

A good reason not to trash your radio

York radio station offers alternative programs

by Ira Nayman

How many times can you listen to a new Wilson Phillips song without succumbing to the urge to throw your radio into a trash compactor?

Since the federal government started to deregulate radio programming last year, commercial radio stations have fallen over each other in a race to the middle of the road.

With all the commercial stations trying to capture an audience by playing identical hits, university and community radio stations offer a rare alternative.

CHRY (105.5 FM), a community station on the York campus, serves its listeners with an innovative mixture of alternative music and information programs aimed at specific groups. "We're definitely an alternative to what people get on other stations," Paul Conroy, station manager, says.

If you tune into their round-the-clock music broadcasts, you'll be able to hear shows devoted to reggae, jazz, calypso and soca, hip-hop and house, experimental and industrial music, as well as open-format shows.

CHRY also offers alternative news and information programmes "of interest to people in the community," says Conroy. "Israel Today," "Africa Today" and "National Voice of Afghanistan" are examples; "L'Air du Temps" features music and news of interest to Francophones, while "Ondas Latinas" broadcasts in Spanish and English.

Coverage of local social institutions also plays a part in CHRY's programming. Last year, for instance, CHRY devoted programs to the Jane-Finch Literacy House — which helps people learn to read — and the Jane-Finch Concerned Citizens group, as well as broadcasting for a day from the Driftwood Community Centre.

CHRY is only partially funded by a levy of \$4.50 per full-time student. From September 25 to October 6, the station will be holding an on-air fundraising campaign.

CHRY is staffed mostly by volunteers, a "fair mix" of students and people from the community, according to Gary Wright, the station's program director. No experience is necessary; part of CHRY's mandate is to train people in every aspect of radio production.

Lewis Kaye, a volunteer for eight months who is currently employed part-time by the radio station, says that at CHRY "anybody can volunteer — we'll find you a place."

Kaye, who can be heard Wednesday at midnight on the Thursday

Morning Choo Choo, first approached CHRY to get airplay for a song recorded by a band he was in. "I'm glad they didn't play it that often," he remarks, claiming that, in retrospect, it wasn't very good.

He spent a couple of years working at a recording studio; when he lost that job, he came back to school, and joined CHRY. As a volunteer, Kaye found "the place grew on me so much."

Volunteer Sunaya Sapurji, who edits and reads news for the station, heard it one day and decided to go in on Fridays, when she had no classes, to "bum around." She's volunteered for eight months.

"I've learned a lot," Sapurji, an English major who is considering a career in journalism, said. As well as giving her radio experience, staff at CHRY taught her how to type.

"Volunteer for sure," Sapurji advises other students. "It's hard work, but it's a lot of fun."



David Akerman teaches a new volunteer how to operate the control board at CHRY. The station is staffed mostly by a group of dedicated volunteers -- once they start working there people tend to hang around for years.

28

HOW TO RENT THE COMFORTS OF HOME

It's easy ... with just one phone call!

RENT A PORTABLE LAUNDRY!

RENT A FRIDGE... PROTECT YOUR PIÑA COLADAS!

RENT A GREAT BIG HITACHI COLOUR TV!

RENT A VCR FOR YOUR CHOICE OF MOVIES!

INQUIRE ABOUT BECOMING AN ON-CAMPUS GOLDEN PLUG STUDENT REP. AND EARN EXTRA \$\$\$

HEY! YOU WITH THE SHOES!

Don't you hate newspapers that give away free things? Don't you get the feeling that they are so desperate for readers, they'll try to buy them?

Well, we feel that way. But, we've got all these damn tapes sitting in a drawer in the arts office, and we have no idea what to do with them, and, frankly, we would rather you had them than us, so...

The first seven (7) people to arrive in the arts office of *Excalibur* (420 Student Centre) after 4pm on Thursday, September 12 with this ad will receive a free cassette (of our choice). Just ask for Ira and hop around on one foot like a penguin singing. Well, okay, you don't have to sing. But, it would help if you were amusing.

Staff of *Excalibur* and people with cats named precious are not eligible. And, let's try not to make a habit of this, okay?

York University's Student Rental Specialists
The golden plug **751-8000** 1490 MIDLAND
 ONE OF CANADA'S LARGEST APPLIANCE RENTAL COMPANIES