

Varty discusses CHSR's plans

by DOUG VARTY
CHSR Station Director

The clouds were closing in and the rain had begun to fall on that muggy Friday afternoon in August. Nobody took particular notice of the two grim figures that emerged from the Student Union Building and walked briskly to the red late-model Bobcat moored in silence by the patio embankment. It was ten minutes to five. Two thousand cubic centimetres of raw, reciprocating power sprang into action at the twist of the key. Expertly manipulating the controls of the vehicle in a superlative display of hand-foot co-ordination, the driver wheeled out of the parking lot, and, gritting his teeth in a look of fierce determination, aimed his metric ton of Motor City craftsmanship at the heart of the city of Fredericton. On they sped, passing houses, trees, and telephone poles as though they were standing still. In front of the Post Office on Queen Street the car squeaked to an abrupt halt and the passenger, clutching a suspicious looking brown parcel, burst from his metallic confines and bounded up the brown sandstone steps with a rapidity that would make even winged Mercury blush. Ricocheting off the rather sturdy door of glass and steel he found himself at the end of his travels. With a startling lack of ceremony the parcel passed from the hands of its bearer to those of the waiting postal clerk. Stamped and registered, it found a comfortable home in a partially full bin of similar packages. CHSR had just put in the mail its FM application. It was five o'clock.

So I'll never make it as a writer of cheap detective novels, so what?!

Several members of CHSR spent their summers working on our FM application, finally complet-

ing and mailing it August 24th. The purpose of this article is not to go into great detail on the work such an endeavour entailed but rather to acquaint the university community with a generalized version of what will be our FM programming format.

To begin I would like to define several terms which will appear from time to time in the following paragraphs:

GRAMOPHONE FORMAT - music presented with nothing more than the announcement of song title and artist.

ROLLING FORMAT - same as Gramophone Format with the addition of frequent time and temperature announcements.

FOREGROUND FORMAT - the presentation of one particular subject for more than 15 minutes, in a carefully prepared and detailed program.

MOSAIC FORMAT - any kind of format not covered above.

The CRTC is very concerned with the quality of programming provided by FM stations. They view very favorably stations which emphasize foreground programs. For this reason, we have incorporated 40.5% foreground material into our proposed schedule. About half of this will come from our musical specialty shows, aired nightly from 9 - 12 p.m. and covering the full spectrum of musical genres. The other half will consist of such things as science information, socio-political talk shows and panel discussions, live broadcasts of SRC meetings, live sports broadcasts, taped seminars from around the campuses, radio plays, and several other news and public affairs shows. These foreground programs will be aired almost exclusively between the hours of 6 p.m. and midnight in order that they may be heard by a greater proportion of our primary audi-



DEWAYNE MACLAUGHLIN Photo

Deejay Carol Ann McDevitt cues up a record

ence, university students, staff, faculty, and alumni.

Musically, CHSR will veer away from the "jukebox syndrome" so prevalent in radio today. Our goal will be twofold: (1) to expose our audience to new talent and (2) to expose our audience to the lesser known performances of

well known artists. Our collection of 12,000 long-playing records is more than adequate to ensure that our programming does not become repetitious. We will

concentrate on rock and rock-oriented music, with Popular, Folk, and Jazz each receiving about six hours per week of airplay. Country and classical music will receive slightly less, the rationale being that these categories are adequately covered by existing stations in the area.

CHSR-FM would broadcast from 7 a.m. until 1 a.m. each weekday and 24 hours a day on weekends. Our 50-watt transmitter would provide excellent coverage to an audience of approximately 52,000 people. Our antenna would be installed on the roof of McGee House. Tentative approval of this installation was given at the May 16 UNB Board of Governors meeting.

At present our application is being examined by the CRTC and it is expected it will be dealt with at a public hearing in February.

The preceding was a very superficial summary of our programming plans. Anyone desiring more detailed information is welcome to come up to the station or the UNB SRC office and examine a copy of the application.

STUDIO AND OFFICE RENOVATIONS

Another project undertaken by CHSR staffers during the summer months was the renovation of several of our offices and studios. When it became apparent that CHSR would take the FM route it was decided that the rewiring of our Master Control Room and



DEWAYNE MACLAUGHLIN Photo

studios, which had been put off for a number of years, would have to be done this summer in order that we would be ready to install our

FM equipment in the summer of 1980. Concurrently, it was determined that the installation of

a carpet in Master Control would be necessary to eliminate a feedback problem which had plagued us for the last six years. The carpet would also have the effect of keeping dust down and improving room acoustics.

