

Three views on CKDU

Support the fight for CKDU-FM

by Michael Wile, Station Manager of CKDU Radio

The fight for an FM station at Dalhousie has been underway for several years. The desire for an FM station goes back almost as far as the beginnings of student radio in Canada, those beginnings were with CJUS at the University of Saskatchewan in 1964. Before that, Queen's Radio at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., was the first student radio station in Canada and, in fact, the first actual broadcast station in the country going into operation in 1922. By voting "yes" in the FM referendum, Dal students are continuing the long tradition of "trail blazing" established by those first pioneering students. Before the CBC was even established, (Arnie Patterson of CFDR Radio in Dartmouth says "No other organization has done more to draw the country together than the CBC") student radio developed as a forum for the development of a community's culture and identity. Today in Canada there are 8 student FM stations and many small college and university stations which continue to work for the refinement for their product and a legitimate community broadcast license.

At a conference of campus and community stations in Ottawa last weekend, it became evident to me that student broadcasters have big responsibility to the communities in which they operate and to the people who participate in and fund their operation. Our community is Dalhousie.

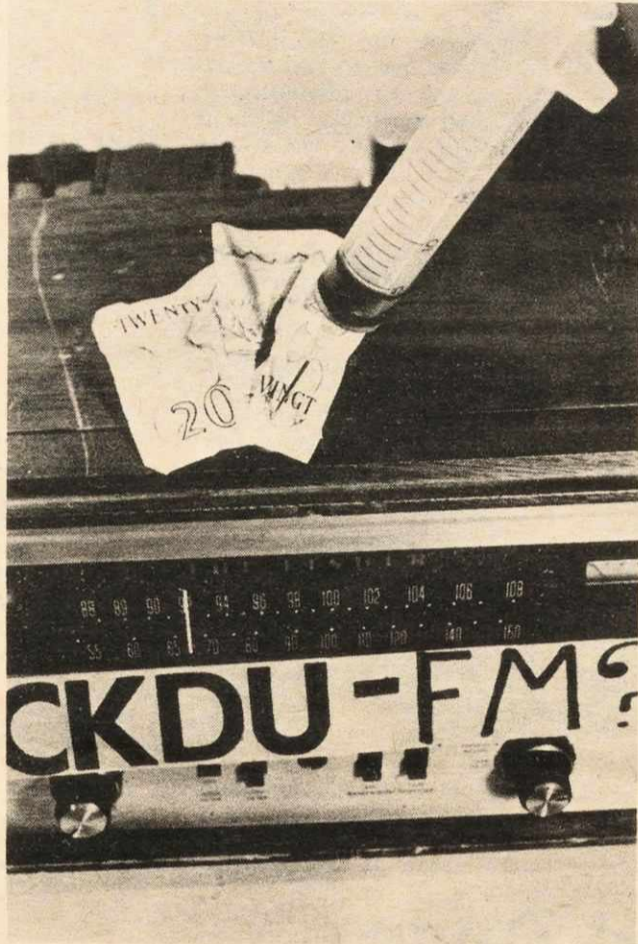
Participation has always been one of CKDU's strong points. We have always waged a strong and successful campaign to recruit members of the community to join the station.

Through a Board of Directors now being established, we hope to provide greater input from our listeners about the kinds of music, entertainment and information they would like to hear on their radio station. The establishment of this board is an extremely important step for CKDU. Not only is it a requirement of the CRTC but we know it will produce a stronger community base for the station.

The CRTC has played an important role in the development of a responsible attitude by campus broadcasters towards student radio. They are also concerned that an alternative exists within the Canadian Broadcasting spectrum for interests and concerns not represented by either commercial broadcasters or the CBC. While CKDU-FM requires a

license from the CRTC, example has shown that they are open to student radio as a true alternative and a

healthy product in the Canadian broadcasting industry. The CRTC does have major concern that student stations be adequately funded so that they carry out their mandate of serving their communities effec-



tively and responsibly. Serving our community has been an important role for CKDU over the past several years of full fledged AM carrier current broadcasting. We have been crippled by ongoing technical difficulties beyond our control which we feel has robbed most students of proper reception of their radio station.

All told hundreds of organizations and individuals have utilized our facilities and resources for publicity, information and entertainment. They have overwhelmingly participated in the operation, and experienced the radio medium. This concern for our

community has gone beyond the Dalhousie campus. As everyone knows, students are affected by a wide range of events and forces in the society in which they live. They are not immune, as the community is not, to the give and take of cultural, political, economic and religious forces that held the university into the city or town in which it is located.

