

Looking for power boost **CKDU – Drive for 25**

by James McDowell

Last Saturday, Dalhousie's famed radio station CKDU began its third annual fundraising drive. The station, which relies on community funding, hopes to reach this year's goal of \$25,000.

The collected revenue is used to maintain equipment and pay the few members of the staff who are not volunteers. The station best known for offering "alternative" programming is staffed by more than 175 people, only eight of whom receive any kind of payment.

Past fundraising drives have been successful. Last year more than \$20,000 was raised, a figure that makes this year's "Drive for Twenty-Five" a reasonable goal. However, this year's drive has additional importance. If CKDU can demonstrate to banks and the student union that it is financially stable, that it has a reliable source of revenue, then it will be in a favourable position to go ahead with plans to increase its operating power.

The FM station, which operates in stereo, has a very limited broadcast range at present. Although it can reach most of Halifax on good days, under less-than-perfect conditions listeners as near as King's College can be hard-pressed to pick up the signal. CKDU now broadcasts with a mere 33 watts; 7000 watts is the desired broadcast goal. By comparison, Halifax's popular radio station Q104 broadcasts with 50,000 watts, providing a range that extends throughout much of Nova Scotia. A power increase involves money for upgrading equipment, engineering consultations, a new transmitter, and probably a new transmitter site. At present the stations' signal is transmitted from a small antenna tied to the top of Dalhousie's physical plant. CKDU's board of directors has given the green light for the power increase, but the station must be successful in its fundraising drive. John Stevenson, head of CKDU's public relations, admits, "without the necessary funds, there can be no power increase; it's as simple as that." Stevenson guesses that the power increase might be as soon as the summer of 1989.

The Drive for Twenty-Five kicked off last week with "Alternator", an art exhibit of work exclusively by CKDU staff. Thursday night will be a benefit

band concert at the Pub Flamingo featuring Willy Hop, Suspect Device, 100 Flowers, Black Pond, and others. Saturday, Feb. 20th, will be CKDU's benefit concert featuring six local bands (the Five Loggers and Love of Gods, to name a couple) for \$5 in the Dunn theatre.

The relationship between CKDU and its listeners is not

comparable to that of other charitable organizations, not even that of PBS. CKDU is local community and friends, providing radio that is not only alternative but specialized. Everyone is invited to get involved in the station, and this positive spirit is reflected in the upbeat tempo of the Drive for Twenty-Five. Dial and donate, 424-8812.

Black History Month and BUF **Combat racism**

by Tony Tracy

February is Black History Month, being celebrated throughout the province with cultural shows, panel discussions, films, and the official opening of a Black Cultural Centre. One of the main groups assisting the organization of these events is the Black United Front (BUF) of Nova Scotia.

The Black United Front was established in 1969 to combat racism in Nova Scotia, and that's still its job, says Jerry Taylor, BUF's executive director. Although much headway has been made since 1969, Taylor says there still exist many racial barriers which members of the Black community must face daily. Discrimination in hiring practices of employers, housing, and even the legal system (as has been shown through the current Donald Marshall inquiry) is still all too common in our society.

BUF in many ways is an "umbrella group", says Taylor. It has grown to an organization with an annual budget of \$265,000 and nine full-time employees, four of whom are based in the group's Halifax office on Gottingen Street, and

the rest of whom are field-workers throughout the provinces. BUF is funded through government grants, but, says Taylor, "there has been no increase in funding for the past five years". A large core of volunteers helps to keep the organizations going, and long-term fundraising projects are now in the planning states, as well as a drive to increase the number of paid members of BUF.

Right now, BUF's main purpose is as an advocacy group. They can help people sort out the red tape of legal problems and social assistance program problems.

As well, BUF assists people who complain of being victimized by racial discrimination by intervening for them, especially in the areas of employment and housing. Programs for youth and seniors are also very much a part of the BUF organization. Personal information is treated as strictly confidential. As well, Taylor says, "BUF is not a racist organization. We do not ask the colour of people who come to us for help, but rather would give assistance to anyone. No one will be turned away."

In order to minimize the effects of racism, Taylor outlines the approach that society must take: "firstly, people within society must come to the conclusion that racism is still here, and identify it. Then education can begin. Economic penalties must be set up for abusers and racists, and an organization such as the Human Rights Commission must be given the legislative teeth to give out these penalties." As well, integration within the school system is a must. However, this integration cannot be just one way. At present, Black students are integrated into white communities and schools, but this never happens in reverse. The media must quit portraying Blacks in a negative light. In the past, the major newspapers have given coverage to negative issues and events, but seldom give much coverage to accomplishments within the Black community. Taylor says "the onus is on Black people to become active in their fight against racism and quit accepting it."

