

FM Radio Future Possibility

by dona s bulgin

Dalhousie University wants an FM radio band license, but it may be awhile before it gets one.

Both Dan O'Connor, president of the student union, and Doug Wavrock, station manager of Dal Radio, agree that upon initiation of an FM radio station, both students and community would be exposed to a new medium, and constructive criticism of the station's operations, could be generated because of the cross-cultural segment of the populace which an FM station would reach. Ideally this feedback would encourage radio employees to design their programming in an interesting, intelligent and thought-provoking fashion.

Dalhousie students are presently listening to Dal Radio only. Because of the physical disposition of its closed-circuit system (wire transmission) and because it

is staffed by volunteers (except for the station manager), Dal Radio has its limitations.

These limitations have bred discontent. In September 1973, Dalhousie student Douglas Barrett formalized an FM radio "working paper". This paper was not a formal application as such, but rather an indication to the Canadian Radio and Television Commission (CRTC), which grants FM licenses, of Dalhousie's interest in having FM radio on campus.

The working paper explored the needs, opportunities and parameters of the FM radio situation at Dalhousie, and was presented to the CRTC in October 1973. The Commission expressed interest but said it would consider the granting of a license only after an in-depth proposal was compiled.

Before such a formal application can materialize at Dalhousie, much brow-sweating and general hard work must come to pass. As is to be anticipated, most of the pre-

paratory work is still in the conceptual stage.

O'Connor, representing the student union, hasn't become pessimistic as yet. He thinks that through integration with the radio stations at St. Mary's and Mount St. Vincent, enthusiasm and financial support could be polled. With this and community support aligned, a solid, well-rounded proposal could be presented to the CRTC for consideration at some future time.

Respecting the financial aspects of this project, O'Connor thinks that \$50,000, a relatively modest estimate, would cover the initial capital investment, while an additional \$30,000-50,000 would be required annually for maintenance and salaries. The capital investment would be used for the acquisition of studio space, radio equipment, and so on, while the maintenance and salary money would pay the salaries of a Station Manager, a Technical Director, a

Business Manager and part time staff and also keep the equipment in good repair.

Investing this kind of money in the station would not only ensure the quality of programming, but also the permanence of the station being a top priority with the CRTC.

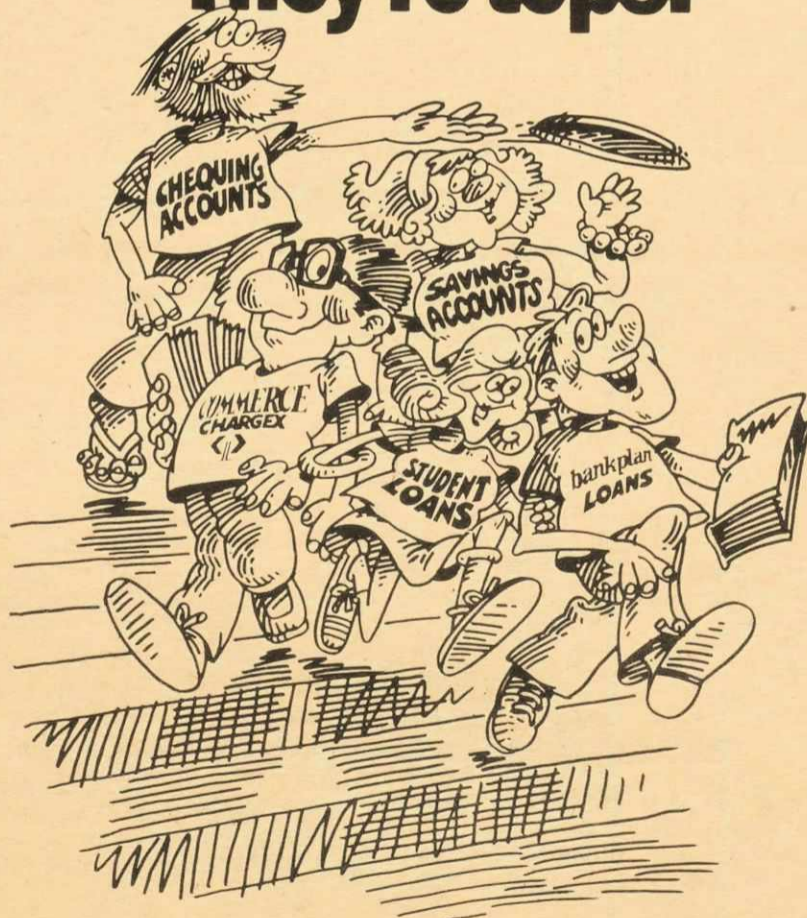
From where would these funds be obtained? The Dal student council has conceived two alternative methods of approaching this problem. Firstly, student union fees could be permanently raised from the present \$40 a year to \$45 (this would not be done before a referendum was circulated to tabulate students' thoughts); or secondly, the initial finances could be borrowed, and the loan repaid and the station maintained through advertising revenues.

