

CUMULUS MEDIA INC
Form 424B3
March 16, 2004

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**Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)
Registration No. 333-113337**

PROSPECTUS

CUMULUS MEDIA INC.

**17,902,582 Shares
Class A Common Stock
Par Value \$.01 Per Share**

This prospectus relates to up to 17,902,582 shares of Class A Common Stock of Cumulus Media Inc. that we may issue from time to time in connection with our acquisition of other businesses, properties or securities in business combination transactions utilizing a shelf registration process. We expect the terms of acquisitions involving our issuance of shares of Class A Common Stock covered by this prospectus will be determined by direct negotiations with the owners or controlling persons of the businesses, properties or securities that we may acquire. We will value shares of Class A Common Stock issued in exchange for assets or securities in business combination transactions at prices reasonably related to market prices of our Class A Common Stock, or the value of the assets to be received by us, at the time we agree upon the terms of an acquisition.

We will pay all expenses of this offering. We will not pay any underwriting discounts or commissions, although we may pay finder's fees from time to time in connection with specific acquisitions. Any person receiving such fee may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, referred to as the Securities Act.

This prospectus may also be used by securityholders who received Class A Common Stock covered by this prospectus in transactions described above and who wish to resell shares of Class A Common Stock in transactions registered under the Securities Act. We will receive no consideration in connection with sales by those securityholders. Any securityholders who are participating in a resale of their Class A Common Stock in a transaction covered by this prospectus, and the terms of the sales of their Class A Common Stock, will be set forth in a supplement to this prospectus.

Our Class A Common Stock is quoted on the NASDAQ National Market under the symbol CMLS. On March 15, 2004, the last reported sale price of the Class A Common Stock was \$19.50 per share.

Investing in our Class A Common Stock involves a high degree of risk. See RISK FACTORS, beginning on page 8 of this prospectus.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities, or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus or any supplement to which it relates. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is March 16, 2004.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement. We are offering to sell securities and seeking offers to buy securities only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. The information contained in this prospectus and in any accompanying prospectus supplement is accurate only as of the date on their respective cover pages, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement or any sale of the securities. In this prospectus, the terms *Company*, *Cumulus*, *we*, *us*, and *our* refer to Cumulus Media Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries. The term *Class A Common Stock* means our Class A Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share.

We have not taken any action to permit a public offering of the shares of securities outside the United States. Persons outside the United States who come into possession of this prospectus must inform themselves about and observe any restrictions relating to the offering of the shares of securities and the distribution of this prospectus outside the United States.

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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT CONCERNING FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

In various places in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents we incorporate by reference, we use statements that constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements relate to our future plans, objectives, expectations and intentions. Although we believe that, in making any of these statements, our expectations are based on reasonable assumptions, these statements may be influenced by factors that could cause actual outcomes and results to be materially different from those projected. When used in this document, words such as anticipates, believes, expects, intends, and similar expressions, as they relate to us or our management, are intended to identify these forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are subject to numerous risks and uncertainties, including those referred to under Risk Factors and as otherwise described in our periodic filings with the SEC.

Important facts that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in forward-looking statements, certain of which are beyond our control, include:

- the impact of general economic conditions in the United States or in specific markets in which we currently do business;
- industry conditions, including existing competition and future competitive technologies;
- the popularity of radio as a broadcasting and advertising medium;
- cancellations, disruptions or postponements of advertising schedules in response to national or world events;
- our capital expenditure requirements;
- legislative or regulatory requirements;
- risks and uncertainties relating to our leverage;
- interest rates;
- consummation and integration of pending or future acquisitions;
- access to capital markets; and
- fluctuations in exchange rates and currency values.

Our actual results, performance or achievements could differ materially from those expressed in, or implied by, the forward-looking statements. Accordingly, we cannot be certain that any of the events anticipated by the forward-looking statements will occur or, if any of them do occur, what impact they will have on us. We assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statements as a result of new information or future events or developments, except as required under Federal securities laws. We caution you not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this prospectus or, in any document we incorporate by reference, the date of that document.

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THE COMPANY

Our Business

We own and operate FM and AM radio station clusters serving mid-size markets throughout the United States. We are the second largest radio broadcasting company in the United States based on the number of stations owned or operated. According to Arbitron's Market Report and data published by Miller, Kaplan, we have assembled market-leading groups or clusters of radio stations that rank first or second in terms of revenue share or audience share in substantially all of our markets. As of March 1, 2004, we owned and operated 268 stations in 56 mid-sized U.S. media markets. In addition, we own and operate a multi-market network of five radio stations in the English-speaking Caribbean. Under our local marketing agreements, we provide sales and marketing services for 17 radio stations in 6 U.S. markets in exchange for a management or consulting fee, pending FCC approval of our acquisitions of these stations.

