

CKDU proposes another FM change-over

by Bobby Morrison

To be FM or not to be; that is the question it appears students of Dalhousie may soon have to face in determining the future of CKDU Radio.

As in past years, CKDU is once

again presenting its proposal to go FM, but if the CKDU FM Task Force has anything to do with it, it will be accepted this year.

CKDU proposes to establish a 54 watt FM radio station to serve Dalhousie students throughout

Halifax and Dartmouth. Derek Daniels, CKDU station manager, stressed the need for an FM station as Dalhousie is one of the few major universities without one.

The process of going FM is two-fold. CKDU must receive a license from the CRTC to operate and it must receive funding from the student council. Daniels said it is difficult to say which will be the most difficult task.

Daniels concluded going FM would mean an increase in student fees of about three dollars per student per year, but he sees that as a reasonable amount for the service the radio will provide for the students.

Keith Tufts, chairman of the Task Force, is optimistic about receiving CRTC approval. He said the CRTC is looking for a "horizontal programming system" with a wide variety of entertainment and he feels their programming proposal provides for this (see inset). He believes if all things go as expected, following the public hearing and waiting periods, CKDU could

receive a license by next September.

It is the financial question which has always been the stumbling block in previous years. It will be discussed this week when Tufts and members of the Task Force present their proposal to three representatives of the student union; Peter Rans (President), John Russell (Vice President-Internal) and Shawn Houlihan (Treasurer).

The proposal being considered is entirely the work of the Task Force. Daniels said "It is a big undertaking but a substantial amount of planning has gone into the proposal." He added it had input from all members of CKDU, people from C100 and other experienced radio people in the Halifax area.

The proposal estimates the initial cost of changing CKDU to FM will be \$48,900. Daniels and Tufts both see this as very reasonable. "With this amount we can establish a really good studio and are in fact saving \$28,000 by making do with some of the existing equipment rather than replacing it," said Tufts.

The report projects an operating budget of \$54,725 per year. This would be used to maintain daily radio operations and also employ a full-time station manager, a part-time production manager and secretary. CKDU office space would also expand.

The Task Force projects an annual advertising income of \$17,000 to offset expenses, from breweries, bars and clothing stores, which cater to Dalhousie students.

When asked why the venture should succeed this year when it had failed before, Tufts said "I'm not surprised we didn't get anything done in the past, given the circumstances — this year we are organized and are presenting a realistic proposal."

Tufts added he anticipates the proposal being approved by Council and then putting the FM question in the form of a referendum to the students, sometime in March, saying "I don't see how they can say no if they look at the proposal realistically without looking at past attempts."



Rockwell/Dal Photo

Jenny Mouse - CKDU's mascot

Council concerned over CKDU-FM

by Bobby Morrison

"They'll come into the meeting and say 'Hi, I'm from CKDU, here's our proposal — Oh by the way we need \$50,000!'"

This is the view of John Russell, Student Union Vice President (Internal) in reference to the upcoming presentation of the CKDU proposal to Student Council! If Council passes the proposal, it will go to a referendum sometime in March.

Both he and Student Union President Peter Rans expressed concern over how reliable and impartial a report prepared by CKDU would be, especially considering the lack of communication between Council and CKDU due to the demise of the radio's Board of Directors.

Russell said, "Council should pay the Devil's advocate on such an important issue to make certain that no project is taken on that is not feasible."

He added he and Rans made a commitment during last year's election to have an in-depth study done before any action is taken on CKDU-FM. CKDU was given \$5,000 by Council to do just that in September, but the money was then set aside by CKDU for other projects.

Russell is skeptical about the use of other universities going FM as an argument for CKDU to also go FM. He said at a recent conference "UNB was the carrot held in front of us" but when he talked with

people from UNB the impression he received was that they had gotten in over their heads.

