

CKDU radio: Keep the vibe alive

BY GAZETTE STAFF

With the growing trend towards automated deejays playing equally churned out music, it's nice to know an alternative exists. CKDU, right here in our own backyard, or more accurately on the fourth floor of the Student Union Building (SUB), provides just such an alternative. CKDU is up and running 24 hours a day, programmed by deejays whose taste vary as widely as personal hygiene.

This year from February 2 to the 11, CKDU will be holding Funding Drive '96. With an annual working budget of \$150,000, CKDU depends on listener donations equal to 30% of the budget, making funding drive a necessity. The money goes to equipment upkeep, production materials and a loyal staff who co-ordinate the over 160 volunteers.

Kicking off funding drive '96 will be a live-to-air broadcast from the Green Room, featuring several

local acoustic bands on Thursday, February 1, from 2-5 p.m. The following Saturday, February 3, the Green Room will also host an all ages show with Corvette Summer, Carnage Family, Thruster, and Trike.

During the drive, pledges will be received with undying gratitude, and donors become eligible to select objects of desire from the Small Room of Big Prizes. Also, pledges of \$25 (and with each successive \$25 increment) enters a ballot in your name for the Grand Prize Draw. Items available include a year's pass to Birdland; a year's supply of Salvatore's Pizza; a year's supply of sparkling spring water; a jacket from Himalaya; and, a Friends of CKDU card entitling the bearer to discounts at stores around metro, including 10% off any purchases at Sam's Barrington Street, location.

Other events will include a full weekend of gigs at The Birdland



GAZETTE PHOTO BY DANIELLE BOURDEAU

Cabaret from Thursday to Saturday and a pool tournament displaying the best talents CKDU and a whack of local bands can muster up, at Q Billiards on Sunday, February 11 at 2 p.m.

Remember, CKDU is a campus community station that literally provides the voice of its listeners. Pledging keeps the tradition and the vibe alive.

Veteran programmer, scenester and the mastermind behind Sloannet James Covey spins the wax for the masses at CKDU.

Wednesday night fever

Step up to the open mike at the Grawood

BY JOHN CULLEN

It has been a well kept secret that the Grawood's best night of the week is Wednesday. There could be many reasons for this. The live music, the not too crowded atmosphere, or, more likely, it's a good place to get half-drunk before the trip to JJ's. No matter what the reason, the Grawood has been serving an average of 300 people on Wednesdays. I go there to see the music for two purposes: to be entertained, and to laugh at the cheeseballs.

The night I went with the assignment turned out to be lacking in cheeseballs and filled with some damn good music. The entertainment started around 9:30 p.m. with Andrew Younger and his guitar. The rest of his band came out a little later. His band, Not Quite Irish, have been a staple on Wednesdays for the past year. I am not a fan of the type of music they play (Indigo Girls meets Halifax traditional with an accordion), but they play it well.

I had a massive rush of testosterone flowing through my veins from watching too much TSN, and the next band was perfect for my state of mind. Calling themselves Under the Sun, they took the stage a little hesitantly, but proceeded to impress me. Looking like a few commerce geeks turned musicians, they played some fine covers: Clapton, the Hip, Cream, and the Eagles, among others. I used to play a lot of guitar, and I was waiting for their guitarist to massacre some Clapton solos. Unfortunately for me, he didn't. Instead, he played his heart out and received a lot of applause and screams and raised fists. My friend turned to me and said, "He's pretty good." All I could do was yell "Rock On" and give him the Van Halen sign. I was so impressed that I went to speak with them. It turns out that they have only been together for two

months.

Naturally, the letdown had to come. The next band obviously thought that Green Day and Offspring were the be-all and end-all of punk. I guess no one has ever told them that punk started in the 70s. Besides, their half-assed originals didn't have a fraction of the energy that made bands like Green Day become so successful.

From this point on, my memory of the rest of the night becomes a bit hazy. I know that one of my friends went onstage. I missed most of their set, but I do remember hearing them play the theme music from the Juicy Fruit commercials. Now that is entertainment.

Luckily for me, none of the cheeseballs showed up. And what's a cheeseball? You know, those hippie people who take their acoustic guitar onstage and sing their own songs about ex-girlfriends and the problems of the world today. The problem I have with these people is that the songs are so personal and filled with 'inside' analogies that the only people they entertain are themselves. With this aside, I can't forget to mention the sound guy. Most open mike nights are done haphazardly, but the man behind the board does a good job at keeping everything sounding balanced.

Wednesday nights at the Grawood have yet to turn into an institution like its cousin — the highly overrated Thursday night. And I hope it never does. It is a little gem to cure the midweek blahs. Why, last year, I even saw a band called Pryme Cut that played covers of disco songs and Boyz II Men. If that doesn't cure the blahs, then life isn't worth living. If you haven't been to the 'wood on a Wednesday evening, I highly suggest going. Dal has some musicians that are well worth your time.

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