,663)</u>	<u>(126,779,724)</u>	<u>(55,298,808)</u>
<b>Financing activities</b>			
Proceeds from borrowings on long-term debt	49,700,000	164,200,000	90,070,000
Repayments of borrowings on long-term debt	(56,514,890)	(53,153,313)	(46,609,122)
Deferred loan costs	(83,516)	(2,674,431)	(854,235)
Dividends paid	(2,146,507)	(2,304,823)	(1,642,709)
Income tax benefit relating to stock plans	-0-	8,100	499,189
Proceeds from sale of treasury shares	126,000	20,000	1,473,249
Purchase of Common Stock	(142,584)	(257,004)	(582,567)
Redemption of Preferred Stock	(5,000,000)	-0-	(7,609,384)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	<u>(14,061,497)</u>	<u>105,838,529</u>	<u>34,744,421</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	427,392	(99,277)	(480,577)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>1,787,446</u>	<u>1,886,723</u>	<u>2,367,300</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>\$ 2,214,838</u>	<u>\$ 1,787,446</u>	<u>\$ 1,886,723</u>

See accompanying notes.

**GRAY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC.**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**A. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

*Description of Business*

The Company's operations, which are located in thirteen southern, southwestern and midwestern states, include thirteen television stations, four daily newspapers, a weekly advertising only publication, paging operations and a transportable satellite uplink business.

*Principles of Consolidation*

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its subsidiaries. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

*Revenue Recognition*

The Company recognizes revenue from three industries: broadcasting, publishing and paging. Broadcasting revenue is generated primarily from the sale of television advertising time. Publishing revenue is generated primarily from circulation and advertising revenue. Paging revenue results primarily from the sale of pagers and paging services. Advertising revenue is billed to the customer and recognized when the advertisement is aired or published. Gray bills its customers in advance for newspaper subscriptions and paging services and the related revenues are recognized over the period the service is provided on the straight-line basis. Revenue from the sale of pagers is recognized at the time of sale.

*Use of Estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

*Cash and Cash Equivalents*

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on deposit with banks. Deposits with banks are generally insured in limited amounts.

*Inventories*

Inventories, principally newsprint and supplies, are stated at the lower of cost or market. The Company uses the first-in, first-out method of determining costs for substantially all of its inventories.

*Program Broadcast Rights*

Rights to programs available for broadcast under program license agreements are initially recorded at the beginning of the license period for the amounts of total license fees payable under the license agreements and are charged to operating expense as each episode is broadcast. The cost of each episode is determined by dividing the total cost of the program license agreement by the number of episodes per the agreement. The portion of the unamortized balance expected to be charged to operating expense in the succeeding year is classified as a current asset, with the remainder classified as a non-current asset. The liability for the license fees payable under the program license agreements is classified as current or long-term, in accordance with the payment terms of the various license agreements. The capitalized costs of the rights are recorded at the lower of unamortized costs or estimated net realizable value.

## **A. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

### *Property and Equipment*

Property and equipment are carried at cost. Depreciation is computed principally by the straight-line method for financial reporting purposes and by accelerated methods for income tax purposes. Buildings, improvements and equipment are depreciated over estimated useful lives of approximately 35 years, 10 years and 5 years, respectively.

### *Deferred Loan Costs*

Loan acquisition costs are amortized over the life of the applicable indebtedness. As of December 31, 2000, loan acquisition costs for the \$300.0 million senior bank loan agreement (the "Senior Credit Facility") and the Senior Subordinated Notes Due 2006 (the "Senior Subordinated Notes") are amortized over lives of 6 years and 10 years, respectively. The final maturity dates of the Senior Credit Facility and the Senior Subordinated Notes are December 2005 and September 2006, respectively.

### *Intangible Assets*

Intangible assets are stated at cost and are amortized using the straight-line method. Goodwill, licenses and network affiliation agreements are amortized over 40 years. Non-compete agreements are amortized over the life of the specific agreement. Accumulated amortization of intangible assets resulting from business acquisitions was \$44.6 million and \$31.6 million as of December 31, 2000 and 1999, respectively.

If facts and circumstances indicate that the goodwill, property and equipment or other assets may be impaired, an evaluation of continuing value would be performed. If an evaluation is required, the estimated future undiscounted cash flows associated with these assets would be compared to their carrying amount to determine if a write down to fair market value or discounted cash flow value is required.

### *Income Taxes*

Deferred income taxes are provided on the differences between the financial statement and income tax basis of assets and liabilities. The Company and its subsidiaries file a consolidated federal income tax return. Consolidated state income tax returns are filed when appropriate and separate state tax returns are filed when consolidation is not available. Local tax returns are filed separately.

### *Capital Stock*

On August 20, 1998, the Board of Directors declared a 50% stock dividend, payable on September 30, 1998, to stockholders of record of the Class A Common Stock and Class B Common Stock on September 16, 1998. This stock dividend effected a three for two stock split. All applicable share and per share data have been adjusted to give effect to the stock split.

### *Stock Based Compensation*

The Company has elected to follow Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 25, "Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees" ("APB 25") and related interpretations in accounting for its stock options. Under APB 25, if the exercise price of the stock options granted by the Company equals the market price of the underlying stock on the date of the grant, no compensation expense is recognized.

## **A. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

### *Accounting for Hedging Activities*

In June of 1998, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS No. 133, "Accounting for Derivative Instruments and for Hedging Activities" ("SFAS No. 133"). SFAS 133 was originally effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 1999. However, in May 1999, the FASB voted to delay the effective date for one year, to fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2000 by issuing SFAS 137. SFAS No. 133, which is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2000, will provide a comprehensive standard for the recognition and measurement of derivatives and hedging activities. SFAS No. 133, as amended, requires all derivatives to be recorded on the balance sheet at fair value and establishes "special accounting" for the different types of hedges. Though the accounting treatment and criteria for each type of hedge is unique, they all result in recognizing offsetting changes in value or cash flows of both the hedge and the hedged item in earnings in the same period. Changes in the fair value of derivatives that do not meet the hedged criteria are included in earnings in the same period of the change. The Company plans to adopt SFAS No. 133 in the fiscal year ending December 31, 2001 and it does not believe that the implementation of SFAS No. 133 will have a significant impact on its consolidated financial statements.

### *Concentration of Credit Risk*

The Company provides print advertising and advertising air time to national, regional and local advertisers within the geographic areas in which the Company operates. Credit is extended based on an evaluation of the customer's financial condition, and generally advance payment is not required. Credit losses are provided for in the financial statements and consistently have been within management's expectations.

### *Fair Value of Financial Instruments*

The estimated fair value of the Company's long-term debt at December 31, 2000 and 1999 was \$370.5 million and \$387.3 million, respectively. The fair value of the Preferred Stock at December 31, 1999 and 1998 approximates its carrying value at that date. Currently, the Company does not anticipate settlement of long-term debt or preferred stock at other than book value.

The fair value of other financial instruments classified as current assets or liabilities approximates their carrying values due to the short-term maturities of these instruments.

### *Reclassifications*

Certain amounts in the accompanying consolidated financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the 2000 presentation.

## **B. Business Acquisitions and Dispositions**

The Company's acquisitions have been accounted for under the purchase method of accounting. Under the purchase method of accounting, the results of operations of the acquired businesses are included in the accompanying consolidated financial statements as of their respective acquisition dates. The assets and liabilities of acquired businesses are included based on an allocation of the purchase price.

### *Option to Acquire Equity Investment in Sarkes Tarzian, Inc.*

On January 28, 1999, Bull Run Corporation ("Bull Run"), a principal shareholder of the Company, acquired 301,119 shares of the outstanding common stock of Sarkes Tarzian, Inc. ("Tarzian") from the

## **B. Business Acquisitions and Dispositions (Continued)**

### *Option to Acquire Equity Investment in Sarkes Tarzian, Inc. (Continued)*

Estate of Mary Tarzian (the "Estate") for \$10.0 million. The acquired shares (the "Tarzian Shares") represent 33.5% of the total outstanding common stock of Tarzian (both in terms of the number of shares of common stock outstanding and in terms of voting rights), but such investment represents 73% of the equity of Tarzian for purposes of dividends as well as distributions in the event of any liquidation, dissolution or other termination of Tarzian.

