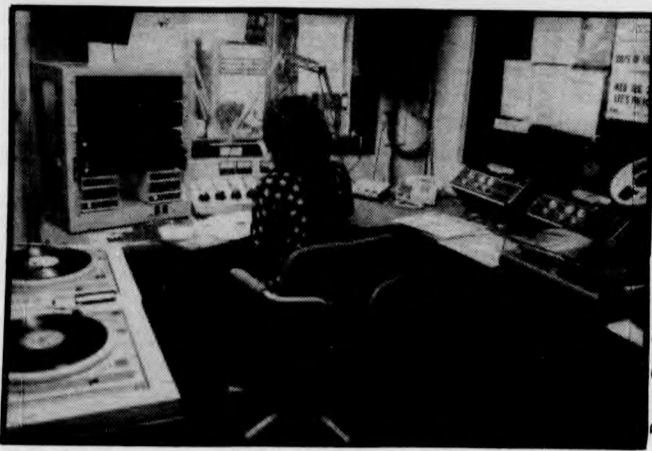


FEATURES

# reaches out to North York



Peter Stathis photo

that devotes considerable amounts of its music programming to black music and folk music from different parts of the world" and "was impressed with the innovative community and educational programming proposals" and "numerous interventions in support."

This shaped the station's evolution in a way that has since seen it drawn further and further from the humble origins which continue to characterize campus-based radio elsewhere in the country.

If CHRY was measured by purely corporate standards it would stand up admirably. The university administration which once fought the push for an FM radio station, no doubt advised by the sour experiences found elsewhere in Canadian universities, is gradually recognizing it hosts a financially stable independent broadcasting corporation.

CHRY has had balanced budgets, being virtually debt free with annual unqualified audits, on perhaps the lowest student levy fee for a campus FM station in the country. CHRY's operation and mandate have met the strict threshold requirements for financial support by external bureaucracies like the Secretary of State, the Ministry of Employment and Immigration, the Ontario Women's Directorate and North York City Hall.

All of this is merely a backdrop to our primary focus. First, a commitment to expose information in the underrepresented areas described above. Secondly, where possible and applicable, directing the listener in how to express discontent or approval, or actually get involved actively in shaping the future of our environment, our educational system, our health care, our race relations, and a range of other issues. Listeners are exposed to avenues of participation in another way: getting involved in radio itself through joining CHRY.

The programming areas in which CHRY is currently active include its music, news, current affairs, and sports departments. Its proactive element is managed by its volunteer and production departments.

Music forms the core of our 142 hour programming

week. Leading the nation in its popular reggae and calypso shows, CHRY also was the first in the city to establish dance music as a staple element of its musical sound. Yet the station's schedule still manages to cover a gamut of musical tastes best captured by the accompanying graphic. Classical and jazz share space with rap, heavy metal, calypso and garage.

Our library, supplied almost entirely free of charge through heavy use of record industry contacts and regular publication of our music charts (including our Hit List in *Excalibur*), contains over 15,000 albums and a growing collection of cassettes and compact discs. We continuously co-sponsor concerts in a host of our musical specialties working closely with a variety of local promoters.

Our news department covers happenings in, or which impact on, our listening area. Its focus consistently addresses issues that receive little or no attention in the mainstream media, for example lack of decent and affordable housing, institutional racism and various other prejudices, growing violence and drug abuse in schools.

Although still too reliant on mainstream news sources and resources, alternatives including electronic mail communication with local organizations and foreign news suppliers like United Nations Radio will enable it in the future to provide true alternative programming.

CHRY's current affairs department concentrates entirely on bringing in community members and organizations to express views or present research on chronic problems in society mixed in with profiles highlighting the many good works taking place. At last count, 31 organizations were actively involved, including the Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto, the African Relief Committee in Canada, the Jane-Finch Concerned Citizen's Organization, the Office for Students with Disabilities at York University and Jane Finch Community Legal Services.

In the past year, along with live broadcast remotes on Career Expo '90, the Driftwood Community Centre Festival and the Caribana Parade, we programmed a panel discussion to mark the anniversary of the *International Covenant Against Racial Discrimination* and marked Black History Month with interviews and short historical anecdotes throughout our February program days. Like our music department, we sponsor and publicize a variety of local events typically organized by non-profit organizations. Our actual current affairs programming covers topics like "The quality of life in the Jane/Finch community," "Abused women and the court system" and "The female foreign student experience".

Our sports department has also been active in reaching out to off campus amateur and professional athletics. Along with its thorough coverage of York University sports, CHRY's 40 annual broadcasts treat high school and other amateur sports, as well as North York Rockets soccer.

The station is now second only to CJCL 1430 AM in sports broadcasts among the entire AM/FM broadcast spectrum in Metropolitan Toronto. Our orientation assists in publicizing those sports that are often excluded because of the lack of advertising marketability that commercial stations depend on.

As for its proactive element, the station's volunteer recruitment department has a systematic programme in place which facilitates incoming volunteers into the radio station. Applicants apply in writing, are interviewed and are screened to determine where in the station's operations they can best fit. This department also administers the various co-operative work programmes the station has been involved in such as the high school "World At Work" and federal government "Work Orientation Workshop" programmes.

We have received many certificates for our work with several local school boards and local community organizations like the Jamaican Canadian Association. The volunteer department also canvassed some 1300 York University professors for their availability to give interviews on their subjects of expertise, another form of volunteer service. These efforts are intimately related to the workings of our production department.

Production is the key to being able to interview, read and produce material for on-air broadcast. Our original conception emphasized simplicity and ease of equipment use. Of the hundreds of people we have trained in production, very few came with a natural affinity, and fewer still with experience. Every volunteer in the station is trained to operate all our equipment, giving us depth in this area along with the phone answering, clean-up and coffee-making detail that make up the co-operative environment critical to our performance.

It is difficult to capture in print the working environment and primarily auditory end-product that is CHRY. We encourage you to come by for a visit, to look around and ask questions. We urge those of you with ideas and special interests, criticisms and energy to bring these forth. There is much more information about our operation available in print: various programme guides, departmental manuals, our recent successful application to the CRTC for a five year licence renewal, our annual audit, etc.

September is a time for renewal throughout the university. For CHRY and its annual fund-raising campaign (Sept. 26 through Oct. 7), it is time to reach out and solicit input, interest and income from our thousands of supporters.

Great experience, in an environment prepared to challenge society's assumptions, where energy is committed to community service: a simple view practiced, however imperfectly at CHRY Community Radio. The product of this environment is broadcast every day of the year on 105.5 FM.

AGENT ANTROPI

AGENT ANTROPI HAS BEEN SENT TO VENUS TO FIND THE SQUEEG MAN.

OKAY ANTROPI, HERE'S THE PLAN...

YOU'LL GO TO VENUS DISGUISED AS JIMMY JOHNSON, AN INSURANCE ADJUSTOR...

... AND STAY AT THE PUPE LUPE HOTEL...

REMEMBER, YOU'RE GOING IN DEEP UNDER COVER!

HI CAN I CHECK-IN?

NICE TIE, SECRET AGENT MAN.

YOUR CONTACT IS BILLY REX...

LUPE

GOOD LUCK!

by Blamb

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