Relative to the 50 largest markets in the United States, we believe that the mid-size markets represent attractive operating environments and generally are characterized by:

a greater use of radio advertising, as evidenced by the greater percentage of total media revenues captured by radio than the national average;

rising advertising revenues, as the larger national and regional retailers expand into these markets;

small independent operators, many of whom lack the capital to produce high-quality locally originated programming or to employ more sophisticated research, marketing, management and sales techniques; and

lower overall susceptibility to economic downturns.

We believe that the attractive operating characteristics of mid-size markets, together with the relaxation of radio station ownership limits under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, referred to as the Telecom Act, and the FCC rules, create significant opportunities for growth from the formation of groups of radio stations within these markets. We believe that mid-size radio markets provide an excellent opportunity to acquire attractive properties at favorable purchase prices due to the size and fragmented nature of ownership in these markets and to the greater attention historically given to the larger markets by radio station acquirers. According to the FCC's records, as of December 31, 2003, there are 8,769 FM and 4,794 AM stations in the United States.

To maximize the advertising revenues and station operating income of our stations, we seek to enhance the quality of radio programs for listeners and the attractiveness of our radio stations to advertisers in a given market. We also seek to increase the amount of locally originated programming content that airs on each station. Within each market, our stations are diversified in terms of format, target audience and geographic location, enabling us to attract larger and broader listener audiences and thereby a wider range of advertisers. This diversification, coupled with our competitive advertising pricing, also has provided us with the ability to compete successfully for advertising revenue against other radio, print and television media competitors.

We believe that we are in a position to generate revenue growth, increase audience and revenue shares within these markets and, by capitalizing on economies of scale and by competing against other media for incremental advertising revenue, increase our station operating income growth rates and margins to those levels found in large markets. Many of our markets are still in the development stage with the potential for substantial growth as we implement our operating strategy.

We are a Delaware corporation with our principal executive offices located at 3535 Piedmont Road, Building 14, Fourteenth Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30305. Our website is located at www.cumulus.com. The information included on our website is not a part of this prospectus.

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Our Strategy

We are focused on generating internal growth through improvement in station operating income for the portfolio of stations we operate, while enhancing our station portfolio and our business as a whole, through the acquisition of individual stations or clusters that satisfy our acquisition criteria.

Operating Strategy

Our operating strategy has the following principal components:

achieve cost efficiencies associated with common infrastructure and personnel and increase revenue by offering regional coverage of key demographic groups that were previously unavailable to national and regional advertisers;

develop each station in our portfolio as a unique enterprise, marketed as an individual, local brand with its own identity, programming content, programming personnel, inventory of time slots and sales force;

use audience research and music testing to refine each station's programming content to match the preferences of the station's target demographic audience, in order to enrich our listeners' experiences by increasing both the quality and quantity of local programming; and

position station clusters to compete with print and television advertising by combining favorable advertising pricing with diverse station formats within each market to draw a larger and broader listening audience to attract a wider range of advertisers.

Acquisition Strategy

Our acquisition strategy has the following principal components:

assemble leading station clusters in the top 50 to 250 radio markets by taking advantage of the size and fragmented nature of ownership in these markets;

acquire leading stations in terms of signal coverage, revenue or audience share and acquire under-performing stations where there is significant potential to apply our management expertise to improve financial and operating performance; and

reconfigure our existing stations, or acquire new stations, located near large markets, that based on an engineering analysis of signal specifications and the likelihood of receiving FCC approval, can be redirected, or moved-in, to those larger markets.

THE OFFERING

We may offer up to 17,902,582 shares of our Class A Common Stock from time to time under this prospectus in connection with one or more acquisitions of other businesses, properties or securities. We may pay for these acquisitions with shares of Class A Common Stock, cash, debt or other securities, or we may assume liabilities of, or commitments to make future capital contributions to, the business being acquired, or any combination thereof. We may structure the acquisitions in a variety of ways, including acquiring stock, partnership interests, limited liability company interests or assets of the acquired business, or merging or consolidating the acquired company with us or one of our subsidiaries. The amount and type of consideration we will offer and the other specific terms of each acquisition will be determined by negotiations with the owners or controlling persons of the businesses, properties or securities that we may acquire.

We expect that the value of the shares of Class A Common Stock that we issue in connection with any acquisition will be at prices reasonably related to market prices of our Class A Common Stock, or the value of the assets to be received by us, at the time we agree upon the terms of an acquisition. The shares may be issued in installments or subject to contingencies or other conditions.