We realized we did not have enough money in our 1978-79 budget to complete the project but felt the project was essential to the station going FM and as such,

was important enough to justify requesting additional funds. A final figure of \$1,172 was arrived at and after a lengthy delay, was approved by a two-thirds vote of

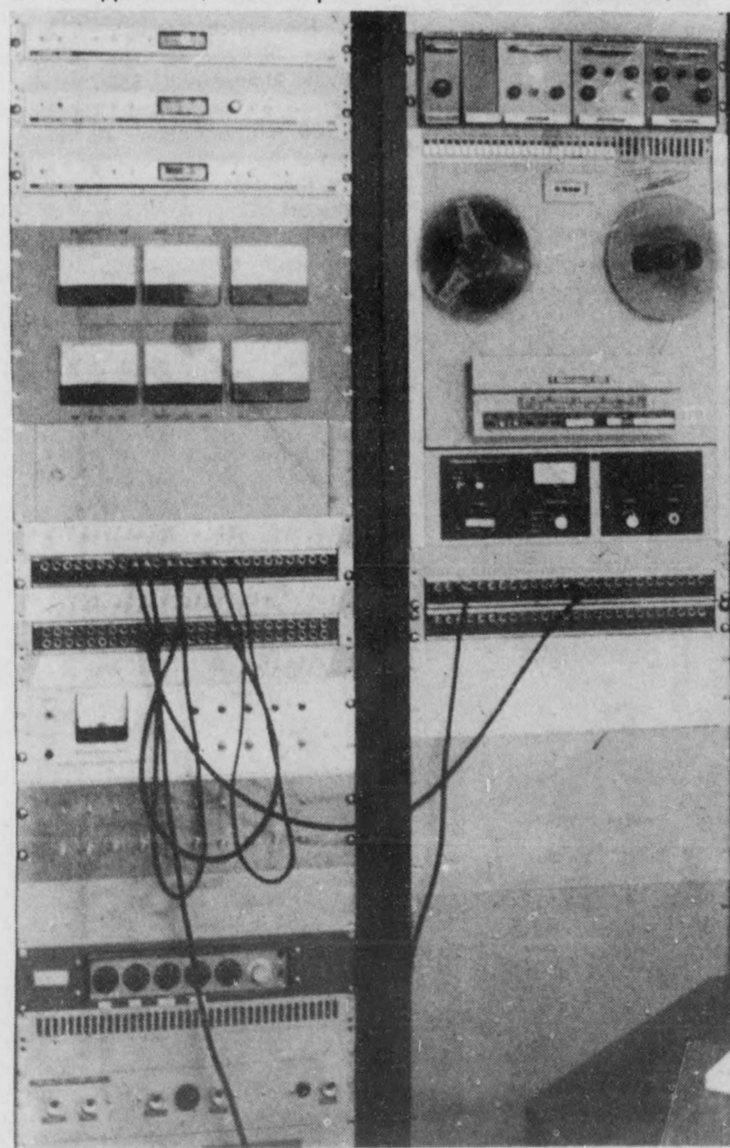
Summer Council. After that, we worked flat out for the remainder of the summer on carpentry and wiring. The work is still not finished but we had, by September

5, done enough to allow us to return to the airwaves; albeit with somewhat attenuated facilities.

Other renovations included the relocation and expansion of our overcrowded record library and the relocation, and refurbishing of our newsroom and several offices. Approximately 375 square feet of the SUB's discarded carpeting was salvaged and used to cover the floors of our record library and newsroom.

Much was accomplished but much remains to be done before we are on the air in FM Stereo. Thanks to all who helped and continue to help.

With plans for FM Stereo transmission in full swing, CHSR offers virtually unlimited opportunity for students to acquire the skills involved in almost any facet of radio work. Positions are available for announcers, operators, producers, writers, reporters, sportscasters, technicians, sales personnel and office staff. If any of these interests you, drop up to the third floor office wing of the Student Union Building and we'll be happy to show you around.



DEWAYNE MACLAUGHLIN Photo

Part of CHSR's equipment

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