

Radio UNB: On The Air . . .

The November 1959 SRC meeting did not seem particularly memorable. Nothing of lasting value seemed to have happened. Only the normal SRC Business had occurred, nothing except that Barry Yoell had been authorized to go to Toronto to attend the first meeting of the Canadian Amateur University Broadcasters. Little did that meeting realize that this trip would make a Radio Society possible in less than two years, and that this Society would be one of the most active on campus and be ready to start broadcasting.

The Conference at Toronto was a flop, the CBC squashed all plans that had been made to form a cross-Canada University CBC program; but with the SRC pressing, Mr. Yoell formed a Radio Society and wrote letters to various Canadian Electrical manufacturers asking assistance in setting up a radio station.

Summer came and went. In the fall of the year the SRC returned to find its offices crowded with crates and boxes. It turned out that Radio UNB had become the owners of a tape-recorder, a microphone, console, amplifier, two power supplies, jack panel and fuse panel. All this and nowhere to put it! Major Canadian industries had reacted to fill the needs of the Society but at that time the University had not. There were 14 "Radio waifs" on campus; 14 frustrated broadcasters without a home.

In the beginning the Society was thinking in terms of broadcasting over the air, to the Fredericton area generally. The Board of Broadcast Governors and the Department of Transport soon put us straight on these lines. They made it abundantly clear that it was financially and legally impossible for us to broadcast in this manner. At this news the Society hit its low spot. Membership fell to 8 and at one time it seemed as if all roads were blocked and the Society was doomed to extinction. It seemed impossible to continue; broadcasting in the true sense was impossible. Only closed circuit remained open and thus the Society worked toward this end. A tape was sent to UBC before the Christmas vacation, explaining their difficulties and asking advice.

A Special BRUNSWICKAN FEATURE For ENGINEERING WEEK

With the answer came new hope and new life to Radio UNB. With their sights firmly planted on a closed-circuit system a constitution was sent to the SRC on January 20th. It was accepted in its entirety. They were rolling!

On January 27th the SRC passed the requested budget of \$1000 and February 8th the Senate gave their formal approval and offered their assistance by building the shell for the studio and office in the basement of Mem Hall.



photo by ELLIOTT

"ON THE AIR"

On January 23rd the Society made its first public appearance three days after being officially constituted and four days before the budget grant. This first appearance took the form of providing music for one of the regular, SRC-sponsored Saturday evening dances. A closed-circuit network was used similar to that proposed for the Residences. Their first success was made. With this dance and the publicity that seemed to have come with it membership once again increased. This was more than welcome. The Society hoped to assist the Winter Carnival in their

promotional drive and indeed Winter Carnival programs were piped into the Student Centre from February 2-5 during lunch hours. The Society also helped the Winter Carnival Committee to prepare a half-hour TV program for CHSJ-TV.

From this point onward Radio UNB has never looked back. They were accepted. They had been mentioned on CFNB, in the Gleaner, the Atlantic Advocate, on CHSJ-TV, CKGM, Radio UBC, the U of Maine Radio and last but not least the Brunswickian.

With the approval of the SRC they could now set up a University Radio station and the centre of controversy shifted from principle to programming. Art Van Wart conducted a poll of Resident's opinion on this subject, and discovered the tastes of the potential audience. His reported principles will be used extensively in broadcasting.

Since that time one residence (Jones House) and the Student Centre have been wired to receive the programs, and the studios have been sound proofed and equipped. Much more technical equipment has been donated by various Canadian firms; Mr. Smith, an Alumnus of UNB, and an official of Canadian GE sent 55 speakers and 2 amplifiers. IBM gave a studio clock. CFNB gave 2 studio turntables and the Biology Club gave a mascot alligator.

Membership and enthusiasm grew and grew. At present there are more than 40 active members working with about \$4500 worth of equipment, half of which has been donated by Canadian industries and the remainder obtained through the SRC budget.