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In June 2002 we registered 10,000,000 shares of our Class A Common Stock on a Registration Statement on Form S-4, referred to as the 2002 Registration Statement, so that we could issue such shares from time to time in connection with our acquisition of other businesses, properties or securities in business combination transactions utilizing the shelf registration process. Since the 2002 Registration Statement became effective, we have issued 2,097,418 of the 10,000,000 shares registered on the 2002 Registration Statement, and as of March 3, 2004, of the 7,902,582 shares remaining under the 2002 Registration Statement, we have entered into agreements to issue approximately 6,073,589 shares in connection with various acquisitions we expect to complete during 2004.

We are registering an additional 10,000,000 shares of our Class A Common Stock on the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. Pursuant to Rule 429 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, with respect to the shares available under the 2002 Registration Statement, this prospectus shall also serve as a prospectus for the 2002 Registration Statement, and the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part will act, upon its effectiveness, as a post-effective amendment to the 2002 Registration Statement. As a result, the total number of shares to which the prospectus relates is 17,902,582 shares of Class A Common Stock.

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SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA
(in thousands, except per share data)

The following table is a summary of our consolidated financial data for the periods presented. You should read the following data in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003 which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Historical results are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected for any future period.

| | Year Ended December 31, | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| | (in thousands, except per share data) | | | |
| Statement of Operations Data: | | | | |
| Net revenues | \$ 226,640 | \$ 202,087 | \$ 252,597 | \$ 281,971 |
| Station operating expenses excluding depreciation, amortization and LMA fees | 192,065 | 142,357 | 159,766 | 179,536 |
| Depreciation and amortization (1) | 44,003 | 50,585 | 16,865 | 19,445 |
| LMA fees | 4,825 | 2,815 | 1,368 | 1,591 |
| Corporate general and administrative expenses | 18,232 | 15,180 | 13,710 | 13,374 |
| Restructuring and other charges (credits) | 16,226 | 6,781 | (971) | (334) |
| Non cash stock compensation expense | | | 171 | 490 |
| Operating income (loss) | (48,711) | (15,631) | 61,688 | 67,869 |
| Net interest expense | (26,055) | (28,716) | (29,226) | (21,983) |
| Loss on early extinguishment of debt | | | (9,115) | (15,243) |
| Other income (expense), net | 73,280 | 10,300 | 1,957 | (924) |
| Income tax (expense) benefit (1) | (812) | 3,494 | (76,357) | (24,678) |
| Income (loss) before cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle | (2,298) | (30,553) | (51,053) | 5,041 |
| Cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle, net of tax | | | (41,700) | |
| Net income (loss) | \$ (2,298) | \$ (30,553) | \$ (92,753) | \$ 5,041 |
| Preferred stock dividends, deemed dividends, accretion of discount and redemption premium | 14,875 | 17,743 | 27,314 | 1,908 |
| Net income (loss) attributable to common stockholders | \$ (17,173) | \$ (48,296) | \$ (120,067) | 3,133 |
| Basic and diluted income (loss) per common share before the cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle | \$ (0.49) | \$ (1.37) | \$ (1.44) | \$ 0.05 |
| Cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle | | | (0.76) | |
| Basic and diluted income (loss) per common share | \$ (0.49) | \$ (1.37) | \$ (2.20) | \$ 0.05 |

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| | Year Ended December 31, | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| | (in thousands, except per share data) | | | |
| Other Financial Data: | | | | |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities | (14,565) | 11,440 | 42,463 | 45,877 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (190,274) | (48,164) | (138,734) | (146,669) |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities | (3,763) | 31,053 | 151,343 | 47,132 |
| Balance Sheet Data: | | | | |
| Total assets | \$ 966,901 | \$965,317 | \$ 1,355,514 | \$ 1,477,630 |
| Long-term debt (including current portion) | 285,228 | 320,018 | 420,262 | 487,344 |
| Preferred stock subject to mandatory redemption | 119,708 | 134,489 | 14,168 | |
| Stockholders' equity | 471,872 | 423,884 | 720,840 | 784,303 |

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RISK FACTORS

Investing in our Class A Common Stock involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks described below, as well as other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, before making an investment decision. The risks described below are not the only ones facing our company. Additional risks not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations. Our business, results of operations or financial condition could be materially and adversely affected by any of these risks. The trading price of our Class A Common Stock could decline due to any of these risks, and you may lose all or part of your investment.

Risks Related to Our Business

We operate in a very competitive business environment.