The Company has an agreement with Bull Run, whereby the Company has the option of acquiring the Tarzian Shares from Bull Run for \$10.0 million plus related costs. These related costs include but are not limited to Bull Run's investment charges on the incremental debt used to acquire the investment less the aggregate amount of certain payments the Company has paid Bull Run to extend the option period. The Company has the ability to extend the option period in 30 day increments at a fee of \$66,700 per extension and has extended this option period through December 31, 2001. Total fees capitalized relating to this option are \$3,452,000 and \$742,000 as of December 31, 2000 and 1999, respectively. In connection with the option agreement, the Company granted warrants to Bull Run to purchase up to 100,000 shares of the Company's Class B Common Stock at \$13.625 per share. The warrants vest immediately upon the Company's exercise of its option to purchase the Tarzian Shares. The warrants expire 10 years following the date at which the Company exercises its option.

Tarzian owns and operates two television stations and four radio stations: WRCB-TV Channel 3 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, an NBC affiliate; KTVN-TV Channel 2 in Reno, Nevada, a CBS affiliate; WGCL-AM and WTTS-FM in Bloomington, Indiana; and WAJI-FM and WLDE-FM in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Chattanooga and Reno markets are the 86<sup>th</sup> and the 109<sup>th</sup> largest television markets in the United States, respectively, as ranked by Nielsen Media Research.

On February 12, 1999, Tarzian filed a complaint against Bull Run and U.S. Trust Company of Florida Savings Bank as Personal Representative of the Estate in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana. Tarzian claims that it had a binding and enforceable contract to purchase the Tarzian Shares from the Estate prior to Bull Run's purchase of the shares, and requested judgment providing that the contract be enforced. On May 3, 1999, the action was dismissed without prejudice against Bull Run, leaving the Estate as the sole defendant. The litigation between the Estate and Tarzian is ongoing and the Company cannot predict when the final resolution of the litigation will occur.

### *1999 Acquisitions*

On October 1, 1999, the Company completed its acquisition of all the outstanding capital stock of KWTX Broadcasting Company ("KWTX") and Brazos Broadcasting Company ("Brazos"), as well as the assets of KXII Broadcasters Ltd. ("KXII"). The Company acquired the capital stock of KWTX and Brazos in merger transactions with the shareholders of KWTX and Brazos receiving a combination of cash and the Company's Class B Common Stock for their shares. The Company acquired the assets of KXII in an all cash transaction. These transactions are referred to herein as the "Texas Acquisitions."

KWTX operates CBS affiliate KWTX-TV located in Waco, Texas and Brazos operates KBTX-TV, a satellite station of KWTX-TV located in Bryan, Texas, each serving the Waco-Temple-Bryan, Texas television market. KXII operates KXII-TV, which is the CBS affiliate serving Sherman, Texas and Ada, Oklahoma.

Aggregate consideration (net of cash acquired) paid in the Company's Class B Common Stock and cash was approximately \$146.4 million which included a base purchase price of \$139.0 million,

## B. Business Acquisitions and Dispositions (Continued)

### 1999 Acquisitions (Continued)

transaction expenses of \$2.8 million and certain net working capital adjustments (excluding cash) of \$4.6 million. In addition to the amount paid, the Company assumed approximately \$600,000 in liabilities in connection with the asset purchase of KXII. The Company funded the acquisitions by issuing 3,435,774 shares of the Company's Class B Common Stock (valued at \$49.5 million) to the sellers, borrowing an additional \$94.4 million under its Senior Credit Facility and using cash on hand of approximately \$2.5 million. Based on the allocation of the purchase price, the excess of the purchase price over the fair value of the net tangible assets was approximately \$148.9 million. The Company paid Bull Run a fee of \$1.39 million for advisory services performed for the Company in connection with the Texas Acquisitions (excluding a \$300,000 advisory fee in connection with the Company's Senior Credit Facility agreement detailed in Note C). This fee was paid in full as of the acquisition date and included in the fee portion of the aggregate consideration for the Texas Acquisitions described above.

On March 1, 1999, the Company acquired substantially all of the assets of The Goshen News from News Printing Company, Inc. and affiliates thereof, for aggregate cash consideration of approximately \$16.7 million including a non-compete agreement (the "Goshen Acquisition"). Based on the allocation of the purchase price, the excess of the purchase price over the fair value of the net tangible assets was approximately \$14.1 million. The Goshen News is currently an 18,000 circulation newspaper published Monday through Sunday and serves Goshen, Indiana and surrounding areas. The Company paid Bull Run a fee of \$167,000 for services rendered in connection with the Goshen Acquisition. The Company financed the acquisition through borrowings under its Senior Credit Facility.

Unaudited pro forma operating data for the years ended December 31, 1999 and 1998 are presented below and assumes that the Texas Acquisitions, the Goshen Acquisition and the Busse-WALB Transactions (as defined in *1998 Acquisitions and Disposition*) were completed on January 1, 1998. The above described unaudited pro forma operating data excludes a pre-tax gain of approximately \$72.6 million and estimated deferred income taxes of approximately \$28.3 million in connection with the disposition of WALB.

This unaudited pro forma operating data does not purport to represent the Company's actual results of operations had the Texas Acquisitions, the Goshen Acquisition and the Busse-WALB Transactions been completed on January 1, 1998, and should not serve as a forecast of the Company's operating results for any future periods. The pro forma adjustments are based solely upon certain assumptions that management believes are reasonable under the circumstances at this time. Unaudited pro forma operating data for the years ended December 31, 1999 and 1998, are as follows (in thousands, except per common share data):

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>1999</b>	<b>1998</b>
	<b>(Unaudited)</b>	
Revenues, net	<u>\$ 162,038</u>	<u>\$ 161,544</u>
Net loss available to common stockholders	<u>\$ (11,454)</u>	<u>\$ (11,458)</u>
Loss per share available to common stockholders:		
Basic and diluted	<u>\$ (0.74)</u>	<u>\$ (0.75)</u>

The pro forma results presented above include adjustments to reflect (i) the incurrence of interest expense to fund the respective acquisitions, (ii) depreciation and amortization of assets acquired, (iii) the

## **B. Business Acquisitions and Dispositions (Continued)**

### *1999 Acquisitions (Continued)*

elimination of the corporate expense allocation net of additional accounting and administrative expenses and (iv) the income tax effect of such pro forma adjustments. Average outstanding shares used to calculate pro forma earnings per share data for 1999 and 1998 include the 3,435,774 shares of Class B Common Stock issued in connection with the Texas Acquisitions.

### *1998 Acquisitions and Disposition*

On July 31, 1998, the Company completed the purchase of all of the outstanding capital stock of Busse Broadcasting Corporation ("Busse"). The purchase price was approximately \$126.6 million, less the accreted value of Busse's 11 5/8 % Senior Secured Notes due 2000 (the "Busse Senior Notes"). The purchase price of the capital stock consisted of the contractual purchase price of \$112.0 million, associated transaction costs of \$3.9 million, acquisition costs associated with the Busse Senior Notes of \$5.1 million and Busse's cash and cash equivalents of \$5.6 million. Immediately following the acquisition of Busse, the Company exercised its right to satisfy and discharge the Busse Senior Notes, effectively prefunding the Busse Senior Notes at the October 15, 1998 call price of 106 plus accrued interest. The amount necessary to satisfy and discharge the Busse Senior Notes was approximately \$69.9 million. Based on the final allocation of the purchase price, the excess of the purchase price over the fair value of net tangible assets acquired was approximately \$121.6 million.

Immediately prior to the Company's acquisition of Busse, Cosmos Broadcasting Corporation acquired the assets of WEAU-TV ("WEAU") from Busse and exchanged them for the assets of WALB-TV, Inc. ("WALB"), the Company's NBC affiliate in Albany, Georgia. In exchange for the assets of WALB, the Company received the assets of WEAU, which were valued at \$66.0 million, and approximately \$12.0 million in cash for a total value of \$78.0 million. The Company recognized a pre-tax gain of approximately \$72.6 million and estimated deferred income taxes of approximately \$28.3 million in connection with the exchange of WALB. The Company funded the remaining costs of the acquisition of Busse's capital stock through borrowings under the Company's Senior Credit Facility.

