

# Letters

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## CKDU FM NEW!

### To the Editor:

Do you really think CKDU exists to antagonize the student body or to aggravate the eardrums of the inhabitants of the student Union building?

Taking CKDU seriously? That is something only those directly involved seem to be doing.

In the event that there is a referendum on the FM question in March, there are a few things students should consider.

Talking to council candidates and students in general about the apathetic trend that plagues this campus it seems the focal issue at odds is the communication or lack of it here at Dalhousie.

People don't know about events because information is not "forced down their throats" or even easily obtainable. The handful of people who are genuinely interested in particulars of the university persevere and find things out. In other words, information does exist, it's just not advertised enough.

Finding information by trying to focus on any one of the countless faceless posters that layer the bulletin boards across this community is a task requiring more effort than most of us are willing to expend.

In the real world everyone is struggling for the attention of the masses. VOTE. BUY. DONATE.

Radio (a drum roll please) is a means to this end. We advertise, we sell, we COMMUNICATE.

If the end justifies the means, please let's not end the means. If this word play is confusing, CKDU is a means of perpetuating Dalhousie's involvement in the community and student involvement in Dalhousie.

I am not going to go on and on about the enormous potential behind a student radio station like CKDU. CKDU has a lot to offer students in opportunity for practical radio experience, a place to express ideas and broadcast talent. I'm not talking Pie in the Sky, pipe dreams. CKDU is very much a reality.

At the moment CKDU, confined to the walls and ears of the SUB and a smattering of people in Fenwick, is not fulfilling its potential.

Imagine living in Dartmouth and being able to turn your

FM dial to 93.1 and hear what's going on at Dal.

In the FM proposal CKDU would be broadcasting Halifax-Dartmouth reaching not only students but everyone else living in those areas. What a market!

The venture is costly and even a little risky but is that not the essence of youth? New ideas. New talent.

Think about it until March.

Debra Fraser  
CKDU Staff

## Concrete steps towards FM

### To the Editor:

I think an explanation is warranted as to the preparatory steps CKDU has completed and those still ahead, in the effort to gain a student-oriented FM station for Dalhousie University.

In early December, CKDU staff met with Bob Oxner, Director General, Canadian Radio and Television Commission (CRTC), Atlantic Region for information on regulations, procedural requirements and the CRTC policy on FM. As is the case in any bureaucratic organization, that made for mounds and mounds of documentation.

The remainder of December was spent reading, researching and finally comprehending the CRTC's intension — to ensure a varied and comprehensive FM service. This stems from the imperfections which currently exist within the radio system — lack of substance, limited scope, repetition and too much commercialization. The CRTC supports student FM proposals since they provide creative programming, with little of the above. For example, CKDU-FM will only air 45 minutes a week of sponsorship advertising, (no brand names or prices), while C100, being a commercial station, has *fourteen hours* of advertising a week. No musical selection will be played more than seven times a week, whereas C100's policy is eighteen, and who knows what CJCH's is.

In late December, the FM Task Force, consisting of eleven CKDU personnel, was formed. Over the course of many late night Task Force sessions (up to five a week), constant visits to the CRTC offices, consultation with campus FM stations across the country, and guidance from the C100 engineering and technical departments, an FM proposal was developed.

The proposal now exists in its final form. The blood, sweat, toil and tears have been worth it. Up until this year, the FM proposal has been nothing more than a castle in the air, an unobtained objective of the CKDU Radio Broadcasting Society's Constitution. This is no longer the case, the applications are ready and our proposal will be heard at one of the CRTC hearings May 3rd in St. John's or June 7th in Hull.

And all of Canada is taking notice. Oakwood Audio, Winnipeg, one of the largest broadcasting equipment specialists in the country, has informed us they are aware that Dalhousie University is seriously pursuing a progressive rock FM license.

As of late, consultation with the Student Union executive has positively refined the proposals. With a concrete proposal for CKDU-FM, we welcome all input and scrutiny in the Council's part. This approach is necessitated given that past attempts at FM have been little more than whimsical conjectures. This time, the application has been finalized — and the Council has something solid to work from. There have been no cloak and dagger tactics and no unamicable relations. CKDU and Student Council are two separate bodies, working together towards a shared goal. Co-operation works very well, and it's a damn shame politics in the past have precluded it.

Ahead lies the March referendum for an increase of \$4 in Student Council fees to enable CKDU-FM the funds to operate a professional station in an environment which demands it. In May or June, the CRTC and Department of Communications will scrutinize the proposal to ensure that its programming and technical specifications will indeed provide an alternative to current radio in the metro area. We are very confident we have proposed just that. The wealth of human resources, talent and available material within the university community ensure it.

Beyond approval lies the September broadcast of Dalhousie's first FM stereo signal. The signal will cover Halifax/-Dartmouth and a majority of the outlying areas.

I personally welcome all those interested in finding out more information on the CKDU-FM proposal to come up to our offices on the fourth floor SUB and inquire freely. The proposal will be on file in case you would like to see what it entailed.

Keith G. Tufts  
Chairman, CKDU-FM Task Force

## Banks profiting on students

### To the Editor:

There is something seriously wrong with the Canada Student Loan system that requires students to repay their loans at rates that are higher than generally available consumer loan rates.

Under the present system, graduating students are forced to consolidate and begin paying their loans six months after

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