Radio broadcasting is a highly competitive business. Our stations compete for listeners and advertising revenues directly with other radio stations within their respective markets, as well as with other media, such as newspapers, magazines, cable and broadcast television, outdoor advertising, the Internet and direct mail. In addition, many of our stations compete with groups of two or more radio stations operated by a single operator in the same market.

Audience ratings and market shares fluctuate, and any adverse change in a particular market could have a material adverse effect on the revenue of stations located in that market. While we already compete with other stations with comparable programming formats in many of our markets, any one of our stations could suffer a reduction in ratings or revenue and could require increased promotion and other expenses, and, consequently, could have a lower station operating income, if:

another radio station in the market were to convert its programming format to a format similar to our station or launch aggressive promotional campaigns;

a new station were to adopt a competitive format; or

an existing competitor were to strengthen its operations.

The Telecom Act allows for the consolidation of ownership of radio broadcasting stations in the markets in which we operate or may operate in the future. Some competing consolidated owners may be larger and have substantially more financial and other resources than we do. In addition, increased consolidation in our target markets may result in greater competition for acquisition properties and a corresponding increase in purchase prices paid for these properties by us.

We must respond to the rapid changes in technology, services and standards that characterize our industry in order to remain competitive.

The radio broadcasting industry is subject to rapid technological change, evolving industry standards and the emergence of competition from new media technologies and services. We cannot assure you that we will have the resources to acquire new technologies or to introduce new services that could compete with these new technologies. Various new media technologies and services are being developed or introduced, including:

satellite-delivered digital audio radio service, which has resulted in the introduction of new subscriber-based satellite radio services with numerous niche formats;

audio programming by cable systems, direct-broadcast satellite systems, personal communications systems, Internet content providers and other digital audio broadcast formats;

in-band on-channel digital radio, which provides multi-channel, multi-format digital radio services in the same bandwidth currently occupied by traditional AM and FM radio services; and

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low-power FM radio, which could result in additional FM radio broadcast outlets.

We cannot predict the effect, if any, that competition arising from new technologies or regulatory change may have on the radio broadcasting industry or on our financial condition and results of operations.

We face many unpredictable business risks that could have a material adverse effect on our future operations.

Our operations are subject to many business risks, including certain risks that specifically influence the radio broadcasting industry, that could have a material adverse effect on our business. These include:

changing economic conditions, both generally and relative to the radio broadcasting industry in particular;

shifts in population, listenership, demographics or audience tastes;

the level of competition from existing or future technologies for advertising revenues, including, but not limited to, other radio stations, satellite radio, television stations, newspapers, the Internet, and other entertainment and communications media; and

changes in governmental regulations and policies and actions of federal regulatory bodies, including the U.S. Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission and the FCC.

Given the inherent unpredictability of these variables, we cannot with any degree of certainty predict what effect, if any, these risks will have on our future operations.

There are risks associated with our acquisition strategy.

We intend to continue to grow through internal expansion and by acquiring radio station clusters and individual radio stations primarily in mid-size markets. We cannot predict whether we will be successful in pursuing these acquisitions or what the consequences of these acquisitions will be. Consummation of our pending acquisitions and any acquisitions in the future are subject to various conditions, such as compliance with FCC and antitrust regulatory requirements. The FCC requirements include:

approval of license assignments and transfers;

limits on the number of stations a broadcaster may own in a given local market; and

other rules or policies, such as the ownership attribution rules, that could limit our ability to acquire stations in certain markets where one or more of our stockholders has other media interests.

The antitrust regulatory requirements include:

filing with the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, referred to as the HSR Act, where applicable;

expiration or termination of the waiting period under the HSR Act; and

possible review by the U.S. Department of Justice or the Federal Trade Commission of antitrust issues under the HSR Act or otherwise.

We cannot be certain that any of these conditions will be satisfied. In addition, the FCC has asserted the authority to review levels of local radio market concentration as part of its acquisition approval process, even where proposed assignments would comply with the numerical limits on local radio station ownership in the FCC's rules and the Communications Act of 1934, referred to as the Communications Act.

Our acquisition strategy involves numerous other risks, including risks associated with:

identifying acquisition candidates and negotiating definitive purchase agreements on satisfactory terms;

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integrating operations and systems and managing a large and geographically diverse group of stations;

diverting management's attention from other business concerns;

potentially losing key employees at acquired stations; and

the diminishing number of properties available for sale in mid-size markets.