This very-brief history of the Society can hardly be completed without mentioning some of the major boobs that have been pulled. Like the time Mayor Walker was presenting a trophy at the Rod 'N' Gun Club dance and could hardly hear himself think over the amplifier hum of the radio speakers; and the many times that the Society found out that it was providing music for a dance only by reading the advertising for that dance a few short hours before its beginning. However, all the goofs, all the hours of sweating have now been made worthwhile, the Society now broadcasts, and as such has accomplished the beginnings of its primary aims.

"What of the future?" They are often asked. To this there seems to be two main replies . . . "Expand" and . . . "then go over the air". The first of these ambitions they hope to realize in the near future. All Residences on campus should have speakers in all rooms by next year, and as new residences are built new speakers should automatically be installed in them. The second ambition is more of a long-term hope. Dr. C. B. Mackay in his speech opening the Radio broadcasting said that there is a distinct possibility that FM Radio at the University level could become possible in Canada in the years to come. If this were to happen, then . . . the sky's the limit . . .



photo by ELLIOTT

Seen here in the Radio UNB broadcasting studio are, left to right, Director, Barry Yoell, Program Manager, Roger Dupuis, and Technical Manager, Bill Stanley.

THE COLUMN

by
Ed
BELL

Now that all those New Year's Resolutions are thoroughly broken, it's time to start counting the days of this year . . . especially since there are exactly 86 days between now and final examinations. This is bound to be a confusing year . . . it's the last one for two centuries or more that is the same year whether you look at it right-side-up or up-side-down . . . so you can read part of your calendar this year up-side-down.

At the Canadian University Press conference held in London, Ontario over the holidays, mention of WUSC brought about a re-appraisal of the actions and attitudes of last year's columnist, Dave Fairbairn. Barbara Thomas, a member of the National Executive of WUSC, confided that great interest had been raised by the referendum at UNB and that all the branches had learned to exhibit to the student bodies (groups) that they were useful and that they justified any funds which were granted them. So perhaps *Hotbed* did WUSC a service by jolting some of the members out of a state of complacency.

In addressing the plenary (full assembly) meeting of CUP, Miss Thomas discussed the WUSC Seminar to be held this year in Sweden (to which UNB will send one delegate). While stressing the positive value of such seminars, Miss Thomas made the point that we are not always sending our best people as delegates. The delegate himself must pay \$300 or more, but Miss Thomas stressed the point that this must be added to the earnings they would have made if they had not gone. She said that WUSC needs subsidies to send our most capable students, since at the present . . . "Those go who can afford it . . . not always those who ought to . . ." Later, Miss Thomas said that UNB was fortunate in the fact that the university does subsidize the student delegate in part by cancelling his tuition fees for the following academic year.

On the lighter note, informal discussion at London about a unique organization at Sir George Williams University resulted in much mirth. The students there have founded a new Church, the Callithumpian Church. The object is to absorb all other denominations into the Callithumpian Church . . . and then disband. The "Articles" of the "Faith" are an obvious satire on one of the "established" churches. Each year the members of the Callithumpian Church elect a "Pope" and three "Vice-Popes". Since the eventual aim of the "Faith" is to disband all churches, they have concluded that their God cannot be eternal. Therefore, at each weekly meeting of the "Church" on Sunday afternoons in the YMCA, a new God is elected. It is an edict of the "Faith" that no person can be God twice. Since "God" is elected for such a short term, he is considered fallible; however, the Popes are considered infallible and wear purple robes as a badge of office.

ODDS 'N' ENDS

—Overheard . . . "Children should be obscene and not heard."

—There has been so much comment about the "Upper-Canadian controversy" that the Column wishes to bring the topic out in the open. Myself and a learned Nord-Shore scholar challenge any two persons to take the affirmative of the following resolution in a public debate . . . we particularly challenge Messrs. Paton and Clark, who gave their distasteful views in letters to the editor of this paper . . . RESOLVED THAT THE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ADVANTAGES OF CENTRAL CANADA DO NOT JUSTIFY THE ATTITUDE TAKEN BY ITS CITIZENS AT UNB.



photo by ELLIOTT

Basil Ross (left) and George Tapley inspect the Radio Society's A-M Tuner.

WINTER CARNIVAL - FEB. 2, 3, 4, 5