As a result of these transactions, the Company added the following television stations to its broadcast group: KOLN-TV ("KOLN"), the CBS affiliate serving the Lincoln-Hastings-Kearney, Nebraska market; its satellite station KGIN-TV ("KGIN"), the CBS affiliate serving Grand Island, Nebraska; and WEAU, an NBC affiliate serving the La Crosse-Eau Claire, Wisconsin market. These transactions also satisfied the Federal Communication Commission's (the "FCC") requirement for the Company to divest itself of WALB. The transactions described above are referred to herein as the "Busse-WALB Transactions."

The Company paid Bull Run a fee of approximately \$2.0 million for services performed in connection with the Busse-WALB Transactions.

Unaudited pro forma operating data for the year ended December 31, 1998 is presented below and assumes that the Busse-WALB Transactions were completed on January 1, 1998. The above described unaudited pro forma operating data excludes a pre-tax gain of approximately \$72.6 million and estimated deferred income taxes of approximately \$28.3 million in connection with the disposition of WALB.

This unaudited pro forma operating data does not purport to represent the Company's actual results of operations had the Busse-WALB Transactions been completed on January 1, 1998, and should not serve as a forecast of the Company's operating results for any future periods. The pro forma adjustments are based solely upon certain assumptions that management believes are reasonable under the

## B. Business Acquisitions and Dispositions (Continued)

### 1998 Acquisitions and Disposition (Continued)

circumstances at this time. Unaudited pro forma operating data for the years ended December 31, 1998, is as follows (in thousands, except per common share data):

	<b>Year Ended December 31, 1998</b>
	<b>(Unaudited)</b>
Revenues, net	<u>\$ 133,661</u>
Net loss available to common stockholders	<u>\$ (4,562)</u>
Loss per share available to common stockholders:	
Basic and diluted	<u>\$ (0.38)</u>

The pro forma results presented above include adjustments to reflect (i) the incurrence of interest expense to fund the respective acquisitions, (ii) depreciation and amortization of assets acquired, (iii) the elimination of the corporate expense allocation net of additional accounting and administrative expenses and (iv) the income tax effect of such pro forma adjustments.

## C. Long-term Debt

Long-term debt consists of the following (in thousands):

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2000</b>	<b>1999</b>
Senior Credit Facility	\$ 214,500	\$ 221,000
10 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> % Senior Subordinated Notes due 2006	160,000	160,000
Other	<u>387</u>	<u>702</u>
	374,887	381,702
Less current portion	<u>(200)</u>	<u>(316)</u>
	<u>\$ 374,687</u>	<u>\$ 381,386</u>

On October 1, 1999 and in connection with the Texas Acquisitions, the Senior Credit Facility was amended to provide borrowings up to \$300.0 million. Prior to the amendment, the Senior Credit Facility consisted of a \$100.0 million revolving commitment (the "Revolving Commitment") and a \$100.0 million term loan commitment ("Term Loan A Commitment"). The increase in committed available credit was effected by the addition of a second \$100.0 million term loan commitment ("Term Loan B Commitment").

Under the Senior Credit Facility, the Company, at its option, can borrow funds at an interest rate equal to the London Interbank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") plus a premium or at an interest rate equal to the lender's prime rate ("Prime") plus a premium. As a result of the amendment, the interest rates payable by the Company for funds borrowed under the Revolving Commitment and Term Loan A Commitment increased as follows: the premium over Prime increased from a range of 0.0% to 0.5% to a range of 0.0% to 1.75% and the premium over LIBOR increased from a range of 0.75% to 2.25% to a range of 1.25% to 3.0%. Under the new Term Loan B Commitment, funds can be borrowed at Prime plus 1.75% to 2.0%

### **C. Long-term Debt (Continued)**

and/or LIBOR plus 3.0% to 3.25%. The premium above Prime and/or LIBOR payable by the Company will be determined by the Company's operating leverage ratio that is calculated quarterly.

In connection with the amendment to the Senior Credit Facility, the Company paid approximately \$2.6 million in additional financing costs. Included in these financing costs is a \$300,000 fee that the Company paid to Bull Run for advisory services performed in connection with arranging the \$100.0 million Term Loan B Commitment.

At December 31, 2000, the Company had approximately \$214.5 million borrowed under the Senior Credit Facility with approximately \$63.0 million available under the agreement. Also as of December 31, 2000, the Company was incurring interest at a rate of Prime plus 1.125% and/or LIBOR plus 2.375% for funds borrowed under the Revolving Commitment and the Term Loan A Commitment. For funds borrowed under the Term Loan B Commitment, the Company was incurring interest at Prime plus 2.0% and/or LIBOR plus 3.25%. The effective interest rate on the Senior Credit Facility at December 31, 2000 and 1999 was 9.7% and 8.9%, respectively. The Company is charged a commitment fee on the excess of the aggregate average daily available credit limit less the amount outstanding. At December 31, 2000, the commitment fee was 0.50% per annum.

The maturity schedule for the Revolving Commitment and the Term Loan A Commitment did not change as a result of the amendment to the Senior Credit Facility. As of December 31, 2000, the Company had \$27.0 million borrowed under the Revolving Commitment and the \$100.0 million credit limit has or will automatically reduce as follows: 10% in 2000, 15% in 2001, 15% in 2002, 20% in 2003, 25% in 2004 and 15% in 2005. As of December 31, 2000, the Company had \$87.5 million borrowed under the Term Loan A Commitment. The principal amount outstanding under the Term Loan A Commitment became fixed, and no further borrowings can be made thereunder, on December 30, 1999 and has or will be paid as follows: \$10.0 million in 2000, \$10.0 million in 2001, \$17.5 million in 2002, \$17.5 million in 2003, \$21.2 million in 2004 and \$21.3 million in 2005. The principal amount outstanding under the Term Loan B Commitment will become fixed, and no further borrowings can be made thereunder, on March 30, 2001 and must be paid as follows: 1.0% in 2001, 1.0% in 2002, 1.0% in 2003, 1.0% in 2004 and 96.0% in 2005.

The agreement pursuant to which the Senior Credit Facility was issued contains certain restrictive provisions, which, among other things, limit additional indebtedness and require minimum levels of cash flows. The Senior Subordinated Notes also contain similar restrictive provisions as well as limitations on restricted payments which include but are not limited to purchases or redemptions of the Company's capital stock.

On September 20, 1996, the Company sold \$160.0 million principal amount of the Company's Senior Subordinated Notes. Interest on the Senior Subordinated Notes is payable semi-annually on April 1 and October 1, commencing April 1, 1997. The Senior Subordinated Notes mature on October 1, 2006 and are redeemable, in whole or in part, at the Company's option after October 1, 2001. If the Senior Subordinated Notes are redeemed during the twelve-month period beginning on October 1 of the years indicated below, they will be redeemed at the redemption prices set forth below, plus accrued and unpaid interest to the date fixed for redemption.

### C. Long-term Debt (Continued)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Percentage of the Principal Amount Outstanding</u>
2001	105.3125%
2002	103.5410%
2003	101.7710%
2004 and thereafter	100.0000%

The Senior Subordinated Notes are jointly and severally guaranteed (the “Subsidiary Guarantees”) by all of the Company’s subsidiaries (the “Subsidiary Guarantors”). The obligations of the Subsidiary Guarantors under the Subsidiary Guarantees is subordinated, to the same extent as the obligations of the Company in respect of the Senior Subordinated Notes, to the prior payment in full of all existing and future senior debt of the Subsidiary Guarantors (which will include any guarantee issued by such Subsidiary Guarantors of any senior debt).

The Company is a holding company with no material independent assets or operations, other than its investment in its subsidiaries. The aggregate assets, liabilities, earnings and equity of the Subsidiary Guarantors are substantially equivalent to the assets, liabilities, earnings and equity of the Company on a consolidated basis. The Subsidiary Guarantors are, directly or indirectly, wholly owned subsidiaries of the Company and the Subsidiary Guarantees are full, unconditional and joint and several. All of the current and future direct and indirect subsidiaries of the Company will be guarantors of the Senior Subordinated Notes. Accordingly, separate financial statements and other disclosures of each of the Subsidiary Guarantors are not presented because management has determined that they are not material to investors. The Senior Credit Facility is secured by substantially all of the Company’s existing and hereafter acquired assets.

