

# Petty conflicts divided station

cont'd from page 1

But that's what Radio York's image used to be. Today the station possesses an energetic and cohesive executive who have initiated a comprehensive training program; purchased state of the art production equipment; compiled an up-to-date music collection with an emphasis on independent labels; and established an innovative schedule of programmes to begin airing this fall. And because of the transformations which the station has undergone, Radio York's dream will soon be fulfilled. On October 13th, Radio York is slated to begin broadcasting at 105.5 MHz on the FM dial, largely due to the efforts of two men: Kaan Yigit, Program Director and Mel Broitman, Manager. On October 7th, Radio York will hold a referendum to raise its student levy from \$2.00 to \$4.50 in order to meet the financial demands of an FM campus community station.

But Broitman and Yigit explained that it was an apathetic and inexperienced executive of the past which undermined Radio York's previous attempts to obtain a license from the CRTC (Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission).

"Nobody cared (back then)," recalls Yigit, "for a lot of people, it was just a place to spin records. Like any other club, it was essentially a social hang-out, people were not in any way responsive to student needs."

Yigit began his career with Radio York as a Jazz programmer in September of '84. He didn't even have to audition for a spot. Yigit was simply called up at 5:00 on a Tuesday and told that he was slated to have a show at 6:00 on Wednesday nights. After a ten-minute training session, Yigit was left alone in the studio to operate the boards and the turntables. "The equipment was obsolete and the station was a mess," explained Yigit.

Broitman also joined the station in September of '84, after being out of

school for three and a half years. Broitman was more interested in the sports department, and along with Robbie Sheffman, news director at the time, he gained notoriety on campus for his play-by-play broadcasts of Yeomen Hockey games. His broadcasts won high acclaim: colleges hockey team used the recordings to psyche themselves up for upcoming matches.

At the time, Broitman's broadcast was only one of the few stories of success emanating from the studios of Radio York. Yigit blamed a lot of the station's problems on "political infighting" among the station's executive. A lot of people hated each other, said Yigit, and the smallest decision would turn into the biggest argument.

One instance which Yigit recalls was a conflict which arose over the choice of locations for Radio York's Christmas Party. The party was booked at the Financial Times, the Administrative Studies Pub, but many executives complained that the pub was a "bastion of capitalism," so an executive meeting had to be called in order to relocate the party. "It was these kinds of petty differences that divided the station," Yigit added.

Radio York was founded in 1968, with its first home downstairs in Vanier College next to the laundry room. Mike Fletcher, one of Radio York's broadcasters at the time can still vividly recall the sound of washing machines as he watched Jimmy Crookston pace up and down the laundry room while practising his newscast. "The number of people listening to the newscast didn't matter," remarked Fletcher, "you still did it carefully and professionally."

At the time when Radio York first went on air, Fletcher explained, "CHUM-FM was pretty radical stuff." The station had just changed its programming mandate from classical to rock, and no campus radio stations existed on the dial throughout the country. Fletcher described the station's executive as a group possess-

ing "incredible hustle," by using whatever resources they had available to the fullest. The station first started off with a \$12,000 grant from the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF), but between 1970-1973, it accumulated over \$250,000 worth of assets through an informal donation drive. They were just the sort of people who said 'we need a studio deck,' so they'd go out and locate a donor, Fletcher explained.

Every facet of the station was developed through the efforts of this group. Lorne Litchman, for instance, the promotional person for Radio York, convinced record companies to donate records because of the influence which the station wielded on campus.

Steven Harris, Radio York's second manager, was largely responsible for the growth and success which Radio York enjoyed in its infant years. Harris, who was 22 years old at the time, had some experience in studios and production because he was a musician. "He understood how to produce quality sound," noted Fletcher. But most remarkable was Harris's management capabilities. "He knew how to get people organized and enthusiastic about a project," said Fletcher, "And once the station came together under Harris, we knew we needed a bigger space. So we began negotiations with the university and after persistent badgering, we got the administration to give up space on the second floor of Vanier College, where an art gallery used to be (the station has the same studio today at 258A Vanier College)," Fletcher added.

After securing the space, it was Harris's father, an engineer with Ontario Hydro, who organized the team of amateur broadcasters and built the studios in the summer of '71. The station contained two studios and one newsroom, and Radio York's signal was transmitted through a closed circuit to residence, dining halls and common rooms.



JENNIFER CRANE

**NOW WHERE'S THAT DONNY OSMOND ALBUM?** The state of Radio York's record collection is probably one of the best indicators of organized the station has become.

But that wasn't enough for Harris. After the station was established in its new location, he approached Ted Rogers and convinced him to put RYFM on his cable system. At the time, cable companies were looking for vehicles to satisfy the Canadian content quota set by the CRTC.