We cannot be certain that we will be able to successfully integrate our acquisitions or manage the resulting business effectively, or that any acquisition will achieve the benefits that we anticipate. In addition, we are not certain that we will be able to acquire properties at valuations as favorable as those of previous acquisitions. Depending upon the nature, size and timing of potential future acquisitions, we may be required to raise additional financing in order to consummate additional acquisitions. We cannot assure you that our debt agreements will permit the necessary additional financing or that additional financing will be available to us or, if available, that financing would be on terms acceptable to our management.

Because a significant portion of our total assets is represented by intangible assets and goodwill that is subject to mandatory, annual impairment evaluations, we have written off, and could in the future be required to write off, a significant portion of these assets, which may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

We have acquired businesses that have been accounted for using the purchase method of accounting. A portion of the purchase prices for these businesses was allocated to identifiable tangible and intangible assets, principally FCC broadcast licenses, based on estimated fair values at the dates of the acquisitions. Any excess purchase price was allocated to goodwill. Prior to January 1, 2002, the cost of FCC broadcast licenses and goodwill was amortized using the straight-line method over an estimated useful life of 25 years. Effective January 1, 2002, upon the adoption of SFAS No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets*, FCC broadcast licenses and goodwill are no longer amortized but are reviewed for impairment annually, or more frequently if impairment indicators arise.

As required by the transition provisions of SFAS No. 142, we compared the estimated fair values of our FCC broadcast licenses to the book values by market and, as a result of the comparison, took a charge in the first quarter of 2002 of \$41.7 million, net of taxes. In connection with SFAS No. 142's transitional goodwill impairment evaluation, the Statement required us to perform an assessment of whether there was an indication that goodwill is impaired as of the date of adoption. To accomplish this, we were required to identify our reporting units and determine the carrying value of each reporting unit by assigning the assets and liabilities, including the existing goodwill and intangible assets, to those reporting units as of January 1, 2002. We were required to determine the fair value of each reporting unit and compare it to the carrying amount of the reporting unit within six months of January 1, 2002. To the extent the carrying amount of a reporting unit exceeded the fair value of the reporting unit, we would be required to perform the second step of the transitional impairment test, as this is an indication that the reporting unit goodwill may be impaired. Based on the results of its first step test, we were not required to perform the second step test on any of our reporting units. However, there can be no assurance that there will not be further adjustments for impairment in future periods.

In connection with the elimination of amortization of the cost of our broadcast licenses for financial reporting purposes upon the adoption of SFAS No. 142, the reversal of our deferred tax liabilities relating to those intangible assets is no longer assured within our net operating loss carry-forward period. As a result, we determined it was necessary to establish a valuation allowance against our deferred tax assets and we recorded a \$57.9 million non-cash charge to income tax expense during the first quarter of 2002. In addition to this charge, we established a valuation allowance of \$7.3 million against deferred tax assets created when certain broadcast licenses were written down as a result of the transitional impairment test for broadcast licenses upon the adoption of SFAS No. 142. The Company has also recorded additional deferred tax expense of \$17.1 million for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2003 and \$8.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2002, to establish a valuation allowance against net operating loss carry-forwards generated during those periods, resulting from amortization of goodwill and broadcast licenses that is deductible for tax purposes, but is no longer amortized in the financial statements. Our management has determined that it is more likely than not that we will realize the benefit of our deferred tax assets, net of the existing valuation allowances, at September 30, 2003.

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Our ability to generate revenue could be affected by economic recession.

We derive substantially all of our revenue from the sale of advertising time on our radio stations. Generally, advertising tends to decline during economic recessions or downturns. Furthermore, because a substantial portion of our revenue is derived from local advertisers, our ability to generate advertising revenue in specific markets is directly affected by local or regional economic conditions.

A continued recession, or a downturn in the U.S. economy, or in the economy of any individual geographic market in which we own or operate stations, could have a significant effect on our financial condition or results of operations.

We are dependent on key personnel.

Our business is managed by a small number of key management and operating personnel, and our loss of one or more of these individuals could have a material adverse effect on our business. We believe that our future success will depend in large part on our ability to attract and retain highly skilled and qualified personnel and to expand, train and manage our employee base. We have entered into employment agreements with some of our key management personnel that include provisions restricting their ability to compete with us under specified circumstances.

We also employ several on-air personalities with large loyal audiences in their individual markets. The loss of one or more of these personalities could result in a short-term loss of audience share in that particular market.

The broadcasting industry is subject to extensive and changing Federal regulation.