CKDU-FM will act as a bridge between Dalhousie and the community. The new station will produce some interesting exchanges of thought, talent and experience with neither giving more than the other takes. Free air time will continue to be provided to community groups.

A radio station that is funded by its community (such as CKDU) must at least set one of its ideals as being all things to all persons at one time or another. We have always attempted with limited resources to provide a reflection for all interests on campus. This is an important tradition — not only for students for not only will students be the listeners of a new FM station but also people of all ages and tastes. They will be looking to CKDU to communicate their concerns.

Of these hundreds, at least 100 students have been participating in the operation of CKDU. They have been concerned that Dalhousie have an effective radio medium that will influence and entertain their fellow students. In the process, many have developed skills that have become of use to them in radio or related fields. CKDU's doors have never been closed to anyone interested in participating equally in the operations of the station.

What you are being asked to do on March 11 and 12 is to extend our mandate. We are also promising to take a serious look at how we may better serve your interests. With CKDU-FM we will be fully aware that whether you are sitting in your room in Howe Hall, in your flat on Robie Street, or in Dartmouth or Bedford, we will be working more than ever to serve your interests and tastes. We have worked earnestly in the past to do this for the sports enthusiast or lover of soul music; whether you've been interested in third world development or rock 'n roll.

CKDU-FM will mean accessibility to you the listener and you the participant. With the yes vote on March 11 and 12, our work will have begun, work which we sincerely feel we are capable of handling and which we know you want Dalhousie to continue in the long line of the accomplishments of student radio in Canada.

If you have further questions about CKDU or CKDU-FM please call us at 424-2487 or drop by our offices in Room 425 of the SUB. The FM-Yes committee is always ready to answer questions.

Should we keep the Health Plan...

by Anil Sharma

We, the students of Dalhousie, are faced this year with three alternatives regarding our University Health Insurance Plan. These three alternatives are to:

1. Keep present Health Plan provided by Dalhousie Student Union, where fees are automatically included in student union fees.
2. Subscribe to a Health Plan on a voluntary basis where this plan will be provided through Dalhousie Student Union.
3. No Health Plan, therefore relying on provincial program i.e. MSI and personal insurance.

I feel that keeping the present plan is in accord with our best interests. Why?

Most of us are covered by our provincial Health Insurance (MSI, OHIP in Medicare, etc.). Our University Plan is designed to augment the coverage we already receive to include many services that are not covered by provincial insurance. This additional coverage includes the services of a Chiropractor, Podiatrist and Osteopath; services that can be, as we well know, quite expensive. Also covered are ambulance services, wheelchair and crutch rentals, and, importantly, accidental damage to natural teeth.

Without insurance, any expense occurred in these situations would come directly from our own already depleted pockets.

Our present Health Plan (provided by John Ingles and Company of Toronto) has been found, through extensive studies (Health Plan Comm. 1978-79) to provide the most comprehensive coverage for the

minimum cost, valid twenty-four hours a day, anywhere in the world — an impressive combination. It covers all prescription drugs, excluding oral contraceptives, up to \$5,000/year coverage, reimbursing the student for the full cost of the drug, minus a one dollar deterrent fee. Alternatively, for instance, MSI covers prescription drugs only for those 65 years old and over.

The dropping of this Health Plan for a voluntary plan would, in my opinion, not be as satisfactory as keeping our present plan, for it is exactly because the Plan is mandatory that we get a relatively inexpensive Health Insurance. This year, the price for single students was \$11.50. Although this is expected to rise to the \$14-\$15 price range next year, it is still well below the \$20-plus amount that a voluntary Health Plan would cost. Also, the voluntary Plan would most likely be found lacking compared to the extensiveness

of coverage that the Ingles Plan offers.

Presently, although we receive our insurance certificate by the middle of October, we are covered for a period of 12 months, from Sept. 1 of each year to the following Aug. 31. In filing for a voluntary health plan on an individual basis, I suspect there would be a time delay in obtaining coverage, that is, by the time the forms were filled out, sent and verification received from the company, we might be well into October or November, if not later. This would necessarily mean that for that period of time, we would be without any accident and health insurance.

But would this be such a bad position: not having any coverage, or, as option No. 3 states, dropping the Health Plan altogether? Again, if given the choice, I would stay with our present plan. Although none of us come to university to get ill or in an accident, the point is, that these unfortunate occurrences do happen. It is discouraging enough to miss school time through illness without having to bear the additional expenses of paying bills.

It seems to me that the price of the Health Plan is not too much to pay to be sure if anything does happen, the financial aspect will be taken care of. It is to this end I recommend the keeping of the present Health Plan for the year 1981-82.