But probably the most amazing thing about this group of people is the success which they have continued to enjoy in the broadcasting field without ever having had any formal training. Crookston is presently operations manager at CKFM, while John Burke, another Radio York alumni, now works for Global News and heads the parliamentary press gallery. Harris went on to assume a position at CHUM-FM immediately after his leave from Radio York, and is now Vice-President of Maclean-Hunter Broadcasting. Fletcher is presently a controller for Telemedia Productions.

After their departure, however, Radio York began to stagnate. Equipment deteriorated and the organizational infrastructure slowly collapsed. And, ironically enough, it was the same people who firmly established Radio York on campus who helped the station get on the road to a CRTC license. By the late seventies, because of changing CRTC

regulations, Radio York was dropped from cable. According to Fletcher, the station suffered in three major areas: lack of equipment, training, and organization.

First, John Young, another station alumnus and President of McCurdy Canada (which builds—according to Fletcher—the Rolls Royce of radio equipment), persuaded a station in London to donate its old equipment to Radio York. Second, Fletcher helped organize Radio York's annual On Air Conference, a series of seminars conducted by prominent broadcasters to help students develop their radio talents. And finally, organization was addressed by updating the old constitution, drawn up in 1972.

But the drive for a license really began when Jack Cales, Station Manager in '83-'84, sought to establish a student levy in order to raise funds for the renovations which Radio York required before it could apply for a license.

With this levy, according to Broitman, Radio York's revenue jumped to \$42,000. But changes did not take place immediately with the increased funding. "No one knew what to do with the money," said Broitman. "If we wanted to become an FM station, we had to jump from a small student club to an accounta-

cont'd on page 8

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS WINTERS COLLEGE

### OCTOBER 1987

**TUESDAY, 6th**  
POETRY READING  
5:00 p.m.,  
Winters Senior Common Room

**OCTOBER 6-17**  
ART GALLERY  
PAINTINGS BY GILDA MEKLER  
Tuesday, 10:00-1:00 p.m.,  
Wednesday 3:30-6:00 p.m.,  
Thursday 12:00-4:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, 7th**  
CANADIAN PIANO TRIO  
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.,  
Winters Senior Common Room

**THURSDAY, 8th**  
RECEPTION  
5:00-9:00 p.m., Winters Art Gallery,  
Room 123

**TUESDAY, 13th**  
POETRY READING—Stuart Ross  
5:00 p.m.,  
Winters Senior Common Room

**MONDAY, 19th**  
FELLOWS LUNCH  
12:00-2:00 p.m.,  
Winters Master's Dining Room

**TUESDAY, 20th**  
POETRY READING—Crad Kilodney  
5:00 p.m.,  
Winters Senior Common Room

**WEDNESDAY, 21st**  
\*LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION  
DR. KAREN JENSEN  
Mind and Voice: An Exploration of  
Extended Vocal Techniques  
12:00-2:00 p.m.,  
Winters Senior Common Room

**THURSDAY, 22nd**  
ALUMNI WINE & CHEESE PARTY  
6:30-8:30 p.m.,  
The Elmwood Women's Club

**FRIDAY, 23rd and SATURDAY, 24th**  
HOMECOMING

**WEDNESDAY, 28th**  
POETRY READING  
SUSAN MUSGRAVE  
5:00 p.m.,  
Winters Senior Common Room

**NOVEMBER**  
**MONDAY, 2nd**  
FELLOWS LUNCH  
12:00-2:00 p.m., Master's Dining Room

**TUESDAY, 3rd**  
POETRY READING  
EDDIE LINDEN (London)  
5:00 p.m., Winters Senior Common Room

**WEDNESDAY, 4th**  
"MATCHMAKING IN TIME & SPACE"  
Professor Oliver Braddick  
(Cambridge University)  
4:30 p.m., Winters Senior Common Room

\*Students with parents visiting welcome to attend.



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# OSAP

The deadline for submitting your 1987-88 OSAP application form is 90 days before the end of your school year.

One OSAP application form lets you apply for:

- Ontario Study Grant
- Canada Student Loan
- Ontario Student Loan

If you have previously received an OSAP loan and have not negotiated a new loan this year, you should contact your Financial Aid Administrator, bank, or lending institution to obtain the forms that *must* be filed in order to continue your interest-free status.

If you have already applied to OSAP and wish to appeal for additional funds, you should contact your Financial Aid Administrator immediately. For further information and deadline dates for an appeal, contact your financial aid office.

Hon. Gregory Sorbara, Minister  
Alan K. Adlington, Deputy Minister