

# CKDU wants to go FM

by Darrell Dexter

C.K.D.U., the Dalhousie Student Union radio station, is taking steps toward becoming an F.M. station.

The task put before the executive of the radio station is one that has required months of preparation and work. It involved a feasibility study, research on Canadian Radio and Television Commission regulations and a survey of the general student body.

The campus reacted quite favourably to the idea of an F.M. station that could be run by interested students. The major area of support seems to come from off-campus students. The argument expressed was that living off-campus they paid just as much for the radio as the on-campus students, yet they could only listen to it in the S.U.B. Many felt that extension of the radio station should be considered if feasible.

When asked if they would be willing to contribute an additional \$2 per year in their student union fees, about seventy-five percent of the off-campus students replied positively. Those opposing the move cited bad programming as the reason and said if the programming improved they would at least consider it.

The feasibility study took into consideration two main areas of concern. First the Capital expense or the original allocation to get the station off the ground. This would be the largest portion of the initial commitment. The expense for the station will depend on the quality of equipment. Neil Erskine, who did the feasibility study in cooperation with Martin Sullivan, said "If we are going to

move toward expansion then it only makes sense that we buy equipment that will last. Cheap equipment we can expect to break down and we'll end up paying more for it in the long run. If pressed, cuts could be made, but cuts in funding may mean cuts in quality."

The second area of the feasibility study was an operating budget. With the expansion of the station more money will have to be spent on quality programming. The largest increase in the operating budget will come under salaries. To make the move to F.M. would require a full-time programming director, a part-time secretary and a full-time station manager.

In order to solve this problem, the executive of the radio station has decided they would like to take it to the general student body in a referendum. They will be going to the student council on Sunday night to ask for a referendum for the upcoming February elections. The referendum would ask students for additional funding, up to about \$2, and would provide an indication of the students' feeling regarding the F.M. station.

Station manager Mike Wile listed a number of reasons for the move to F.M.

"Presently a large part of the student body doesn't receive the C.K.D.U. transmission, only those in Shirreff Hall, Howe Hall, Fenwick Place and the SUB. Even in those instances the signal is far from good because we work on carrier current which is transmitted along the wires in the buildings. With the F.M. transmitter we could reach ninety percent of the Dalhousie student body."

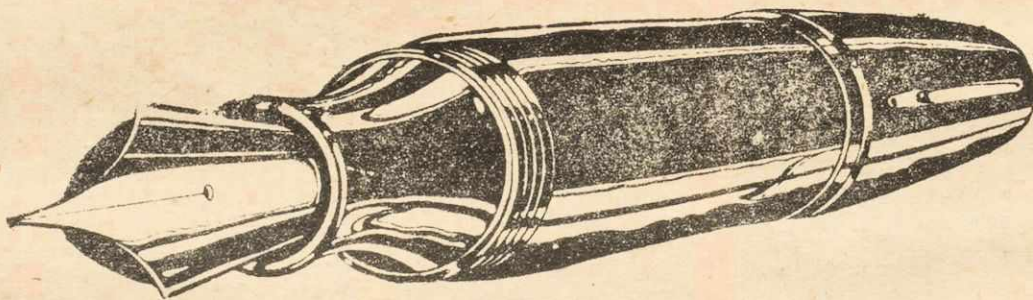
The radio station would



Campus survey favours FM move

most certainly become a superior vehicle for advertising student union activities and would bring more students into the running of student union projects by bringing them closer to the student union itself.

"Another important aspect of the F.M. station would be to bring the student body in closer contact with the Halifax community. This is something the student union has been attempting to do for some time through positions like the community affairs secretary. An F.M. station would most certainly bring us to the attention of a good deal of the Halifax public," said Wile.



## Ottawa to fund more university research

by Nancy Ross

Heward Grafftey, Minister of State for science and technology, has announced a 32% increase in federal funding for the Natural Sciences and Engineers Research Committee of Canada (NSERCC) for 1980-81.

This government decision will provide the committee with \$39 million more than last year, adding to a total of \$159.8 million for funding university research in 1980-81.

NSERC will allot this money to the individual professors across Canada whose applications for research grants have been accepted. G.R. MacLean, Vice-President of Dalhousie, said that this pertains

to our university in that, if any of the applications for research grants which were submitted by Dalhousie professors by November 1 are accepted, they will be allotted a larger sum of money to carry on their research.

Dr. D.B. Kiang, Chairman of the Physics/Engineering Physics Department at Dalhousie said professors who have a reputation of excellence in their fields decide on candidates for receiving research grants and then advise NSERCC of their choices.

Across Canada the announcement of this increase was seen as a welcome change in government policy by

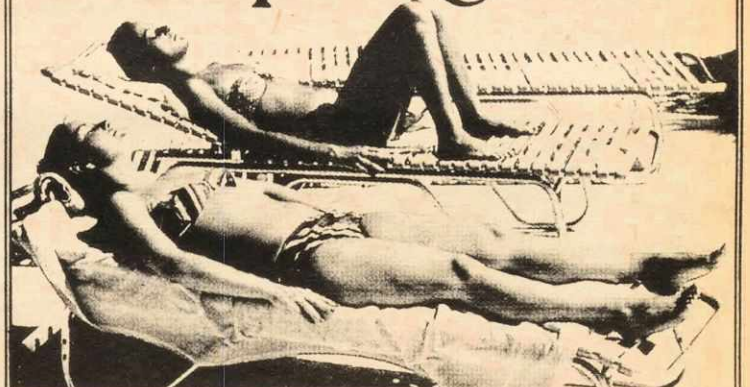
groups involved with government funded research.

Gail Kun, information officer of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, said "it is an indication that the federal government is placing a high priority on university research in its general economic strategy."

NSERCC president Gordon MacNabb will be consulting with the provinces over the next two months on the implementation of the plan.

There is much competition for these grants. Hopefully a few professors at Dalhousie will be successful in their attempts to obtain one.

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