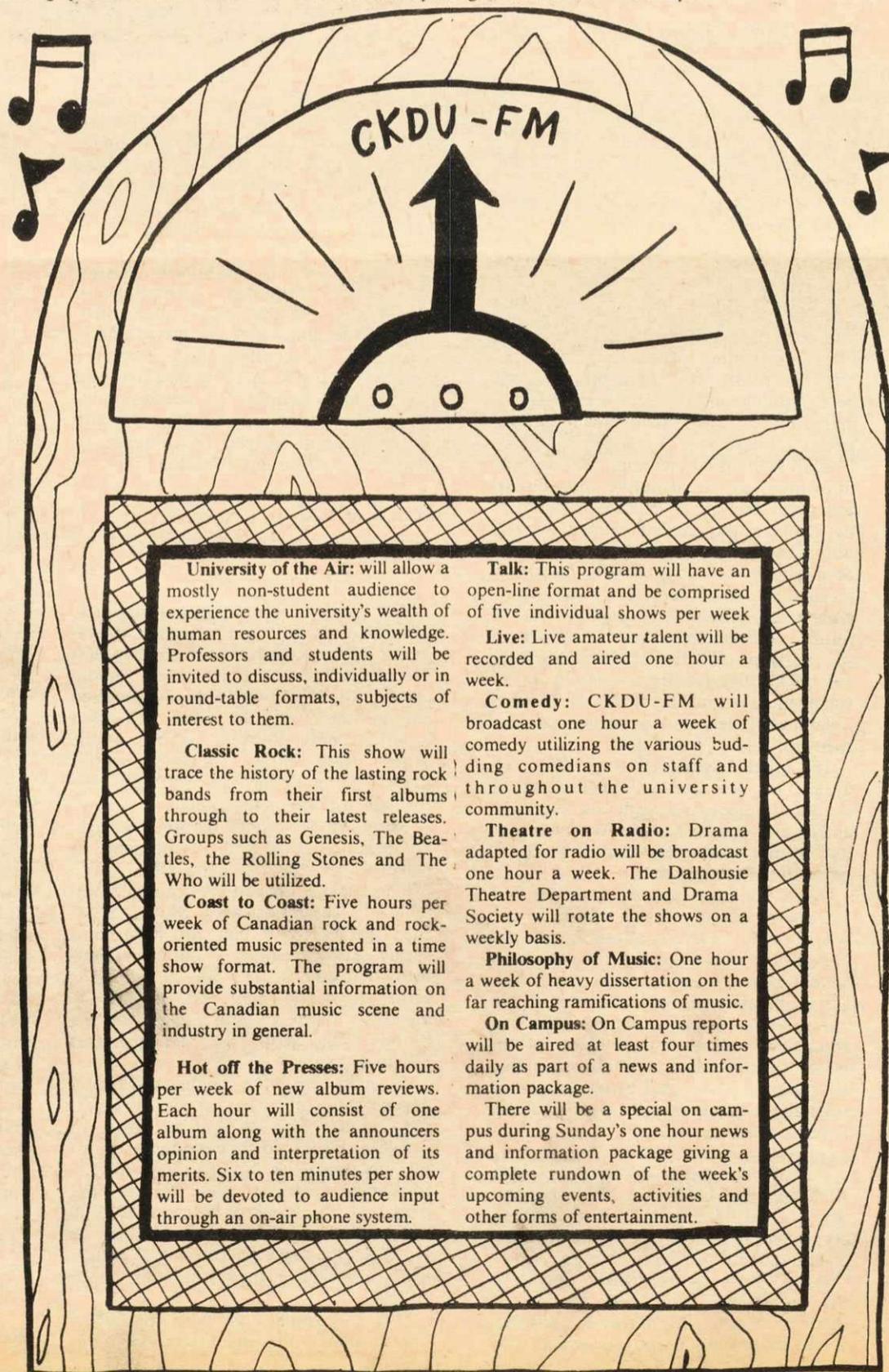
The radio's Board of Directors is a body whose function is to advise and assist CKDU in any projects it undertakes and also to act as a liaison between CKDU and Student Council. Russell, Council's member on the Board, said for all practical purposes there is no Board, and therefore there is no communication between Council and CKDU.

When informed of some details of the proposal Russell said "I should know these things, as a Board Member, but the only things I hear are through rumours."

Although they have expressed reservations, Rans & Russell both made it clear they have not prejudged the proposal and would give it great consideration. Rans added however that it is their duty to "greatly scrutinize the proposal to make certain that it is feasible." He said "Dalhousie does need an FM radio station, but only if it can have a good one."

Rans said he hopes to have the issue resolved one way or the other before his term in office is over. He added the only real way to do this is to put the question to the students, in a referendum.

Rans concluded saying "If the referendum is explicit enough and is binding, it will be solved this year; if it is another ambiguous question, it will unfortunately be left for the next Student Council to deal with."



University of the Air: will allow a mostly non-student audience to experience the university's wealth of human resources and knowledge. Professors and students will be invited to discuss, individually or in round-table formats, subjects of interest to them.

Classic Rock: This show will trace the history of the lasting rock bands from their first albums through to their latest releases. Groups such as Genesis, The Beatles, the Rolling Stones and The Who will be utilized.

Coast to Coast: Five hours per week of Canadian rock and rock-oriented music presented in a time show format. The program will provide substantial information on the Canadian music scene and industry in general.

Hot off the Presses: Five hours per week of new album reviews. Each hour will consist of one album along with the announcers opinion and interpretation of its merits. Six to ten minutes per show will be devoted to audience input through an on-air phone system.

Talk: This program will have an open-line format and be comprised of five individual shows per week.

Live: Live amateur talent will be recorded and aired one hour a week.

Comedy: CKDU-FM will broadcast one hour a week of comedy utilizing the various budding comedians on staff and throughout the university community.

Theatre on Radio: Drama adapted for radio will be broadcast one hour a week. The Dalhousie Theatre Department and Drama Society will rotate the shows on a weekly basis.

Philosophy of Music: One hour a week of heavy dissertation on the far reaching ramifications of music.

On Campus: On Campus reports will be aired at least four times daily as part of a news and information package.

There will be a special on campus during Sunday's one hour news and information package giving a complete rundown of the week's upcoming events, activities and other forms of entertainment.