In 1999, the Company entered into an interest rate swap agreement to modify the interest characteristics of a portion of its outstanding debt. The agreement involves the exchange of an amount based on a variable interest rate for an amount based on a fixed interest rate over the life of the agreement without an exchange of the notional amount upon which the payments are based. The Company specifically designates this interest rate swap as a hedge of debt instruments and recognizes interest differentials as adjustments to interest expense in the period they occur. The differential to be paid or received as interest rates change is accrued and recognized as an adjustment of interest expense related to the debt (the accrual accounting method). The related amount payable to, or receivable from, counter-parties is included in other liabilities or assets. The fair value of the swap agreements is not recognized in the financial statements. If, in the future, an interest rate swap agreement were terminated, any resulting gain or loss would be deferred and amortized to interest expense over the remaining life of the hedged debt instrument. In the event of early extinguishment of a designated debt obligation, any realized or unrealized gain or loss from the swap would be recognized in income coincident with the extinguishment.

The interest rate swap agreement converts \$40.0 million of the Company’s floating rate debt under the Senior Credit Facility to a fixed rate basis at a rate of 6.155%. The interest rate swap agreement was effective on October 6, 1999 and will terminate on October 6, 2001. However, the bank providing the interest rate swap agreement may at its option extend the termination date to October 6, 2002.

### C. Long-term Debt (Continued)

Aggregate minimum principal maturities on long-term debt as of December 31, 2000, were as follows (in thousands):

<u>Year</u>	<u>Minimum Principal Maturities</u>
2001	\$ 200
2002	64
2003	35,067
2004	47,305
2005	132,251
Thereafter	<u>160,000</u>
	<u>\$ 374,887</u>

The Company made interest payments of approximately \$40.8 million, \$26.1 million, and \$22.9 million during 2000, 1999 and 1998, respectively.

### D. Supplemental Employee Benefits and Other Agreements

The Company has entered into supplemental retirement benefit and other agreements with certain key employees. These benefits are to be paid primarily in equal monthly amounts over the employees' life for a period not to exceed 15 years after retirement. The Company charges against operations amounts sufficient to fund the present value of the estimated lifetime supplemental benefit over each employee's anticipated remaining period of employment.

The following summarizes activity relative to certain officers' agreements and the supplemental employee benefits (in thousands):

	<u>Year Ended December 31,</u>		
	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Beginning liability	\$ 1,401	\$ 1,443	\$ 1,526
Net expense (income)	(95)	136	119
Payments	<u>(627)</u>	<u>(178)</u>	<u>(202)</u>
Ending liability	679	1,401	1,443
Less current portion	<u>(154)</u>	<u>(480)</u>	<u>(315)</u>
	<u>\$ 525</u>	<u>\$ 921</u>	<u>\$ 1,128</u>

### E. Stockholders' Equity

The Company is authorized to issue 50,000,000 shares of all classes of stock, of which, 15,000,000 shares are designated Class A Common Stock, 15,000,000 shares are designated Class B Common Stock, and 20,000,000 shares are designated "blank check" preferred stock for which the Board of Directors has the authority to determine the rights, powers, limitations and restrictions. The rights of the Company's Class A and Class B Common Stock are identical, except that the Class A Common Stock has 10 votes per share and the Class B Common Stock has one vote per share. The Class A and Class B Common Stock receive cash dividends on an equal per share basis.

The Series A Preferred Stock includes detachable warrants issued to Bull Run to purchase 731,250 shares of Class A Common Stock for \$11.92 per share. Of these warrants 450,000 vested upon issuance, with the remaining warrants vesting in five equal annual installments commencing January 3, 1997, providing the Series A Preferred Stock remains outstanding. The Series A Preferred Stock is issued to

## **E. Stockholders' Equity (Continued)**

Bull Run. The holder of the Series A Preferred Stock will receive cash dividends at an annual rate of \$800 per share. During 2000, the Company redeemed 500 shares of Series A Preferred Stock at a cost of \$5.0 million. The liquidation or redemption price of the Series A Preferred Stock is \$10,000 per share.

The Series B Preferred Stock includes warrants to purchase an aggregate of 750,000 shares of Class A Common Stock at an exercise price of \$16.00 per share. Of these warrants 450,000 vested upon issuance, with the remaining warrants vesting in five equal annual installments commencing on September 24, 1997. The shares of Series B Preferred Stock were issued to Bull Run and to J. Mack Robinson, Chairman of the Board of Bull Run and President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, and certain of his affiliates. The Company obtained a written opinion from an investment banker as to the fairness of the terms of the sale of such Series B Preferred Stock with warrants. The holders of the Series B Preferred Stock will receive dividends at an annual rate of \$600 per share, except the Company at its option may pay these dividends in cash or in additional shares. The liquidation or redemption price of the Series B Preferred Stock is \$10,000 per share. In August 1998 and September 1997, the Company issued 50.9 shares and 60.0 shares of Series B Preferred Stock, respectively, as payment of dividends to the holders of its then outstanding Series B Preferred Stock. During 1998, the Company redeemed 760.9 shares of Series B Preferred Stock at a cost of \$7.6 million. During 1999, the Company did not issue any shares of Series B Preferred Stock as dividends nor did it redeem any of the shares of Series B Preferred Stock. During 2000, the Company issued 11 shares of Series B Preferred Stock as payment of dividends to the holders of its then outstanding Series B Preferred Stock. The liquidation or redemption price of the Series B Preferred Stock is \$10,000 per share.

The Company is authorized by its Board of Directors to purchase up to two million shares of the Company's Class A or Class B Common Stock to either be retired or reissued in connection with the Company's benefit plans, including the Capital Accumulation Plan and the Incentive Plan. During 2000, 1999 and 1998, the Company purchased 11,361 shares of its Class B Common Stock, 20,000 shares of its Class B Common Stock and 30,750 shares of its Class A Common Stock, respectively, under this authorization. The 2000, 1999 and 1998 treasury shares were purchased at prevailing market prices with an average effective price of \$12.55, \$12.85 and \$18.95 per share, respectively, and were funded from the Company's operating cash flow.

## **F. Long-term Incentive Plan and Stock Purchase Plan**

The Company has elected to follow Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 25, "Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees" ("APB 25") and related Interpretations in accounting for its employee stock options because, as discussed below, the alternative fair value accounting provided for under SFAS No. 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation" ("SFAS No. 123") requires use of option valuation models that were not developed for use in valuing employee stock options. Under APB 25, because the exercise price of the Company's employee stock options equals the market price of the underlying stock on the date of the grant, no compensation expense is recognized.

The Company has a long-term incentive plan (the "Incentive Plan") that was amended by the Company's shareholders during 1999. The amendment increased the aggregate number of shares of the Company's common stock subject to awards under the Incentive Plan to 1.9 million from 900,000. As a result of this amendment, the Incentive Plan has 300,000 shares of the Company's Class A Common Stock and 1.6 million shares of the Company's Class B Common Stock reserved for grants to key personnel for (i) incentive stock options, (ii) non-qualified stock options, (iii) stock appreciation rights, (iv) restricted stock and (v) performance awards, as defined by the Incentive Plan. Shares of Common Stock underlying outstanding options or performance awards are counted against the Incentive Plan's maximum shares while such options or awards are outstanding. Under the Incentive Plan, the options

## F. Long-term Incentive Plan and Stock Purchase Plan (Continued)

granted typically vest after a two year period and expire three years after full vesting. However, options will vest immediately upon a “change in control” of the Company as such term is defined in the Incentive Plan. Options granted through December 31, 2000, have been granted at a price which approximates fair market value on the date of the grant. On December 11, 1998, the Company repriced certain Class B Common Stock grants made under the Incentive Plan, at a price which approximated the market price of the Class B Common Stock on that day.

The Company also has a Stock Purchase Plan, which grants non-employee directors up to 7,500 shares of the Company’s Class B Common Stock. Under this Stock Purchase Plan, the options granted vest at the beginning of the upcoming calendar year and expire at the end of January following that calendar year.

Pro forma information regarding net income and earnings per share is required by SFAS No. 123, which also requires that the information be determined as if the Company has accounted for its employee stock options granted subsequent to December 31, 1994 under the fair value method of SFAS No. 123. The fair value for these options was estimated at the date of grant using a Black-Scholes option pricing model with the following weighted-average assumptions for 2000, 1999 and 1998, respectively: risk-free interest rates of 6.55%, 6.04% and 4.57%; dividend yields of 0.78%, 0.63% and 0.55%; volatility factors of the expected market price of the Company’s Class A or Class B Common Stock of 0.27, 0.27 and 0.28; and a weighted-average expected life of the options of 4.9, 4.0 and 4.0 years.

