

Making Waves

NEWS, FLUFF & CJSR

by Dragos Rulu

CJSR PLAYLIST 88.5 FM

TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. *Three O'Clock Train* — Muscle In (Pipeline/CC)
2. *Jr. Gone Wild* — Less Art, More Pop! (Better Youth Canada/CC)
3. *Bad Brains* — I Against I (Fringe/Canada)
4. *K.D. Lang & The Reclines* — Angel With A Lariat (Sire/WEA)
5. *Soul Senders* — Soul Senders (Spider/US)
6. *Go Four 3* — Six Friends (Zulu/CC)
7. *Catarwaul* — The Nature Of Things (Lost Arts/Pollution Control)
8. *U.I.C.* — Our Garage (Fringe/CC)
9. *Andy White* — Rave On (MCA)
10. *Husker Du* — Warehouse: Songs And Stories (WEA)

TOP 10 SINGLES

1. *Haunting Today* — Haunting Today (Demier/CC)
2. *Roots Round Up* — 6-Song Tape (Independent/CC)
3. *Ten Tall Men* — Nickelbrain (Independent/Pollution Control)
4. *Phid Waffle* — 16 Million Colours (Amok/Pollution Control)
5. *Amoeba Quiche* — Justice Liver (Independent/Canada)
6. *Frazan Concentrate* — Writing On The Wall (Melted/Pollution Control)
7. *Synthetic Product* — We Have Been Notified (Synthetic Product/Pollution Control)
8. *Weathermen* — Machinery/Tape (Independent/CC)
9. *Big Band Trio* — Crazy Bout A Saxophone (Independent/CC)
10. *Live Skull* — Pusherman (Homestead/Dutch East India)

News:

The following groups are scheduled to release albums soon. March: The Smiths, Erasure, Simply Red, Motley Crue, Pete Townshend, We've Got a Fuzzbox and We're Going To Use It.

April: Violent Femmes (Live!), Kid Creole and the Coconuts, X, and a double from The Cure.

Fluff:

In a big CD packaging and marking screw-up, people who bought the Sid and Nancy soundtrack on CD got Lawrence Welk instead. As well, little old ladies everywhere had anxiety attacks when "Love Kills" came blaring out instead of bubble music from their Welk CD's.

Motley Crue argued about what to call their upcoming new album. Now it looks like they are stuck with the title "Girls, Girls, Girls" because singer Vince Neil settled the argument by getting that title tattooed on his forearm.

On the serious side:

As the wee hours of the morning dawn and CBC's Brave New Waves hits the air, I begin to consider CJSR. Why does a single show on CBC targeted at an alternative audience seem so much more fun and have such a better playlist in a few hours than an entire station here does in one day.

Am I a minority when I say I find CJSR lacking? I doubt it! I searched all week for one devout listener of our campus station and found only one. The other thing I found is a deep undercurrent of resentment regarding CJSR. Part of this can be explained by the fact they are supposed to be an alternative station. This automatically removes the 80% of the listening audience who are not willing to go out on a limb past their Madonna and Springsteen pap world.

But what about the adventurous listeners. Why do they seem dissatisfied? Perhaps CJSR must realize that there is such a thing as good and bad alternative music. Take their current playlist which contains, for example, U.I.C. — Our Garage. Now this album is just trashy

cheap, guitar noise recorded in some garage — but because it is a Canadian garage, it gets top billing on the playlist despite the fact that the music is crap from an alternative or conventional standpoint.

Some of this is not their fault. Our illustrious government CRTC dictates that Can-Con regulations must be adhered to. They are forced to play a certain percentage of Canadian material by their licensing agreement. Still, I would rather they have more selectivity about what they play.

I think a big problem is the approach to broadcasting and music selection the management has chosen. An anonymous station employee even went as far as to say, "It's not a matter of your musical tastes, you have to be a part of the right group." There is too much emphasis on playing music (a loose term) just because it's there.

They spend too much time catering to minorities that consist of a mere handful of people like the foreign language programming. And is Central American news really relevant to people on campus? It may look good in a newspaper article, but it has about as much interest as a politician's speech in practice.

There is a lot of political squabbling inside CJSR, perhaps even enough to hinder the operation of the station. Take the squabble about commercials earlier this year. The station was offered the opportunity to accept some highly lucrative commercial advertising which some disliked because they were commercial. CJSR had an opportunity to become more financially independent and they refused it. After the matter was decided against the commercials, the CRTC stepped in and said that the commercials weren't allowed anyway. Would the CRTC have said that had they chosen the other way quietly? Ahh, missed opportunities.

I had a real insight into just much infighting goes on when I went along with three computer engineers to 'take over' the station as a 'geer week stunt. Now this little prank almost didn't go down. CJSR was against it, so

we had to resort to playing politics and get the support of the S.U. and Tim Boston (who at the time held CJSR's purse strings). For an alternative station, they sure got touchy when someone else wanted to try playing their own alternative.

Then there is the 'Voice of the Bears' incident, where CJSR lost the rights to broadcast Bears' hockey games to 1070 Gold. After that hit the presses, Brent Kane (station manager) was indignant, even though he himself came to the Gateway with the story!

I love the smell of politics in the morning.

Later on, when I approached him with the prospect of a joint CJSR/Gateway Iggy Pop interview, his quote was "You don't expect me to do anything for the Gateway now do you?" Brent Kane is leaving, but the problems with the station won't go with him.

These small incidents are indicative of the abrasive tone of the CJSR management. Here is a station that claims to represent the campus and is FUNDED by the students (\$60 000). They should concentrate on representing GOOD alternative music and US. As it is now, they represent no one. The last alternative.

**TUITION
INCREASES HURT....**

***The under and unemployed.**

***People with other bills.**

***Workers on low wages.**

***Students without rich parents.**

***Students without student aid.**

***Students without connections.**

***Parents who can't afford daycare.**

Paid for by: THE "YES" SIDE.



VOTE "YES" TO THE REFERENDUM QUESTION: "Should the Students' Union support a continuous zero percent tuition increase policy?"