The radio broadcasting industry is subject to extensive regulation by the FCC under the Communications Act. We are required to obtain licenses from the FCC to operate our stations. Licenses are normally granted for a term of eight years and are renewable. Although the vast majority of FCC radio station licenses are routinely renewed, we cannot assure you that the FCC will approve our future renewal applications or that the renewals will not include conditions or qualifications. The non-renewal, or renewal with substantial conditions or modifications, of one or more of our licenses could have a material adverse effect on us.

We must also comply with the extensive FCC regulations and policies in the ownership and operation of our radio stations. FCC regulations limit the number of radio stations that a licensee can own in a market, which could restrict our ability to consummate future transactions and in certain circumstances could require us to divest some radio stations. The FCC also requires radio stations to comply with certain technical requirements to limit interference between two or more radio stations. If the FCC relaxes these technical requirements, the signals transmitted by our radio stations could be impaired by other radio stations, which could have a material adverse effect on us. Moreover, these FCC regulations and others may change over time and we cannot assure you that those changes would not have a material adverse effect on us.

We are required to obtain prior FCC approval for each radio station acquisition.

The consummation of radio station acquisitions requires prior approval of the FCC with respect to the transfer of control or assignment of the broadcast licenses of the acquired stations. The FCC could prohibit or require the restructuring of our future acquisitions, or could propose changes in its existing rules that may reduce the number of stations that we would be permitted to acquire in some markets. In addition, where acquisitions would result in certain local radio advertising revenue concentration thresholds being met, the FCC staff has a policy of reviewing applications for proposed radio station acquisitions with respect to local market concentration concerns, and specifically invites public comment on these applications. This policy may help trigger petitions to deny and informal objections against FCC applications for our pending acquisitions and future acquisitions, as well as FCC staff requests for additional information. There can be no assurance that the FCC will approve potential future acquisitions.

Risks Related to Our Indebtedness

We have substantial indebtedness that could have a material adverse effect on us.

As of December 31, 2003, our long-term debt was \$487.3 million, representing approximately 62.1% of our

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stockholders' equity. Our credit facilities have interest and principal repayment and redemption obligations that are substantial in amount and would have a substantial impact on our stockholders.

The level of our indebtedness could have several important consequences to you. You should note that:

a substantial portion of our cash flow is, and will be, dedicated to debt service and is not, and will not be, available for other purposes;

our ability to obtain additional financing for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions and general corporate or other purposes may be impaired in the future;

certain of our borrowings are, and will be, at variable rates of interest, which may expose us to the risk of increased interest rates;

our leveraged position and the covenants contained in our Credit Agreement could limit our ability to compete, expand or make capital improvements; and

our level of indebtedness could make us more vulnerable to economic downturns, limit our ability to withstand competitive pressures and reduce our flexibility in responding to changing business and economic conditions.

Our ability to fulfill our debt obligations could be adversely affected by many factors.

Our ability to repay our debt obligations will depend upon our future financial and operating performance, which, in turn, is subject to prevailing economic conditions and financial, business, competitive, technological, legislative and regulatory factors, many of which are beyond our control. We cannot be certain that our operating results, cash flow and capital resources will be sufficient to repay our debt obligations in the future. In the absence of sufficient operating results and resources, we could face substantial liquidity problems and may be required to:

reduce or delay planned acquisitions, expansions and capital expenditures;

sell material assets or operations;

obtain additional equity capital; or

restructure our debt.

If liquidity problems require us to take any of these actions, we cannot provide you any assurance as to: (1) the timing of any sales or the proceeds that we could realize from these sales, (2) our ability to obtain additional equity capital or successfully complete a restructuring of our debt, or (3) whether these sales, additional equity capital or restructuring of debt could be effected on terms satisfactory to us or at all.

Our credit facilities impose significant restrictions on us.

Our credit facilities restrict, among other things, our ability to:

incur additional indebtedness;

pay dividends, make particular types of investments or make other restricted payments;

enter into some types of transactions with affiliates;

merge or consolidate with any other person; or

sell, assign, transfer, lease, convey or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets.

In addition, our credit facilities also restrict our ability to incur liens or to sell some assets. Our credit facilities

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also require us to maintain specified financial ratios and to satisfy certain financial condition tests. Our ability to meet those financial ratios and financial condition tests can be affected by events beyond our control, and we cannot be sure that we will maintain those ratios or meet those tests. A breach of any of these restrictions could result in a default under our credit facilities. Our lenders have taken security interests in substantially all of our consolidated assets, and we have pledged the stock of our subsidiaries to secure the debt under our credit facilities. If an event of default under our credit facilities occur, our lenders could declare all amounts outstanding, including accrued interest, immediately due and payable. If we could not repay those amounts, those lenders could proceed against the collateral pledged to them to secure that indebtedness. If our indebtedness were accelerated, our assets may not be sufficient to repay in full that indebtedness. Our ability to comply with the restrictions and covenants in our credit facilities will depend upon our future performance and various other factors, such as business, competitive, technological, legislative and regulatory factors, some of which are beyond our control. If we fail to comply with the restrictions and covenants in our existing credit facilities, our lenders could declare all amounts owed to them immediately due and payable.