For purposes of pro forma disclosures, the estimated fair value of the options is amortized to expense over the options’ vesting period. The Company’s pro forma information follows (in thousands, except per common share data):

	<u>Year Ended December 31,</u>		
	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Pro forma income (loss) available to common stockholders	\$ (8,245)	\$ (8,329)	\$ 39,523
Pro forma income (loss) per common share:			
Basic	\$ (0.53)	\$ (0.65)	\$ 3.31
Diluted	\$ (0.53)	\$ (0.65)	\$ 3.20

## F. Long-term Incentive Plan and Stock Purchase Plan (Continued)

A summary of the Company's stock option activity for Class A Common Stock, and related information for the years ended December 31, 2000, 1999, and 1998 is as follows (in thousands, except weighted average data):

	Year Ended December 31,					
	2000		1999		1998	
	Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price
Stock options outstanding – beginning of year	34	\$14.04	36	\$13.71	92	\$ 7.43
Options granted	-0-		-0-		19	17.81
Options exercised	(15)	8.89	(2)	8.89	(74)	7.08
Options forfeited	<u>-0-</u>		<u>-0-</u>		<u>(1)</u>	8.89
Stock options outstanding – end of year	<u>19</u>	\$17.81	<u>34</u>	\$14.04	<u>36</u>	\$13.71
Exercisable at end of year	19	\$17.81	14	\$ 8.89	16	\$ 8.89
Weighted-average fair value of options granted during the year						\$ 5.59

The exercise price for Class A Common Stock options outstanding as of December 31, 2000, is \$17.81 for the Incentive Plan. The weighted-average remaining contractual life of the Class A Common Stock options outstanding for the Incentive Plan is 2.9 years.

A summary of the Company's stock option activity for Class B Common Stock, and related information for the years ended December 31, 2000, 1999, and 1998 is as follows (in thousands, except weighted average data):

	Year Ended December 31,					
	2000		1999		1998	
	Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price
Stock options outstanding – beginning of year	820	\$13.78	659	\$14.36	630	\$15.80
Options granted	965	10.37	241	12.85	589	14.43
Options exercised	-0-		-0-		(86)	11.05
Options forfeited	(36)	12.52	(18)	14.41	(474)	16.95
Options expired	<u>(52)</u>	14.00	<u>(62)</u>	16.13	<u>-0-</u>	
Stock options outstanding – end of year	<u>1,697</u>	\$11.86	<u>820</u>	\$13.78	<u>659</u>	\$14.36
Exercisable at end of year	569	\$14.05	449	\$14.20	84	\$14.65
Weighted-average fair value of options granted during the year		\$ 3.40		\$ 3.67		\$ 3.95

## F. Long-term Incentive Plan and Stock Purchase Plan (Continued)

Exercise prices for Class B Common Stock options outstanding as of December 31, 2000, ranged from \$10.13 to \$14.50 for the Incentive Plan and \$12.75 to \$13.00 for the Stock Purchase Plan. The weighted-average remaining contractual life of the Class B Common Stock options outstanding for the Incentive Plan and Stock Purchase Plan is 3.6 and 0.5 years, respectively.

## G. Income Taxes

The Company uses the liability method in accounting for income taxes. Under this method, deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based on differences between financial reporting and tax bases of assets and liabilities and are measured using the enacted tax rates and laws that will be in effect when the differences are expected to reverse.

Federal and state income tax expense (benefit) included in the consolidated financial statements are summarized as follows (in thousands):

	<u>Year Ended December 31,</u>		
	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Current			
Federal	-0-	\$ 6	\$ 414
State and local	587	423	937
Deferred	<u>(2,454)</u>	<u>(2,739)</u>	<u>26,793</u>
	<u>\$ (1,867)</u>	<u>\$ (2,310)</u>	<u>\$ 28,144</u>

The total provision for income taxes for 1998 included a deferred tax charge of \$28.3 million which related to the exchange of WALB's assets for the assets of WEAU. For income tax purposes, the gain on the exchange of WALB qualified for deferred capital gains treatment under the "like-kind exchange" provision of Section 1031 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Significant components of the Company's deferred tax liabilities and assets are as follows (in thousands):

	<u>December 31,</u>	
	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Net book value of property and equipment	\$ 11,272	\$ 13,036
Goodwill and other intangibles	78,456	75,487
Other	<u>122</u>	<u>122</u>
Total deferred tax liabilities	89,850	88,645
Deferred tax assets:		
Liability under supplemental retirement plan	(257)	517
Allowance for doubtful accounts	322	383
Difference in basis of assets held for sale	-0-	1,106
Federal operating loss carryforwards	13,163	9,251
State and local operating loss carryforwards	3,319	2,959
Other	<u>707</u>	<u>242</u>
Total deferred tax assets	17,254	14,458
Valuation allowance for deferred tax assets	<u>(340)</u>	<u>(1,203)</u>
Net deferred tax assets	<u>16,914</u>	<u>13,255</u>
Deferred tax liabilities, net	<u>\$ 72,936</u>	<u>\$ 75,390</u>

## G. Income Taxes (Continued)

Approximately \$46.8 million in federal operating loss carryforwards will expire by the year ended December 31, 2020. Additionally, the Company has approximately \$100.2 million in state operating loss carryforwards.

A reconciliation of income tax expense at the statutory federal income tax rate and income taxes as reflected in the consolidated financial statements is as follows (in thousands):

	<u>Year Ended December 31,</u>		
	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Statutory rate applied to income (loss)	\$(2,746)	\$(2,932)	\$ 24,431
State and local taxes, net of federal tax benefits	368	296	3,472
Other items, net	<u>511</u>	<u>326</u>	<u>241</u>
	<u>\$(1,867)</u>	<u>\$(2,310)</u>	<u>\$ 28,144</u>

The Company received income tax refunds (net of payments) of \$269,000 in 2000 and the Company made income tax payments (net of refunds) of approximately \$800,000 and \$1.5 million during 1999 and 1998, respectively. At December 31, 2000 and 1999, the Company had current recoverable income taxes of approximately \$1.2 million and \$2.1 million, respectively.

The Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") is auditing the Company's federal tax return for the year ended December 31, 1996. In conjunction with this examination, the Company extended the time period that the IRS has to audit the Company's federal tax returns for the 1996 and 1997 tax years until December 31, 2001. The Company can not predict when the IRS will conclude such audit or if the IRS will propose any adjustments to the Company's tax return.

## H. Retirement Plans

### *Pension Plan*

The Company has a retirement plan covering substantially all full-time employees. Retirement benefits are based on years of service and the employees' highest average compensation for five consecutive years during the last ten years of employment. The Company's funding policy is to contribute annually the minimum amount deductible for federal income tax purposes.

## H. Retirement Plans (Continued)

The following summarizes the plan's funded status and related assumptions (dollars in thousands):

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2000</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>Change in benefit obligation:</b>		
Benefit obligation at beginning of year	\$ 8,951	\$8,322
Service cost	931	750
Interest cost	598	529
Actuarial (gains) losses	141	(203)
Benefits paid	<u>(413)</u>	<u>(447)</u>
Benefit obligation at end of year	<u>\$10,208</u>	<u>\$8,951</u>
<b>Change in plan assets:</b>		
Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year	\$ 8,059	\$7,407
Actual return on plan assets	334	516
Company contributions	223	583
Benefits paid	<u>(413)</u>	<u>(447)</u>
Fair value of plan assets at end of year	<u>\$ 8,203</u>	<u>\$8,059</u>
<b>Components of accrued benefit costs:</b>		
Underfunded status of the plan	\$(2,005)	\$ (891)
Unrecognized net actuarial loss	456	94
Unrecognized net transition amount	(81)	(134)
Unrecognized prior service cost	<u>(1)</u>	<u>(3)</u>
Accrued benefit cost	<u>\$(1,631)</u>	<u>\$ (934)</u>
<b>Weighted-average assumptions as of December 31:</b>		
Discount rate	6.8%	6.8%
Expected long-term rate of return on plan assets	7.0%	6.8%
Estimated rate of increase in compensation levels	5.0%	5.0%

The net periodic pension cost includes the following components (in thousands):

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2000</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>Components of net periodic pension cost:</b>			
Service cost	\$ 931	\$ 750	\$ 616
Interest cost	598	529	496
Expected return on plan assets	(553)	(516)	(475)
Amortization of prior service cost	(1)	(1)	(1)
Amortization of transition (asset) or obligation	<u>(54)</u>	<u>(54)</u>	<u>(54)</u>
Pension cost	<u>\$ 921</u>	<u>\$ 708</u>	<u>\$ 582</u>

## H. Retirement Plans (Continued)

### *Capital Accumulation Plan*

The Gray Communications Systems, Inc. Capital Accumulation Plan (the “Capital Accumulation Plan”) provides additional retirement benefits for substantially all employees. The Capital Accumulation Plan is intended to meet the requirements of section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

The Capital Accumulation Plan allows an investment option in the Company’s Class B Common Stock and allows for the Company’s percentage match to be made by a contribution of the Company’s Class B Common Stock. The Company reserved 300,000 shares of the Company’s Class B Common Stock for issuance under the Capital Accumulation Plan.