Taylor envisions a time in which the Black United Front will become a major employer in the Black Community as well. Feasibility studies have been completed and planning is in the

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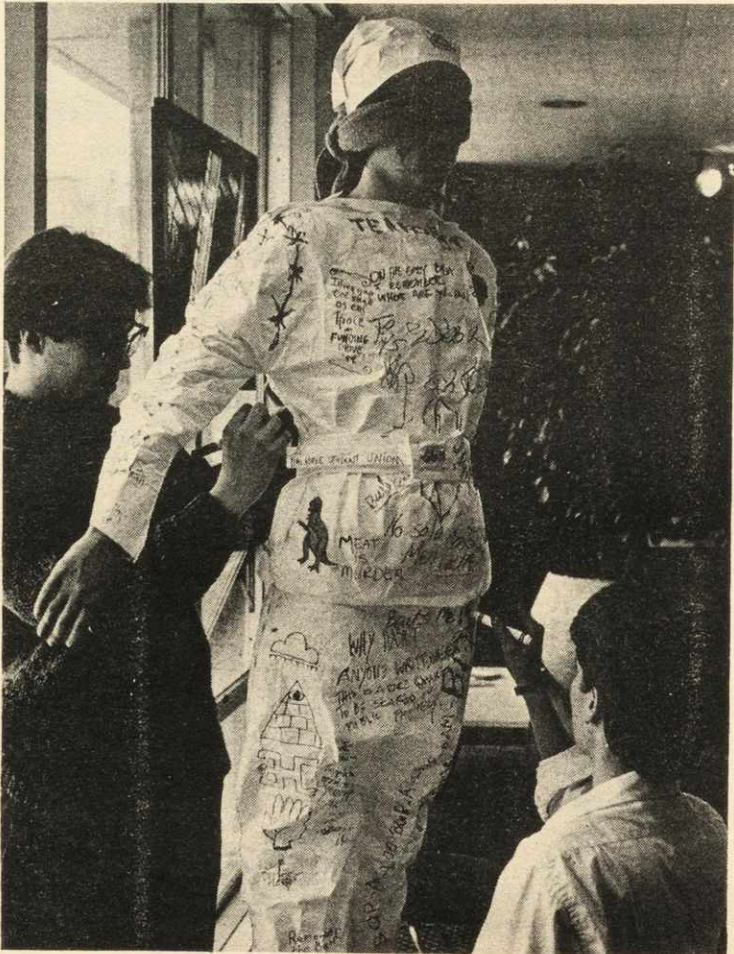


PHOTO: RUSS ADAMS

Performance artist Janet Noade and two spectator/participants last Thursday at the CKDU Art Show, Alternator.

Beyond Morgentaler

by Geoff Stone

The Beyond Morgentaler panel spoke to a packed classroom this past Monday on the consequences of the Morgentaler legal victory.

Panelist Wayne McKay of the Dalhousie Law School spoke on some of the legal implications of the ruling, which strikes down Canada's abortion law as unconstitutional.

McKay described the majority and dissenting positions of the Supreme Court judges. McKay said the main reasons for supporting the abortion law, stated by two of the judges, was the fact that the right to an abortion has not previously been protected. The majority view, McKay said, stated that the law violates section 7, the individual protection clause of the constitution.

Also, Judge Bertha Wilson, the sole woman on the Supreme Court, said the law violated the freedom of conscience and religion and that it denies a woman fundamental justice.

Kathy Coffin, national vice-president of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League, said CARAL is currently asking for no new legislation on abortions until an adequate study of the

effects of legal abortions in clinics in Quebec and Ontario has been performed.

Coffin said the abortion law was first introduced not as protection for women, but "to safeguard doctors. Abortions were already happening in the 1960s when the law came in."

Nina Ross of the National Alliance for Life said implications for the ruling include the possibility of new political parties, such as the Christian Heritage Party, becoming alternatives for Canadians. She said the ruling will hasten the decline of the Canadian family.

But Nathan Ross, a Dalhousie philosophy professor, said the abortion issue must be resolved on a secular basis. Ross said "it would have been ludicrous to make this decision without looking ahead" to the next ruling by the Supreme Court on the rights of the fetus.

Major Eleanor Johnston of the Grace Maternity hospital spoke of the effect of the ruling on the hospital system. Johnston said the Salvation Army hospitals have not performed abortions for 10 years, and said abortions in hospitals involve the choices of physicians and staff.