Risks Related to Our Class A Common Stock

The public market for our Class A Common Stock may be volatile.

We cannot assure you that the market price of our Class A Common Stock will not decline, and the market price could be subject to wide fluctuations in response to such factors as:

conditions and trends in the radio broadcasting industry;

actual or anticipated variations in our quarterly operating results, including audience share ratings and financial results;

changes in financial estimates by securities analysts;

technological innovations;

competitive developments;

adoption of new accounting standards affecting companies in general or affecting companies in the radio broadcasting industry in particular; and

general market conditions and other factors.

Further, the stock markets, and in particular the NASDAQ National Market, on which our Class A Common Stock is listed, from time to time have experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that were not necessarily related or proportionate to the operating performance of the affected companies. In addition, general economic, political and market conditions such as recessions, interest rate movements or international currency fluctuations, may adversely affect the market price of our Class A Common Stock.

Certain stockholders control or have the ability to exert significant influence over the voting power of our capital stock.

As of February 16, 2004, and after giving effect to the exercise of all of their options exercisable within 60 days of that date, Lewis W. Dickey, Jr., our Chairman, President, Chief Executive Officer and a director, John W. Dickey, our Executive Vice President, collectively own 4,966,185 shares, or approximately 8.9%, of our outstanding Class A Common Stock, and 2,145,561 shares, or 100.0%, of our outstanding Class C Common Stock, which collectively represent approximately 34.1% of the outstanding voting power of our common stock. Consequently, they have the ability to exert significant influence over our policies and management. The interests of these stockholders may differ from the interests of our other stockholders.

As of February 16, 2004, BA Capital Company, L.P., referred to as BA Capital, and its affiliate, BancAmerica Capital Investors SBIC I, L.P., referred to as BACI, together own 840,250 shares, or 1.6%, of our Class A Common Stock and 11,630,759 shares, or 100.0%, of our nonvoting Class B Common Stock, which is convertible into shares of Class A Common Stock. BA Capital also holds options exercisable within 60 days of February 16, 2004 to purchase 89,873 shares of our Class A Common Stock and Robert H. Sheridan, III, one of our directors and a senior

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vice president and managing director with an economic interest in the general partners of both BA Capital and BACI, holds options exercisable within 60 days of February 16, 2004 to purchase 34,999 shares of our Class A Common Stock. Assuming that those options were exercised for shares of Class A Common Stock, and giving effect to the conversion into shares of Class A Common Stock of all shares of Class B Common Stock held by BA Capital and BACI, BA Capital and BACI would hold approximately 17.5% of the total voting power of our common stock. BA Capital and BACI are both affiliates of Bank of America Corporation. BA Capital has the right to designate one member of our board and Mr. Sheridan currently serves on our board as BA Capital's designee. As a result, BA Capital, BACI and Mr. Sheridan have the ability to exert significant influence over our policies and management, and their interests may differ from the interests of our other stockholders.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

All of the Class A Common Stock offered under this prospectus by the Company may be issued from time to time by the Company in connection with the Company's acquisition of other businesses, properties or securities in business combination transactions. See Securities Covered by This Prospectus.

SECURITIES COVERED BY THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus may be used by us for the offer and sale of these shares, from time to time in connection with the acquisition of other businesses, properties or securities in business combination transactions. The consideration that will be offered by us in these acquisitions, in addition to any shares of Class A Common Stock offered under this prospectus, may include cash, debt or other securities, or we may assume liabilities of, or commitments to make future capital contributions to, the business being acquired, or any combination thereof. The terms of acquisitions are typically determined by negotiations between us and the owners of the businesses, properties or securities to be acquired, with our taking into account the quality of management, the past and potential earning power and growth of the businesses, properties or securities to be acquired, and other relevant factors. Shares of Class A Common Stock issued to the owners of the businesses, properties or securities to be acquired by us will generally be valued at a price reasonably related to the market value of the Class A Common Stock or the value of the assets to be received, at the time the terms of the acquisition are agreed upon. Class A Common Stock issued under this prospectus will be freely transferable under the Securities Act, except for securities issued to persons who may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of Section 2(11) of the Securities Act. Class A Common Stock issued in connection with these transactions to persons who constitute underwriters within the meaning of Section 2(11) may not be publicly reoffered or resold by these persons except pursuant to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act covering such shares or, in certain circumstances, pursuant to Rule 145(d) or any other applicable exemption under the Securities Act. If you receive Class A Common Stock covered by this prospectus, you should seek the advice of your own legal counsel with respect to the legal requirements of such resales.