Employee contributions to the Capital Accumulation Plan, not to exceed 6% of the employees’ gross pay, are matched by Company contributions. Since 1997, the Company’s percentage match has been made by a contribution of the Company’s Class B Common Stock. The Company’s percentage match amount is declared by the Company’s Board of Directors before the beginning of each plan year. The Company’s percentage match was 50% for the three years ended December 31, 2000. The Company contributions vest, based upon each employee’s number of years of service, over a period not to exceed five years.

Company matching contributions aggregating \$685,223, \$613,983 and \$491,524 were charged to expense for 2000, 1999 and 1998, respectively, for the issuance of 59,969, 44,715 and 29,305 shares of Class B Common Stock, respectively.

## I. Commitments and Contingencies

The Company has various operating lease commitments for equipment, land and office space. The Company also has commitments for various television film exhibition rights and for digital television (“DTV”) equipment. The license periods for the film exhibition rights had not yet commenced nor had the DTV equipment been delivered as of December 31, 2000. Rent expense resulting from operating leases for the years ended December 31, 2000, 1999 and 1998 were \$1.5 million, \$1.8 million and \$1.8 million, respectively. Future minimum payments under operating leases with initial or remaining noncancelable lease terms in excess of one year, obligations under film exhibition rights for which the license period had not yet commenced and commitments for DTV equipment are as follows (in thousands):

<u>Year</u>	<u>DTV Equipment</u>	<u>Lease</u>	<u>Film</u>	<u>Total</u>
2001	\$ -0-	\$ 1,111	\$ 1,846	\$ 2,957
2002	2,298	724	4,097	7,119
2003	-0-	502	2,667	3,169
2004	-0-	218	2,565	2,783
2005	-0-	134	1,665	1,799
Thereafter	<u>-0-</u>	<u>1,317</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>1,350</u>
	<u>\$ 2,298</u>	<u>\$ 4,006</u>	<u>\$ 12,873</u>	<u>\$ 19,177</u>

The Company has also acquired certain collegiate broadcast rights for sporting events through a five-year marketing agreement commencing April 1, 2000. The Company’s annual obligation will be determined, in part, by the number of events broadcast under the agreement; however, the Company’s obligation will not exceed \$2.2 million annually.

## I. Commitments and Contingencies (Continued)

The Company is subject to legal proceedings and claims which arise in the normal course of its business. In the opinion of management, the amount of ultimate liability, if any, with respect to these actions will not materially affect the Company's financial position.

## J. Information on Business Segments

The Company operates in three business segments: broadcasting, publishing and paging. The broadcasting segment operates thirteen television stations located in the southern, southwestern and midwestern United States. The publishing segment operates four daily newspapers in four different markets located in Georgia and Indiana, and an area weekly advertising only publication in Georgia. The paging operations are located in Florida, Georgia, and Alabama. The following tables present certain financial information concerning the Company's three operating segments (in thousands):

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2000</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1998</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>		
Operating revenues:			
Broadcasting	\$120,640	\$ 97,015	\$ 91,007
Publishing	41,499	37,808	29,330
Paging	<u>9,074</u>	<u>9,130</u>	<u>8,553</u>
	<u>\$171,213</u>	<u>\$143,953</u>	<u>\$128,890</u>
Operating income:			
Broadcasting (1)	\$ 23,719	\$ 15,763	\$ 21,113
Publishing	6,726	5,792	2,867
Paging	<u>653</u>	<u>505</u>	<u>947</u>
Total operating income (1)	31,098	22,060	24,927
Gain on exchange of television station	-0-	-0-	72,646
Valuation adjustment of goodwill and other assets	-0-	-0-	(2,074)
Miscellaneous income and (expense), net	781	336	(242)
Interest expense	<u>(39,957)</u>	<u>(31,021)</u>	<u>(25,454)</u>
Income (loss) before income taxes	<u>\$ (8,078)</u>	<u>\$ (8,625)</u>	<u>\$ 69,803</u>

## J. Information on Business Segments (Continued)

Operating income is total operating revenue less operating expenses, excluding gain on exchange of television station, valuation adjustment of goodwill and other assets, miscellaneous income and expense (net) and interest. Corporate and administrative expenses are allocated to operating income based on net segment revenues.

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2000</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1998</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>		
Depreciation and amortization expense:			
Broadcasting	\$ 26,490	\$ 20,199	\$ 14,713
Publishing	2,451	2,302	1,554
Paging	<u>2,083</u>	<u>1,848</u>	<u>1,773</u>
	31,024	24,349	18,040
Corporate	<u>183</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>77</u>
Total depreciation and amortization expense	<u>\$ 31,207</u>	<u>\$ 24,451</u>	<u>\$ 18,117</u>
Media cash flow:			
Broadcasting	\$ 53,053	\$ 39,207	\$ 38,446
Publishing	10,227	9,130	5,214
Paging	<u>2,967</u>	<u>2,607</u>	<u>2,964</u>
	<u>\$ 66,247</u>	<u>\$ 50,944</u>	<u>\$ 46,624</u>
Media cash flow reconciliation:			
Operating income (1)	\$ 31,098	\$ 22,060	\$ 24,927
Add:			
Amortization of program license rights	5,307	5,340	4,251
Depreciation and amortization	31,207	24,451	18,117
Corporate overhead	3,594	3,448	3,063
Non-cash compensation and contribution to 401(k) Plan, paid in Common Stock	655	599	476
Less:			
Payments for program license liabilities	<u>(5,614)</u>	<u>(4,954)</u>	<u>(4,210)</u>
	<u>\$ 66,247</u>	<u>\$ 50,944</u>	<u>\$ 46,624</u>
Capital expenditures:			
Broadcasting	\$ 7,632	\$ 9,152	\$ 6,718
Publishing	625	967	934
Paging	<u>902</u>	<u>1,029</u>	<u>1,461</u>
	9,159	11,148	9,113
Corporate	<u>194</u>	<u>564</u>	<u>158</u>
Total capital expenditures	<u>\$ 9,353</u>	<u>\$ 11,712</u>	<u>\$ 9,271</u>

## J. Information on Business Segments (Continued)

	December 31,		
	2000	1999	1998
	(In thousands)		
Identifiable assets:			
Broadcasting	\$564,323	\$584,694	\$410,039
Publishing	33,260	34,584	17,196
Paging	<u>22,404</u>	<u>23,822</u>	<u>25,563</u>
	619,987	643,100	452,798
Corporate	<u>16,785</u>	<u>15,057</u>	<u>16,176</u>
Total identifiable assets	<u>\$636,772</u>	<u>\$658,157</u>	<u>\$468,974</u>

- (1) Operating income excludes gain on exchange of television station of \$72.6 million recognized for the exchange of WALB and valuation adjustments of goodwill and other assets of \$2.1 million in 1998.