If one considers the time and effort other universities have channelled into their applications, it is not unreasonable for Dalhousie to antici-

pate three or more years of red tape before this dream could be realized. For example, in August 1973, the University of Manitoba presented an indepth and thoroughly research application to the CRTC. In this proposal they publicized the fact that they were willing to indebt themselves \$100,000 as their capital investment, twice what Dalhousie intends to spend. With this and community support going for them, they still didn't get the desired FM license at the CRTC's hearings nearly a year later, in July 1974.

The student union executive at Dalhousie has placed the FM band application second from last on its list of priorities. This could imply that realizing the potential obstacles involved, they are cautiously taking all the time necessary to properly consider their approach to this issue. It may be some time before a FM radio license is a reality for Dal Radio, if in fact they ever get one.

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Tutors Needed

by Tricia Archibald & Don Dine

Here we are again with the same old problems but new solutions. For those of you who do not know us, Outreach is a volunteer organization dedicated to helping needy school children.

Several hundred school children mainly from the northend of Halifax, need extra help with their school work. Help which is not offered by the schools and in many cases the parents can not give or offer to help their children. Outreach tutoring is trying to solve this problem by recruiting volunteers to help children on an individual or small group basis for 1 to 2 hours a week.

Unfortunately there are always more students needing help than tutors. But we try our best.

Over the summer, the previous years of Outreach have been reviewed, analyzed, torn apart and put back together, hoping our alterations will improve Outreach. However the most important ingredient for a successful programme is still yet to be added. We need you, so please volunteer to help. It will cost you only 5 minutes to fill out a form plus 1 to 2 hours a week for approximately 10 to 14 weeks this winter. It might be frustrating, boring and in some cases it might be an ordeal. The rewards are few and far between, ranging from a Thankyou, to gaining a friend, to the satisfaction of knowing you helped someone succeed. But you will learn something yourself.

What can you offer? As far as ability is concerned "You have it!". It does not take any special training of teaching skills and no one expects miracles! The children are not asking for miracles just a little understanding and help. What we do want are people who are willing to consistently devote some time to help a child.

If you are athletically oriented or just want some exercise, Outreach is involved in a recreation programme at Pingrove School Spryfield. If you are limited by transportation, this is a programme at Kings, involving volunteers (Kings college and children from Ross Road School, Preston N.S.).

We need office staff. If you have only 1 or 2 hours to offer, we need people to occupy our office (donated by Dal. Ed. Dept.) so we can have regular office hours. But most of all we need tutors. Most tutors will be tutoring on a 1 to 1 relationship in the children's home. But sometimes the home is not the best place so we are trying to get space in the child's school, or Veith House. We are thinking about drop ins, staffed by tutors, so the children who need help can drop in.

Whatever your interests and whatever your time permits we need you desperately. So PLEASE drop in and see us or call us at 422-5833, or at our homes 425-5589, Don, or 422-3851, Tricia.

THEY NEED YOU!