

unb

1961

Radio Society
UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
FREDERICTON, N. B.

30 years of broadcasting

chsr fm

STEREO 97.9

1991

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January 22nd marked a double anniversary for campus community radio station CHSR FM.

It was thirty years ago - January 22nd, 1961 - that "Radio UNB" began the first regularly scheduled broadcasts from the basement studios in Memorial Hall.

Twenty years later - on January 22nd, 1981 - CHSR added FM the call letters, and began reaching the Fredericton community at 97.9 on the dial.

Today, thirty years after the initial broadcast, CHSR FM thrives on the same volunteer commitment that built the station, providing over 140 hours per week of alternative information and music programming for the university and local communities.

In the fall of 1959 Barry Yoell, then a student council member, attended a conference in Toronto aimed at a possible country wide CBC program for university students. The conference didn't realize that goal, but Barry came back and decided to explore the possibilities of broadcasting on campus.

An ad in the Brunswickan brought a good deal of response, and the UNB Radio Society was born. It's goal



Basil Ross at the console during first Radio UNB Broadcast. January 22, 1961 (6:15 p.m.)

was to bring broadcasting to the campus.

Over the next couple of years equipment was acquired, and the University set up studios in the basement of Memorial hall. These studios were to be the home of "Radio UNB" until the new student Union Building was built almost ten years later.

The initial "broadcasts" consisted of individual speakers in the rooms of Jones House and the Student Centre in what is now the Alumni Memorial Building. Gradually the closed circuit system was expanded to include all the residences, but most students still had no access to their own radio station.

In 1969, the new SUB was completed, including professional studios for "Radio UNB", which was soon to adopt the call letters CHSR (College Hill Student Radio). The move to the SUB provided CHSR with the most modern broadcast facilities of any student station in the country.

There was talk of FM broadcasting - almost from the beginning days of the Radio Society - but the new facilities provided a new energy in the organization and the move was on. It would be over ten years later that the goal would be realized.

With the goal of FM broadcasting running into seemingly endless roadblocks, a new form of broadcasting was initiated. In 1972, CHSR 700 was born. The low power AM carrier current system allowed students on campus to receive the sta-

tion on regular radios for the first time, but the community still couldn't tune in to what was happening on campus.

The station continued to build, and in the late seventies the CRTC agreed to accept applications from student stations who wished to operate on the FM band.

In the summer of 1980, three CHSR staff attended a license hearing in Hull, Quebec to consider an application from CHSR to go FM. Also attending was newly appointed UNB President James Downey. Dr. Downey was not even on campus yet, and was to assume his duties in the fall, but his support for campus radio was an integral part of the hearing.

In November of that year, the word came down, CHSR would be CHSR FM. All eyes looked towards January 22nd, 1981 as the date. New equipment was quickly installed, a tower erected on the top of Magee House in the middle of winter, and ten months work was done in two.

On January 22nd, 1981, twenty years to the minute of CHSR FM's first broadcast, CHSR FM went citywide in