## K. Selected Quarterly Financial Data (Unaudited)

	Fiscal Quarters			
	First	Second	Third	Fourth
	(In thousands, except for per share data)			
<b>Year Ended December 31, 2000:</b>				
Operating revenues	\$38,888	\$43,408	\$41,610	\$47,307
Operating income	4,101	8,481	8,562	9,954
Net income (loss)	(3,849)	(1,370)	(1,134)	141
Net loss available to common stockholders	(4,101)	(1,623)	(1,387)	(113)
Basic and diluted loss per share	\$ (0.27)	\$ (0.10)	\$ (0.09)	\$ (0.01)
<b>Year Ended December 31, 1999:</b>				
Operating revenues	\$31,392	\$35,029	\$33,530	\$44,002
Operating income	4,333	5,661	4,290	7,776
Net loss	(1,560)	(1,080)	(1,968)	(1,707)
Net loss available to common stockholders	(1,813)	(1,333)	(2,220)	(1,959)
Basic and diluted loss per share	\$ (0.15)	\$ (0.11)	\$ (0.19)	\$ (0.13)

Because of the method used in calculating per share data, the quarterly per share data will not necessarily add to the per share data as computed for the year.

The Company completed the Goshen Acquisition and the Texas Acquisitions in the first and fourth quarters, respectively, of 1999. See *Note B* for further discussion of these transactions.

## Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure

None

### **PART III**

The information called for by Part III of Form 10-K is incorporated by reference to the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement relating to its annual meeting of shareholders to be held June 28, 2001, which will be filed by the Registrant with the Securities and Exchange Commission no later than 120 days after the close of the fiscal year.

### **PART IV**

#### **Item 14. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules and Reports on Form 8-K.**

**(a) (1) and (2) List of Financial Statements and Financial Statement Schedules.**

**(1) Financial Statements.**

The following consolidated financial statements of Gray Communications Systems, Inc. are included in Item 8:

Report of Independent Auditors

Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2000 and 1999

Consolidated Statements of Operations for the years ended December 31, 2000, 1999 and 1998

Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2000, 1999 and 1998

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2000, 1999 and 1998

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(2) Financial statement schedules.**

The following financial statement schedule of Gray Communications Systems, Inc. and subsidiaries is included in Item 14(d):

Schedule II – Valuation and qualifying accounts.

All other schedules for which provision is made in the applicable accounting regulation of the Securities and Exchange Commission are not required under the related instructions or are inapplicable and therefore have been omitted.

**(b) Reports on Form 8-K.**

None.

(c) Exhibits.

Exhibit No.	Description
3.1	Restated Articles of Incorporation of Gray Communications Systems, Inc., (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1996)
3.2	By-Laws of Gray Communications Systems, Inc. as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1996)
3.3	Amendment of the Bylaws of Gray Communications Systems, Inc., January 6, 1999 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.3 to the Company's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1998)
4.1	Indenture for the Company's 10 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> % Senior Subordinated Notes due 2006 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's registration statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 333-4338) (the "Form S-1"))
4.2	Amended and Restated Loan Agreement by and among Gray Communications Systems, Inc. as Borrower, NationsBank, NA as Syndication Agent and Administrative Agent, Key Corporate Capital Inc., as Documentation Agent and The Financial Institutions Listed Herein as of July 31, 1998 with NationsBanc Montgomery Securities LLC, as Lead Arranger. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Company's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 1998)
4.3	Amended and Restated Borrower Security Agreement dated July 31, 1998 by and between Gray Communications Systems, Inc. and NationsBank N.A. as Administrative Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Company's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1998)
4.4	Subsidiary Security Agreement dated September 30, 1996 between Gray Communications Systems, Inc., its subsidiaries and KeyBank National Association (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(iii) to the Company's Form 8-K, filed October 15, 1996)
4.5	Amended and Restated Borrower Pledge Agreement dated July 31, 1998 between Gray Communications Systems, Inc. and NationsBank N.A. as Administrative Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.5 to the Company's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1998)
4.6	Subsidiary Pledge Agreement dated September 30, 1996 by and among WRDW-TV, Inc., WJHG-TV, Inc., Gray Kentucky Television, Inc. and KeyBank National Association (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(v) to the Company's Form 8-K, filed October 15, 1996)
4.7	Subsidiary Guarantee dated September 30, 1996 between Gray Communications Systems, Inc., its subsidiaries and KeyBank National Association (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(vi) to the Company's Form 8-K, filed October 15, 1996)

Exhibit No.	Description
4.8	First Amendment to Amended and Restated Loan Agreement dated as of the 13 <sup>th</sup> day of November, 1998, by and among Gray Communications Systems, Inc., as Borrower, the Banks (as defined in the loan agreement) and NationsBank, N.A., as administrative agent (the “Administrative Agent”) on behalf of the Banks (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.8 to the Company’s Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1998)
4.9	Second Amendment to Amended and Restated Loan Agreement dated as of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> day of March, 1999, by and among Gray Communications Systems, Inc., as Borrower, the Banks (as defined in the loan agreement) and NationsBank, N.A., as administrative agent on behalf of the Banks (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.9 to the Company’s Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1998)
4.10	Consent Agreement entered into as of the 26 <sup>th</sup> day of February, 1999 by and among Gray Communications Systems, Inc., as Borrower, the Banks (as defined in the Loan Agreement) and NationsBank N.A. as administrative agent on behalf of the Banks (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.10 to the Company’s Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1998)
4.11	Second Amended and Restated Loan Agreement dated as of October 1, 1999 by and among Gray Communications Systems, Inc., as Borrower; The Financial Institutions Signatory Hereto, as Lenders; and Bank of America, N.A., as Administrative Agent for the Lenders with Banc of America Securities LLC as Lead Arranger and Book Manager; Key Corporate Capital, Inc., as documentation agent and First Union National Bank, as Syndication Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Company’s Form 8-K dated October 15, 1999)
10.1	Supplemental pension plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(a) to the Company’s Form 10 filed October 7, 1991, as amended January 29, 1992 and March 2, 1992)
10.2	Long-Term Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(e) to the Company’s Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1993)
10.3	Warrant, dated January 4, 1996, to purchase 487,500 shares of Class A Common Stock (incorporated by reference to the Form S-1)
10.4	Employment Agreement, dated February 12, 1996 between the Company and Robert A. Beizer (incorporated by reference to the Form S-1)
10.5	Form of Preferred Stock Exchange and Purchase Agreement between the Company and Bull Run Corporation (incorporated by reference to the Form S-1)
10.6	Form of Warrant to purchase 500,000 shares of Class A Common Stock (incorporated by reference to the Form S-1)
10.7	Form of amendment to employment agreement between the Company and Robert A. Beizer, dated December 12, 1996 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.19 to the Company’s Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1996)

Exhibit No.	Description
10.8	Amendment to the Company's Long-Term Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.19 to the Company's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1996)
10.9	Asset Purchase Agreement by and among Gray Communications Systems, Inc., Gray Communications of Indiana, Inc., News Printing Company, Inc., Jane Gemmer and John Gemmer dated as of February 28, 1999 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.16 to the Company's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1998)
10.10	Agreement and Plan of Merger by and among Gray Communications Systems, Inc., Gray Communications of Texas, Inc. and KWTX Broadcasting Company dated as of April 13, 1999 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 1999)
10.11	Agreement and Plan of Merger by and among Gray Communications Systems, Inc., Gray Communications of Texas, Inc. and Brazos Broadcasting Company dated as of April 13, 1999 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 1999)
10.12	Asset Purchase Agreement by and among Gray Communications Systems, Inc., Gray Communications of Texas-Sherman, Inc., KXII Licensee Corp., KXII Television, Ltd., K-Twelve, Ltd., KBI 1, Inc., KBI 2 Inc., KXII Properties, Inc. and the Shareholders of KXII Properties, Inc. dated as of April 26, 1999 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 1999)
21	List of Subsidiaries
23	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP

**(d) Financial Statement Schedules** – The response to this section is submitted as a part of (a)(1) and (2).

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

GRAY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC.

