

The role of women in Campus/Community radio

When I first started in radio ten years ago, the difference in numbers between female DJs and male DJs on-air was quite dramatic. As a presence on-air, women were under-represented. When I began as host of a women's music and issues program, I felt isolated as a radio broadcaster. I had few women as cohorts to talk about my experiences as a programmer and felt that issues that were of concern to me as a woman were not being addressed on-air or by other programmers. They were thought of as "specialty" issues, something only of concern to a certain part of the population that could easily be left to the "women's program."

Fortunately, many societal changes in the past decade have changed the face of radio.

More women are interested in being trained in radio production and broadcasting and more women are having their voices heard on-air. More importantly, women's issues, music and expression are appearing in all areas of radio broadcasting and are no longer marginalized to "women's shows." At CHSR, women are visible on-air as radio programmers and hold positions in the general membership, on the Executive and the Board of Directors and hold one of the two paid staff positions. Having representation at all levels at CHSR encourages other women to become involved with radio and broadcasting at CHSR.

While many different factors have contributed to the increase in women's involvement

with radio, there has been an overall increase in women's involvement in the music industry. Women are becoming more visible as musicians and more women are taking on high profile roles in the music and radio industry. This is not to suggest that previously, women were not involved in the creation of music or attained positions in the industry. They were and they did. It was just never as obvious or as visible as it is now. Artists as diverse as Ani DiFranco, PJ Harvey, Madonna, Tracy Chapman and kd lang have turned the music industry on its head by singing about issues of concern to women, such as sexuality, body image, rape and abuse. As successful musicians, these women have paved the way for

other women to also be accepted and have their own voices and perspectives made present on the airwaves. Different women's voices and perspectives are becoming apparent as more women become involved in the music and radio industry.

The world is changing around us, and music plays an important part in representing personal and political expression. In the mighty words of Emma Goldman, "If I can't dance, I don't want to be part of your revolution." Viva la musique!

Jen Brayton is a programmer at CHSR, and sits as Graduate Student Representative on the CHSR Board of Directors

The importance of cultural programming at CHSR-FM

CHSR-FM, like most campus/community radio stations, provides entertainment and information that is generally an alternative to mainstream and corporate-controlled media. CHSRFM fills its alternative entertainment objective by playing music that does not usually get played on commercial radio stations.

The alternative information objective is filled with spoken word programming. Spoken word programming, usually known as talk radio, provides listeners with alternative information on political, social, and economic issues. Spoken word programming also provides a voice to groups and organizations throughout the campus and community who otherwise would not have the opportunity to receive radio air time.

Cultural programming fills both objectives by providing alternative entertainment and information. There can be different types of cultural programming. There are cultural programs that play music from their culture. An example is Echoes From Our Earth Mother, an Aboriginal cultural show that plays drumming and chanting music. This fills the alternative entertainment objective.

There are cultural programs that have a spoken word format. They provide news and events concerning their culture, as well as information about their culture. An example is the Voice of the Minaret, a spoken word show

conducted by the Muslim Student Association. This fills the alternative information objective. There are cultural programs that provide a format that combines both music and spoken word. An example is the Chinese Student Circle. This fills both the alternative entertainment and alternative information objectives.

Probably the most important reason for cultural programming at CHSR-FM is that Canada is a multicultural country and therefore every culture should have the opportunity to receive air time. We provide that air time.

Cultural programming at CHSR-FM is intended to focus towards all cultures of the world excluding Canadian English and Canadian French cultures. We encourage all cultures to produce radio shows on our station.

If you would be interested in doing a cultural program at CHSR-FM, come see us at Room 223 of the Student Union Building or call us at 453-4985. We will help you get that show on the air. You do not have to worry about not having previous experience in radio because it is not necessary. Your interest is enough and CHSR-FM will provide you with the training necessary.

Brian Nicholas is the Cultural Programming Coordinator at CHSR-FM

Current cultural programs on 97.9

Chinese Student Circle <i>Popular Chinese music, news and current affairs from China and Hong Kong. Broadcast in Cantonese.</i>	Sundays 9:45 am - 1:00 pm
Native Music Circle <i>Showcasing music performed by Native musicians. Ranging from traditional to contemporary.</i>	Sundays 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Voice of the Minaret <i>A discussion of Islamic beliefs with a focus on its relationship to other cultures.</i>	Sundays 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm
East Indian Music Show <i>A concoction of new and classical music from the Indian sub-continent.</i>	Sundays 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Echoes From Our Earth Mother <i>Traditional Aboriginal drumming and chanting music.</i>	Tuesdays 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm
Rhythm People <i>Exposé of Caribbean music including Reggae, Soca, Zouk and some cross-over.</i>	Tuesdays 11:00 pm - 1:00 am
Cultural Diversity <i>A look into the different cultures that attend UNB and STU.</i>	Wednesdays 5:05 pm - 5:30 pm
Atkukakakona <i>Traditional Maltese storytelling done in the Maltese language.</i>	Thursdays 5:05 pm - 5:30 pm
Building Bridges <i>Contemporary issues from the Native perspective. First Nations' news, music, and events.</i>	Thursdays 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm



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Technical Coordinator

Oh, and remember, our Bunnies of Death always win the Média Bowl against *The Brunswickan*

CHSR is committed to providing access to broadcast radio for all persons