

CROSSCANADA

CRTC rules in favour of Carleton station

OTTAWA (CUP) — A Carleton University community radio station did not propagate hatred against Catholics and will be allowed to operate, a recent Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) ruling said.

Local conservative groups had asked for CKCU's broadcasting licence to be revoked for "abusing the public airwaves."

The Canadian Christian Women's Organization for Life filed a complaint July 7, saying that a day of programming was "offensive" and "nauseating."

CKCU had broadcast a six-and-a-half-hour program titled Stonewall 25 on June 26, which consisted of panel discussions with members of the gay, lesbian and bisexual community, poetry and short story readings, and live phone-in discussions on notions of community, diversity and the family.

The event commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, when police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York. The raid sparked five days of rioting and has since become a symbol of solidarity for the gay-, lesbian- and bisexual-rights movement.

The radio station included disclaimers before and during the broadcast, warning listeners that the programming would be explicit and to turn their radios off if they didn't approve.

Rita Curley, a member of the organization, said in the complaint that the program could have a negative influence on children.

"If we could unintentionally tune in to this degrading, obscene program, our greatest concern is that children could have the same misfortune," she wrote.

In her letter to the CRTC, Curley singled out the song, 'You Suck,' by the Yeastie Girls, which describes oral sex in detail.

Robert Eady, a member of the Catholic Civil Rights League, says he also sent a complaint to the CRTC about Stonewall 25. Since 1992, Eady has launched several complaints against CKCU's gay, lesbian and bisexual program, Defiant Voices.

But CKCU station manager Max Wallace said the playing of the song was justified because it was "contextualized within the programming... and was not gratuitously offensive."

Wallace insisted that the station's programming is within the limits of the Broadcasting Act, which regulates all Canadian broadcast media.

The CRTC agreed. CRTC Secretary General Allan Darling wrote to Eady: "The Act clearly does not give the commission the power to censor programming... The commission will continue to take into account the guaranteed right of freedom of expression contained in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms."

However, the CRTC renewed CKCU's licence for four years, not the usual seven, because a malfunction in the station's logger machine last winter meant that some shows were not taped, as required.

Concordia's sick building

MONTREAL (CUP) — Itchy eyes, nausea, headaches, dizziness, drowsiness — these are symptoms Concordia University's Visual Arts Building staff and students have complained about for years. This summer, Concordia University was formally told to clean up its act.

The provincial commission on health and safety at the workplace (CSST) found 19 deviations of air quality norms in the Visual Arts (VA) Building. The VA Building houses the faculty of fine arts, including cinema and graphic design.

Michel Pelletier, a technician in the cinema department and a member of Concordia's Air Quality Task Force, said he realized there were problems only one week after the building was opened in 1980.

"The problem grew slowly, as more and more technical processes in fine arts were added to the building, such as sandblasting," Pelletier said. "They treat the building like it holds a school, but it's really more like a factory."

Pelletier and other faculty and staff drew up petitions in the mid-1980s, and circulated several complaints about the conditions to the Concordia office of environmental health and safety.

Last April, a group of staff, faculty and students contacted the CSST. Earlier in the school year, cinema professor Louise Lamarre was taken to a local hospital after fainting, and professor Marilu Mallet experienced other health problems when working for long periods of time in the building.

In June, the CSST issued its findings, saying that bad air quality originated mainly from the basement area, where most cinema classes and offices are located.

The new dean of fine arts, Christopher Jackson, acted quickly to the CSST instructions, relocating some basement cinema classes and arranging for staff and faculty to move upstairs.

"It's been going on for a while, and it became clear the health effects people were having were too serious. I can't accept that," Jackson said.

But Erik Paulsson, cinema student and chair of the Filmmaking Student's Association, said some students still will end up spending a lot of time in the basement.

"Editing rooms are staying in the basement and that's a drag because you have to spend so many hours there — they're open 24 hours a day," Paulsson said. "They ask you to sign up for 4-hour blocks. Any longer than that is at your own risk."

Canadian University Press (CUP) is a national organization made up of over 40 student papers from St. John's to Victoria. CUP enables student papers to exchange stories and ideas through the wire service, regional and national conferences. As a founding member of CUP, the Dalhousie Gazette makes sure that our university news becomes national news.



PHOTO: MIKE GRAHAM

Yet another line-up...

Waiting for the waiting list

by Lilli Ju

No, we weren't waiting for tickets to some hot rock concert. We were waiting to get signed up on a waiting list for some course that was already full.

Many psych courses fill up over the summer through mail-in registration. Waiting lists for these courses did not open until 8:30 a.m., Monday, September 12. Students have been known to camp out the night before the waiting lists open just to get a good spot on the list. This year, my sister decided that getting into this one particular psychology class was worth sacrificing a night of restful sleep in her own bed. Herein is the journal I kept while accompanying my sister at our overnight sojourn in the psychology department.

Sunday

9 p.m.: Called Dal Security to find out when the Life Sciences Centre (LSC) got locked at night. Midnight... good! No need to rush over right away.