Date: March 9, 2001 By: /s/ J. MACK ROBINSON  
J. Mack Robinson,  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Date: March 9, 2001 By: /s/ WILLIAM E. MAYHER, III  
William E. Mayher, III,  
*Chairman of the Board*

Date: March 9, 2001 By: /s/ J. MACK ROBINSON  
J. Mack Robinson, *Director*

Date: March 9, 2001 By: /s/ RICHARD L. BOGER  
Richard L. Boger, *Director*

Date: March 9, 2001 By: /s/ HILTON H. HOWELL, JR.  
Hilton H. Howell, Jr., *Director*

Date: March 9, 2001 By: /s/ HOWELL W. NEWTON  
Howell W. Newton, *Director*

Date: March 9, 2001 By: /s/ HUGH NORTON  
Hugh Norton, *Director*

Date: March 9, 2001 By: /s/ ROBERT S. PRATHER, JR.  
Robert S. Prather, Jr., *Director*

Date: March 9, 2001 By: /s/ HARRIETT J. ROBINSON  
Harriett J. Robinson, *Director*

Date: March 9, 2001 By: /s/ JAMES C. RYAN  
James C. Ryan,  
*Vice President &  
Chief Financial Officer*

Date: March 9, 2001 By: /s/ JACKSON S. COWART, IV  
Jackson S. Cowart, IV,  
*Chief Accounting Officer*

## **REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Gray Communications Systems, Inc. as of December 31, 2000 and 1999, and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2000, and have issued our report thereon dated January 29, 2001. Our audits also included the financial statement schedule listed in Item 14(a). This schedule is the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion based on our audits.

In our opinion, the financial statement schedule referred to above, when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole, presents fairly in all material respects the information set forth therein.

Ernst & Young LLP

Atlanta, Georgia  
January 29, 2001

**GRAY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC.**

**SCHEDULE II – VALUATION AND QUALIFYING ACCOUNTS**

Col. A	Col. B	Col. C		Col. D	Col. E
<u>Description</u>	<u>Balance at Beginning Of Period</u>	<u>Additions</u>		<u>Deductions (1)</u>	<u>Balance at End of Period</u>
		<u>Charged to Costs and Expenses</u>	<u>Charged to Other Accounts (2)</u>		
<b>Year Ended December 31, 2000</b>					
Allowance for doubtful accounts	\$1,008,000	\$577,000	-0-	\$740,000	\$845,000
<b>Year Ended December 31, 1999</b>					
Allowance for doubtful accounts	\$1,212,000	\$629,000	\$220,000	\$1,053,000	\$1,008,000
<b>Year Ended December 31, 1998</b>					
Allowance for doubtful accounts	\$1,253,000	\$831,000	\$ 61,000	\$ 933,000	\$1,212,000

(1) Deductions are write-offs of amounts not considered collectible.

(2) Represents amounts recorded in connection with acquisitions.

**List of Subsidiaries  
Gray Communications Systems Inc.**

Name of Subsidiary	Jurisdiction of Incorporation
The Albany Herald Publishing Co.	Georgia
Post-Citizen Media, Inc.	Georgia
Gray Communications of Indiana, Inc.	Georgia
WEAU-TV, Inc.	Georgia
WVLT-TV, Inc.	Georgia
WRDW-TV, Inc.	Georgia
WITN-TV, Inc	Georgia
Gray Kentucky Television, Inc.	Georgia
Gray Communications of Texas, Inc.	Georgia
Gray Communications of Texas – Sherman, Inc.	Georgia
Gray Transportation Company, Inc.	Georgia
Gray Real Estate and Development Co.	Georgia
Gray Florida Holdings, Inc.	Georgia
KOLN/KGIN, Inc.	Delaware
WEAU Licensee Corp.	Delaware
KOLN/KGIN License, Inc.	Delaware
WJHG Licensee Corp.	Delaware
WCTV Licensee Corp.	Delaware
WVLT Licensee Corp.	Delaware
WRDW Licensee Corp.	Delaware
WITN Licensee Corp.	Delaware
WKYT Licensee Corp.	Delaware
WYMT Licensee Corp.	Delaware
KWTX-KBTX Licensee Corp.	Delaware
KXII Licensee Corp.	Delaware
Gray Television Management, Inc.	Delaware
Gray MidAmerica Holdings, Inc.	Delaware
Gray Publishing, Inc.	Delaware
Gray Digital, Inc.	Delaware
KWTX-KBTX LP Corp.	Delaware
KXII LP Corp.	Delaware
Porta-Phone Paging Licensee Corp.	Delaware
KXII L.P.	Delaware
KWTX – KBTX L.P.	Delaware
KTVE Inc.	Arkansas
Lynqx Communications, Inc.	Louisiana

**CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statements (Form S-8 No. 33-84656 and Form S-8 No. 333-17773) pertaining to the Gray Communications Systems, Inc. Capital Accumulation Plan, in the Registration Statements (Form S-8 No. 333-15711 and Form S-8 No. 333-89855) pertaining to the Gray Communications Systems, Inc. 1992 Long-Term Incentive Plan and in the Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-42377) pertaining to the Gray Communications Systems, Inc. Non-Employee Directors Stock Option Plan of our reports dated January 29, 2001 with respect to the consolidated financial statements and schedule of Gray Communications Systems, Inc. included in the Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2000.

Ernst & Young LLP

Atlanta, Georgia  
March 8, 2001

---

**Television**

**WVLT-TV**  
6516 Papermill Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37919  
865.450.8888  
www.volunteertv.com

**WKYT-TV**  
2851 Winchester Road  
Lexington, KY 40509  
859.299.0411  
www.wkyt.com

**KWTX-TV**  
6700 American Plaza  
Waco, TX 76712  
254.776.1330  
www.kwtv.com

**KBTX-TV**  
4141 East 29th Street  
Bryan, TX 77802  
979.846.7777  
www.kbtv.com

**KOLN/KGIN-TV**  
840 North 40th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68503  
402.467.4321  
www.kolnkgin.com

**WITN-TV**  
Highway 17 South  
Washington, NC 27889  
252.946.3131  
www.witntv.com

**WCTV-TV**  
4000 County Road 12  
Tallahassee, FL 32312  
850.893.6666  
www.wctv6.com

**WRDW-TV**  
1301 Georgia Avenue  
North Augusta, SC 29841  
803.278.1212  
www.wrdw.com

**WEAU-TV**  
1907 South Hastings Way  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
715.835.1313  
www.wEAU.com

**WJHG-TV**  
8195 Front Beach Road  
Panama City, FL 32407-4820  
850.234.7777  
www.wjhg.com

**KXII-TV**  
4201 Texoma Parkway  
Sherman, TX 75090  
903.892.8123  
www.kxii.com

**WYMT-TV**  
199 Black Gold Boulevard  
Hazard, KY 41701  
606.436.5757  
www.wymt-tv.com

---

**Newspaper**

**GWINNETT DAILY POST**  
166 Buford Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045  
770.963.9205  
www.gwinnettdaily.com

**THE ALBANY HERALD**  
126 N. Washington Street  
Albany, GA 31701  
229.888.9300  
www.albanyherald.com

**THE GOSHEN NEWS**  
114 South Main Street  
Goshen, IN 46526  
219.533.2151  
www.goshennews.com

**THE ROCKDALE CITIZEN/  
THE NEWTON CITIZEN**  
969 South Main Street  
Conyers, GA 30012  
770.483.7108  
www.rockdalecitizen.com  
www.newtoncitizen.com

---

**Wireless Messaging and Satellite Uplink**

**GRAYLINK**  
1306 Thomasville Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
850.841.7100  
www.graylink.com

**LYNQX  
COMMUNICATIONS**  
4000 County Road 12  
Tallahassee, FL 32312  
850.893.2623  
www.lynx.com

---

**Corporate Offices**

**GRAY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC.**  
Executive Offices: 4370 Peachtree Road, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30319  
404.504.9828  
Administrative Offices:  
126 N. Washington Street  
Albany, GA 31701  
229.888.9390  
www.graycommunications.com

---

**Other Information**

**TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR**  
Mellon Investor Services LLC  
Overpeck Centre  
85 Challenger Road  
Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660  
888.835.2869  
www.chasemellon.com  
e-mail: shrrelations@chasemellon.com

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**  
Ernst & Young LLP  
600 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 2800  
Atlanta, GA 30308-2215  
404.874.8300

**TRUSTEE**  
For 10 5/8% Senior Subordinated Notes  
Due 2006  
Bankers Trust Company  
Four Albany Street  
New York, NY 10006

# GRAY

Communications Systems, Inc.

---

Executive Offices:

4370 Peachtree Road, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30319

Administrative Offices:

126 N. Washington Street  
Albany, Georgia 31701

---

[www.graycommunications.com](http://www.graycommunications.com)

---