



By Bruns Staff

You know you're getting old when:

- * University begins to look like high-school
- * It takes balls to have a birthday
- * When insurance people always ask you about death benefits
- * First you begin to lose your eyesight, then you tend to forget, and third - I can't remember
- * You're twenty-nine, for the second time around
- * You remember the very first rock festival that was staged by David and Goliath
- * The girls who go to University here can not remember the moon landings
- * You no longer need a pillow to play Santa Claus
- * You're older than your profs
- * You have to wear "Depend" undergarments
- * The 3rd baseman gets to the plate before your fast ball
- * You feel like a snap dragon - no snap and everything draggin!
- * The kids don't know who the Beatles are
- * The kids you used to babysit are now in your classes
- * Every store clerk asks if they can carry your groceries for you
- * Frosh mistake you as a professor
- * You don't notice how filthy your clothes are until you are fitted with contact lenses
- * You're tired of all the clubs even though you're still under age
- * You start to act like your parents
- * Your favourite album is in the bargain bins
- * You can't remember when you started University
- * You've been at the Bruns Traer years

OPINION...

... In which Two CHSR Types Come to the Defense of Alternative Campus Radio

by Scott Dunham and Luis Cardoso

The conversation one encounters when CHSR-FM is the topic usually tends toward the negative. At least this has been my experience since I have been listening to the station (grade 8, Sunday Night Jazz with Mark Bartlett). As I see it there are two problems that should be cleared up in the latest round of concerns that are being raised by the Student Union.

First, that students do not listen to the station should reflect on the students and their attitudes, rather than the station's programming. Granted, the promotion of the station is not very good (and it would be good if the Student Union would help to encourage this process), but this does not mean that the programming is bad. Unlike commercial radio, CHSR-FM is not meant to be background noise for insecure people, but alternative entertainment and an information centre. This means that specialization is the fare doled out by CHSR.

If a student, or anyone else, listens to CHSR-FM, does it not reveal that they are interested in learning more about the arts (programs on city musical events or drama, for instance), or ideas (special news programs, or local or imported broadcasts) which are not available on any other radio station in Fredericton (except, possibly, the CBC in some cases)? Only those students interested in pursuing and learning more about the world we live in will be tuning in. If students are not listening, they aren't concerned with finding out what the station has to offer them. That is the students' problem; it is an inevitable loss in their lives.

Second, the success of CHSR-FM should not be measured by how many people listen each day. Because of the specialized programming I would not think that anyone but the station's program director would be concerned with ratings. CHSR-FM is meant to address the areas that commercial radio is afraid of (usually for economic or political reasons) which means a very eclectic schedule. I don't listen to CHSR-FM all the time. I listen to reggae or folk, maybe the program From a Different Perspective. I don't listen to heavy metal or experimental; nevertheless, I am a regular listener and support all shows aired, including the latter!

Statistics mean much more than principle to politicians; however, the student Union is in the academic community. So come on, Wayne, and all students on campus: instead of pulling out funds, increase them. If a handful of listeners are positively affected by CHSR-FM then the radio station has been successful. A university which neglects campus/community radio is an embarrassment to our society, where we brag of being advanced.

Scott Dunham

The profundity of ignorance being demonstrated by those students on Council who are proposing that \$11,000 be cut from the budget allotted to CHSR-FM is best summed up by the following fact: Toronto radio station CFRB boasts the highest rating among all radio stations in Canada -- it has a 21% share of Toronto's listening audience. Reasonably, CHSR-FM, can boast anywhere from 20% to 35% of the listening audience. The term "listening audience" is crucial; it does not mean all students -- many students do not constitute a listening audience because they don't listen to any radio. (This is a point that was lost on the simpletons who undertook the now infamous CHSR poll.) Thus, to complain about CHSR-FM's ratings is an act of sheer ignorance. Even if ratings were hovering at the 10% level, they would be better than many commercial radio stations thriving around the country.

Here is what the loss of \$11,000 translates to: the loss of two salaried student positions (sales manager and technician). These losses are crippling; loss of the sales manager will mean that cuts will actually approximate \$16,000 because of the subsequent loss of advertising revenue. The loss of a technician will not only harm CHSR-FM, but all Student Union groups, as the Student Union sound system is maintained by CHSR.

The CHSR-FM sports department will come to a virtual standstill. The only live sports broadcasts available will be playoff action from one of UNB's many sports teams, if even that. News will suffer, as money to have been spent on computer software that would have saved the station money in the long run will no longer be available. Award-winning news and current affairs programs purchased by CHSR-FM will have to be cut; this is a loss that should not be tolerated among the academic community at UNB!

The irony is that any funding cuts now will end up costing the station money in the long run, as much of the money being spent is going toward equipment and technology that will eventually save CHSR-FM a substantial amount of money. This is another point lost to the buffoons at the Student Union who are proposing these cuts.

The morale of the station's staff, in light of such budget cuts, will be devastated. It would soon become a chore to participate in campus radio in an environment of battered and non-functioning equipment. CHSR-FM has produced some of this country's finest media people, and is recognized as an important talent resource by the national media. This reputation will quickly disappear if budget cuts become reality. The politically motivated students at the Student UNION cannot grasp that they are playing with one of UNB's most important resources.

The only solution that seems to make sense is a media fee. Money would be collected directly from the students by the university media (CHSR-FM and the Brunswickan). According to a CRTC commissioned report, the overwhelming majority of campus radio stations with budgets of more than \$60,000 receive their money from media fees. This ensures that simpletons happen to gain control of a university's Student Union, they cannot tamper with the important resources that campus radio can be.

Luis Cardoso