11:45 p.m.: Woke up my sister, packed up a sleeping bag, and headed to the LSC!

11:57 p.m.: Arrived at the psych department. Already about 15 people there, watching *Aliens 2*. We are greeted by members of the Dalhousie Association of Psychology Students (DAPS). My sister signs her name on a list designed to keep track of people as they arrive (so that we don't have to actually sleep in a line). I decided to give my sister a tour of the psych wing and show her the cool study spots in the LSC.

12:33 p.m.: Headed over to the

Biology Lounge where pop is cheap.

12:41 p.m.: Called Dal Security again. This time to check if it's OK to leave our car in the parking lot overnight. No problem! (But I have to remember to feed the meter starting at 8 a.m.)

Monday

1:02 a.m.: Back to psych department. Watched the end of *Aliens 2*. A 908 gram bag of "cheese flavoured twists" have been opened up. Sigourney Weaver is now fighting this ugly alien creature while wearing some big mechanical robot outfit.

1:33 a.m.: *Lethal Weapon 2* is put on. My head starts nodding. Getting really tired.

2:00 a.m.: Someone wakes me up and asks me if I want anything from Tim Horton's. Coffee, now? No, thanks.

Around 3:15 a.m.: They put on *Silence of the Lambs*, but I'm still mostly asleep.

4:47 a.m.: Wake up to watch the last part of *Silence of the Lambs*. "Mr. Lechter? Mr. Lechter?"

5:01 a.m.: A couple of Dal security officers walk by to check up on us. Everyone's chillin' (or crashed out on the floor).

5:22 a.m.: *City Slickers* is put on. I look around to take a rough head count. I count about 30 people, but I can't see over the sofa where other people are asleep on the floor.

5:43 a.m.: Starting to get that pasty feeling in my mouth. Yuck, morning breath!

5:57 a.m.: My sister gives me a Clorets. Phew!

6:20 a.m.: Someone goes on an-

other coffee run. This time I order a medium coffee, double cream and double sugar. I can see that it's getting light outside.

7:20 a.m.: We start watching *Terminator 2*. What no romance movies tonight? Oh well...

7:35 a.m.: Less than an hour to go — and the psych lounge is almost packed. (Of course, half the people are lying or sitting down which takes up more space...)

8:05 a.m.: Almost 100 people are here!

8:10 a.m.: *Terminator 2* is turned off during a cool scene (where Linda Hamilton is escaping from the psychiatric institution). A lot of people are disappointed. Members of the psych student society start lining everyone up. Time to pack up the sleeping bag, everyone!

8:20 a.m.: Everyone is now standing in lines. Lots of half-awake people and still lots of people just arriving. Funny seeing the expressions of students as they arrive: "You guys stayed here all night?"

8:30 a.m.: What we've all been waiting for! The windows finally open and the department staff start signing people up on the waiting lists.

The line moves pretty quickly and we're outta there by 8:50 a.m. Yay! All this... just to get your name on a waiting list.

A special thanks to Tarjin, Jocelyn, David and Sunjeev (DAPS executive members) who stayed the night with us, providing food and movies. They certainly made what could have turned out to be a bitter ordeal much more pleasant and enjoyable.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Saskatchewan premier Roy Romanow, federal Progressive Conservative leader Jean Charest and Reform Party leader Preston Manning.

The news of the Liberal's success had a positive effect on the Financial Markets as well, with the Canadian dollar trading up almost 2/3 of a cent early Tuesday morning in London.

The relative calm in Ottawa was echoed by Robert Villeneuve, a Ph.D. student in French here at Dalhousie and a native of Chicoutimi, Québec. Robert voted by proxy from his home-away-from-home, but admitted that the result was "very predictable."

"No government in Québec for the last 30 years has won more than two mandates. If the P.Q. were not

indépendantistes, it would have been a sweep," he said over a bowl of oatmeal in his Le Marchant Street home. "The referendum will be interesting. I hope it doesn't escalate to the sort of threatening tone that the federalists used in 1980. As things stand right now, on the threshold of an economic recovery, unless something outrageous happens, the yes side will never win."

Other Quebecers surveyed around campus were not as reserved in their comments. Joanna Mirsky, a columnist here at the Gazette and a native anglophone Montrealer, thought that the election of the P.Q. was a "pathetic byproduct of reactionary mechanisms." She felt that the P.Q. support base was "a lot of people who are dissatisfied with the economics,

the politics, everything" and mostly "people looking for some kind of change."

"The Liberals are the only option for non-separatists. If Québec really supported the Liberal Party, they (the PLQ) could win Québec's rights without independence—Québec rights, not French rights. Until we start acting like a country, we are not going to be a country," said the 3rd year marine biology student.

For now, we can only wait and watch to see how the new government institutes its economic policy, but it won't be long before the province and the whole country are plunged into yet another referendum on the same, age-old question. It only remains to be seen if anything will be different this time.