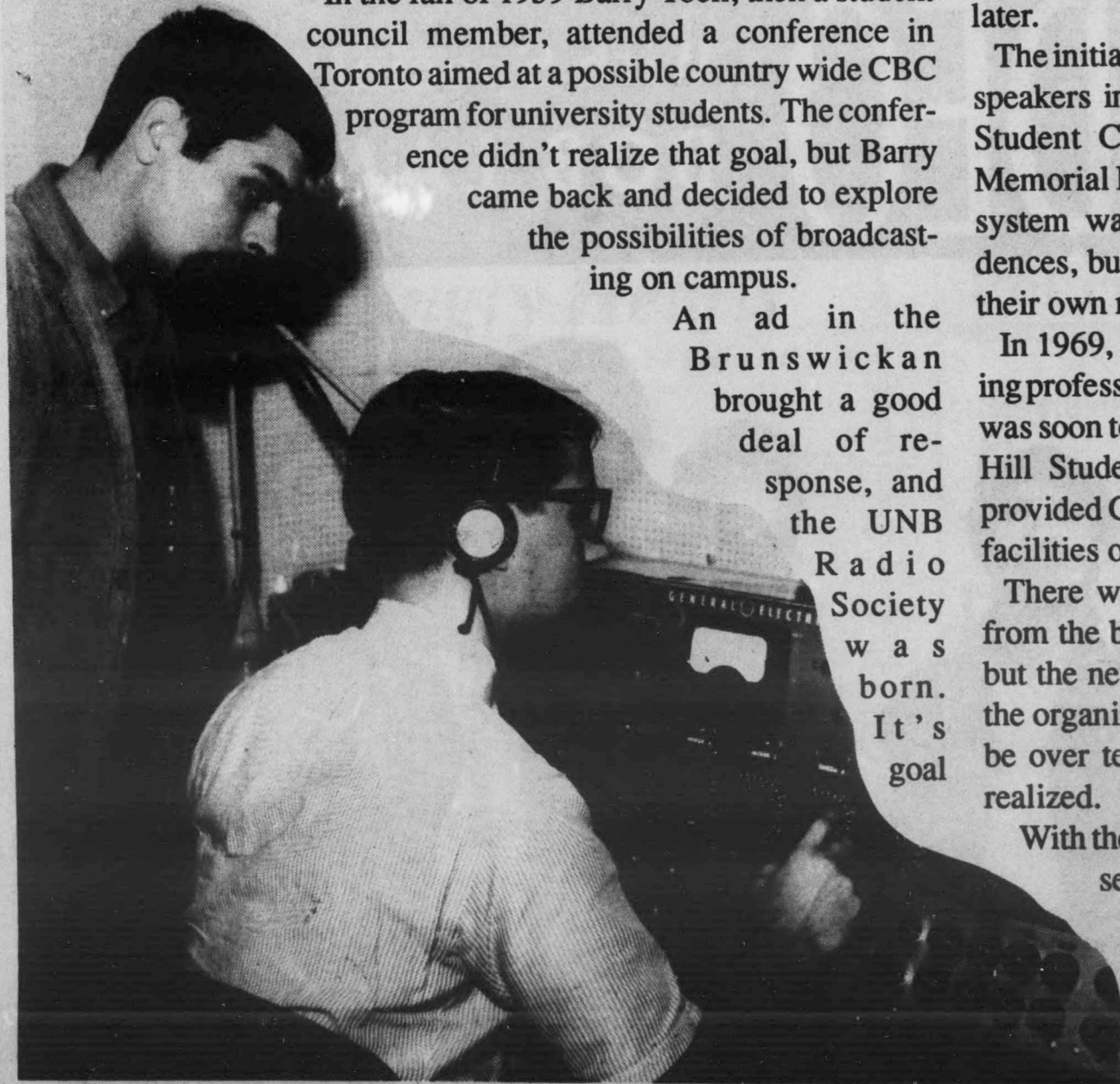
Stereo at 97.9 FM. Radio UNB had finally fulfilled Dr. McKay's prophecy and had become a truly community station, providing a reflection of the eclectic elements that comprise the university and local communities.

CHSR FM is dynamic. Recently completed renovations have provided campus/community radio with the most modern facilities in the country, rivalling those in many commercial stations. But the real resource that makes CHSR FM tick is the over 100 volunteers that produce the programming. Their initiative, creativity and dedication to community radio has been the key to the success of Radio UNB/CHSR over the past thirty years.

CHSR FM invites alumni and friends to join them in celebrating 30 years of broadcasting this weekend. The station will be hosting an Open House on Saturday, January 26th from noon until 5:00 o'clock. Then on Saturday evening CHSR FM will hold their annual "Anniversary Social" with the 20th annual presentation of the "Barry Awards", named after founder Barry Yoell.

Radio UNB/CHSR alumni are going to be welcomed back this summer for the first ever Radio UNB/CHSR Alumni Reunion to be held in conjunction with the UNB Reunion '91 from June 28 - 30. Alumni are invited to drop a line to Station Manager Jeff Whipple and let them know where they're at now. The mailing address is P.O. Box 4400, Fredericton, NB, E3B 5A3.

CHSR FM
30 Years on
the air
waves.



