



Robert Feder

'Democracy Now!' adds voice to cable

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BY [ROBERT FEDER](#) SUN-TIMES COLUMNIST

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An independent left-leaning national news program featuring in-depth interviews and debates on serious issues is coming to Chicago public access television for the first time.

Starting Feb. 15, "Democracy Now!" will air from 7 to 8 a.m. weekdays on Chicago Access Network (CAN TV) Channel 19.

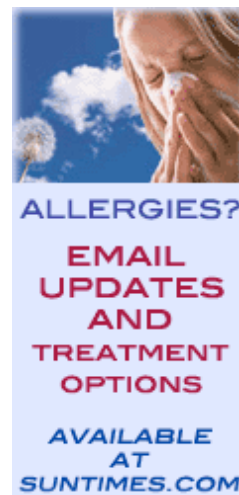
Hosted by Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez, the New York-based program boasts that it provides viewers "access to people and perspectives rarely heard in the U.S. corporate-sponsored media."

Goodman, who doubles as executive producer, began the show on radio in 1996 as an alternative to mainstream news coverage. It is syndicated to more than 350 television, radio and satellite outlets.

Because its producers do not accept advertising or donations from corporations or governments, funding comes entirely from listeners, viewers and foundations.

To accommodate the move, Channel 19 will start its broadcast day one hour earlier at 7 a.m., according to Barbara Popovic, executive director of CAN TV. She acknowledged that the addition of the national news show "goes a little beyond our local mission."

"Democracy Now!" comes to Chicago via a cooperative effort involving CAN TV and several nonprofit and media activist groups, including the Chicago Instructional Technology Foundation, Chicago Media Action and Free



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