

CHSR: ch-ch-ch-changes

By NANCY KEMPTON
Brunswickan Staff

Over the Christmas break staff and equipment were acquired at CHSR but FM and discovering audience reaction are still in the future.

As part of their agreement with the CRTC, CHSR

has hired an operations manager and a secretary. Bonnie Tabor was hired as operations manager in mid-December to help train current and future staff in various aspects of radio procedures. She is employed full-time by the station as is the secretary. The volunteer staff at CHSR has

and probably will, according to Station Director Doug Varty, remain much the same as before Christmas. However, Varty said the station is hoping to acquire the skills of more alumni and faculty members when they switch to FM, since CHSR will then be heard throughout the city. Help is wanted in the areas of drama features, poetry and prose writing, news and public affairs writing and broadcasting. The music department is more settled and secure than the others but they would be interested in hearing from persons who have knowledge in the big band sound.

Varty said current staff have appeared livelier since the FM license was approved late in November despite the extra workload and organizational difficulties.

Total equipment costs for CHSR going FM lie in the range of \$40,000. The station's operating budget has increased to accommodate the salaries of secretary and operations manager. The production control room is being rebuilt, with new cabinetry and a production console bought through the \$15,000 grant from UNB Associated Alumni. Two new turntables have been acquired for the master control room, as well as a rack for holding the FM equipment.

As many students may already have noticed there are two new antennae on the roof of the Student Union Building. They are part of the remote pickup unit, or portable transmitter which will broadcast events around the city either live or recorded on tape for later airing. Such events, according to Varty will include sports, artistic and cultural affairs and newsworthy occurrences. Yet to be installed is a 40 foot tower and transmitter on the roof of McGee House. This site was chosen because it is one of the highest points of land in a vicinity close enough for

convenience to UNB.

From January 12 to 24, CHSR will be broadcasting under the carrier current system. This AM operation will be much like their expected FM programming, so as to provide a test run. Official FM initiation will occur at 6:15 on January 24. This hour was chosen because the station first went on air at that time in 1961. The date that year was January 22, but CHSR decided to go FM on Saturday January 24th so that station associates in attendance for the twentieth anniversary social that night will be able to hear the first FM broadcast.

The contract drawn up with the CRTC includes a programming schedule that leaves little leeway for changes. This schedule is based on air time of 138 hours per week. This is broken down into broadcasts from 7 a.m. until 1 a.m. each weekday and 24 hours over the weekend days.

The programming content is based on knowledge gained from the station's 20 years of operating experience. There will be an emphasis on campus news over outside affairs. One-half hour per week has been allotted as free access time for community members to voice their messages. Any non-commercial club or organization will be allowed to request this time. The music will steer away from the top 40 hits to provide the audience with an alternative listening choice to the two existing radio stations in Fredericton.

Several original programs have been included in the CHSR FM schedule. There will be 40.5 per cent foreground programming, which is an in-depth analysis of the topics discussed. In the news category this will include a magazine show entitled "Focus." "Living Science" will feature bits of trivia from the UNB Science department as related by Professor

Sharp. SRC meetings will also be broadcast live. "Rocks in Water" will give local poets a chance to read their own work on the air. "Story" is a similar idea based on prose narrative. Music shows can be of a foreground nature too, when information is provided on the artists and their songs. There will be specialty shows concentrating on folk, jazz and classical music. There will also be a program entitled "Time Warp" that reviews the popular music and trivia from a particular year. "Feature" will concentrate on a certain musical artist or group and their various productions. Programming is definitely geared to a fairly young audience while providing enough variations for differing tastes.

When asked what he felt public reaction would be to the new CHSR FM station Varty said he expected an instant audience who would tune in out of curiosity. There is a potential audience of approximately 52,000 people and what percentage of this population does tune in on a regular basis will depend on several factors, including their tastes and the station's skills and talents. Varty said he feels people will have to get used to CHSR. Fredericton has been conditioned to hearing mostly top 40 music and smooth talking disc jockeys. CHSR will offer different music and a more natural, while less professional speaking approach. He hopes this style of broadcasting even with the mistakes that will naturally be made, will create a greater rapport with the listeners since it is less impersonal and practiced.

Varty has already spoken to several business members of the community and their reactions to the idea of a new and fresh FM station have been favorable. It is, of course, hoped that general public approval will be forthcoming when CHSR begins its FM history January 24.

Operations manager will be busy

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Bonnie Tabor has been hired as operations manager at CHSR. She was hired in mid-December in connection with the station going FM, as Tabor's job entails training the relatively inexperienced staff members in several aspects of radio.

Tabor will be holding workshops every Thursday night beginning January 15. She will be teaching some herself and bringing in guest speakers from local radio stations for other training sessions. Information on CRTC regulations, operating procedures, news and sports writing and reporting, along with other topics will be discussed. This should improve the sound of CHSR to increase its chances of success when it broadcasts city-wide.

Tabor was raised in the Fredericton area. She is a graduate of the Radio and Television arts program at Confederation College of Applied Arts and Technology in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Since receiving her diploma in 1975 she has done work in various aspects of promotion and media fields. She was program director for Thunder Bay French television, although she is not bilingual. She worked with francophones under a government grant since the CBC did not provide a French channel in that area. She then went on to do promotional work for SKY TV in Winnipeg and then the Red Cross in Fredericton. She spent her next two years as a design and layout artist for a local print shop. She has also contributed many volunteer hours to various television stations and commentaries for several fashion shows.

Tabor defines herself as a government grant type person, meaning she prefers a group effort to the clearly defined and separated jobs found in most commercial stations. She said she likes to hold a background position that entails assisting several



RAYMOND ROBICHAUD Photo

Bonnie Tabor

foreground personnel. That is why she was attracted to the position of operations manager at CHSR. The teaching aspect of this job also appealed to her, she said, as she hopes one day to return to her alma mater college to teach.

Although it is really too soon for Tabor to accurately judge the station, especially since it did not go on air at all over the holidays, she is thus far impressed with the staff members' dedication and hard work. While quiet over the Christmas break Tabor is just getting used to the increase in activity that began this week. She will be with CHSR under a tentative three-year contract, at the beginning of which is a three-month probation period.

Tabor is enthusiastic about CHSR going FM. She feels young people will welcome the change the station will offer from established Fredericton programs. She also hopes the city-wide FM broadcasts will help bridge the gap that exist between the campus and the rest of the Fredericton community.