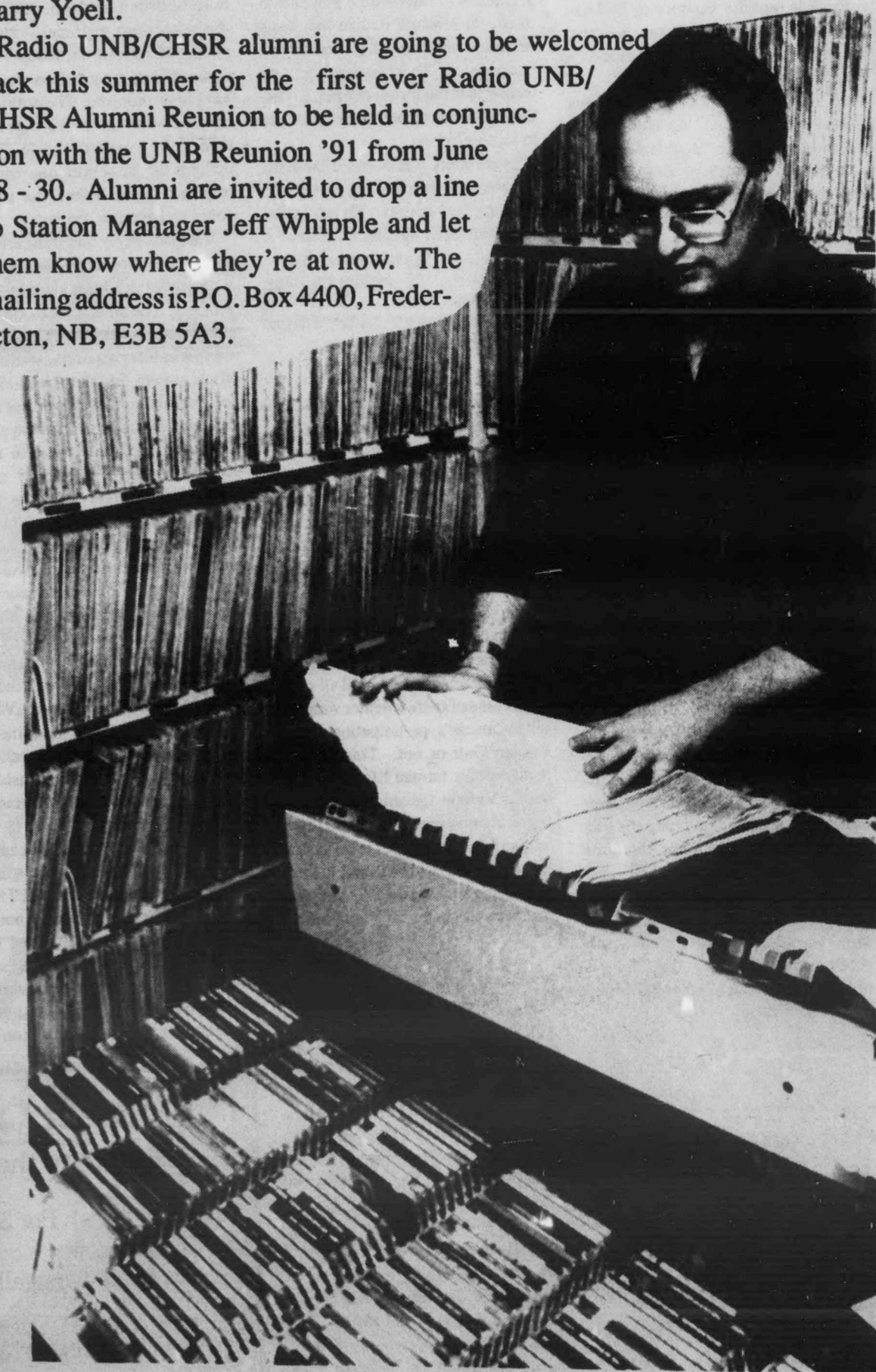
Clifford Lee (l) - station manager - Radio UNB and Armand Paul - director. October 1966



Dorothy Livesay, writer in residence with Armand Paul, director, Radio UNB. 1964



Jeff Barnford, CHSR programmer at the new look console. January 1991



Jeff Whipple, CHSR Station Manager in the record library. January 1991