This prospectus has also been prepared for use by persons who may receive from us shares of Class A Common Stock covered by the registration statement, of which this prospectus is a part, in acquisitions and who may be entitled to offer such shares of Class A Common Stock under circumstances requiring the use of a prospectus (such persons being referred to under this caption as securityholders). No securityholders will be authorized to use this prospectus for any offer of Class A Common Stock without first obtaining our consent. We may consent to the use of this prospectus for a limited period of time by the securityholders and subject to limitations and conditions that may be varied by agreement between the Company and the securityholders. Resales of these shares of Class A Common Stock may be made on the NASDAQ National Market or any other exchange on which our Class A Common Stock may be listed, in the over-the-counter market or in private transactions or pursuant to underwriting agreements. We will not receive any of the proceeds from any such sales.

Agreements with securityholders permitting use of this prospectus may provide that any such offering be effected in an orderly manner through securities dealers, acting as broker or dealer, selected by us; that securityholders enter into custody agreements with one or more banks with respect to such shares; and that sales be made only by one or more of the methods described in this prospectus, as appropriately supplemented or amended when required. The securityholders may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act.

When resales are to be made through a broker or dealer selected by the Company, the broker or dealer may act solely as agent or may acquire such Class A Common Stock as principal. Brokers or dealers participating in such transactions as agent may be entitled to commissions (including negotiated commissions to the extent permissible). Any such sales may be by block trade. Any commission paid or concessions allowed to any broker-dealer, and, if any broker-dealer purchases such Class A Common Stock as principal, any profits received on the resale of such Class A Common Stock, may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act.

In addition to the shares of Class A Common Stock offered hereby, we may from time to time issue additional shares of Class A Common Stock through public offerings or private placements. We may make such future issuances of Class A Common Stock in connection with our acquisition of other businesses, properties or securities in business combination transactions or for other purposes.

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VALIDITY OF SECURITIES

Jones Day, Atlanta, Georgia, will pass upon the validity of the Class A Common Stock that may be offered by this prospectus.

EXPERTS

Our financial statements as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, and for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, incorporated by reference in this prospectus, have been audited by KPMG LLP, independent certified public accountants, as indicated in their report with respect thereto, which is incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

We have filed with the SEC under the Securities Act a Registration Statement on Form S-4. This prospectus does not contain all of the information contained in the registration statement, certain portions of which have been omitted under the rules of the SEC. We also file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

You may read and copy any materials that we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Room 1024, Washington, D.C. 20549. For further information concerning the operation of the SEC's Public Reference Room, you may call the SEC at (800) SEC-0330. You may also access the materials that we file electronically with the SEC via the SEC's web site, www.sec.gov.

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INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus, except for any information superseded by information in, or subsequently incorporated by reference into, this prospectus. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents set forth below that we have previously filed with the SEC. These documents contain important information about us.

| SEC Filings | Period |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Annual Report on Form 10-K | Fiscal year ended December 31, 2003 |
| Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement on Form 8-A | Filed on August 2, 2002 |

We are also incorporating by reference additional documents we may file pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 after the date of this prospectus and before all of the shares covered by this prospectus are sold or deregistered (other than those portions of such documents described in paragraphs (i), (k) and (l) of Item 402 of Regulation S-K promulgated by the SEC). This additional information is a part of this prospectus from the date of filing of those documents.

Any statements made in this prospectus or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus or in any other subsequently filed document which is also incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus modifies or supersedes the statement. Any statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

The information relating to us in this prospectus should be read together with the information in the documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference. In addition, some of the information, including financial information, contained in this prospectus or incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus by reference should be read in conjunction with documents filed with the SEC by us.

Documents incorporated by reference are available from us without charge, excluding exhibits unless we have specifically incorporated by reference an exhibit into this prospectus. Any person to whom a prospectus is delivered may obtain documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus at no cost, by requesting them on our website, www.cumulus.com, in writing, or by telephone from us at the following address:

Cumulus Media Inc.
 3535 Piedmont Road
 Building 14, Fourteenth Floor
 Atlanta, Georgia 30305
 Telephone: (404) 949-0700
 Attention: Richard S. Denning, General Counsel and Secretary