

CHSR Executive reply to criticisms

The recent student leadership conference resulted in a number of criticisms of the operation of CHSR 700. The Brunswickan reported that most attending the conference felt that action was necessary to increase the quality of CHSR and also to make it possible for more people to receive the station. SRC Vice-president Moffat suggested that students are not getting a proper return on the money spent on running CHSR annually. Further suggestions centred around the possibility of CHSR going off-campus via an FM transmission system, which would bring students and the city in closer touch with the university.

Although none of the executive of CHSR attended the leadership conference, those contacted were able to offer some opinions on the criticisms offered and suggested that in general the statements generated at the leadership conference were somewhat misplaced.

Program Director John Geary commented that many of the critics do not listen to CHSR with any regularity and said that he personally felt that "the programming that we're doing now is better than that in the past two years." These sentiments were echoed by Chief Engineer, Jim Nason who believed that the "product quality has improved this year", with the qualification that "there is always room for improvement". Station Director Dave Porter also felt that the programming quality had significantly improved this year.

Charged with the specific

responsibility for program quality, Program Director Geary expressed several ideas about programming philosophy. CHSR broadcasts almost 168 hours per week and a "limited membership tends to restrict the variety of programming and its quality since staff could not receive adequate training". Geary noted that "CHSR could reduce the number of hours which it broadcasts, but I feel it better to maintain the hours to provide consistent alternate service to the students who can get CHSR". Geary felt that "the executive (of CHSR) now has to work much harder than in the past". "There are a lot of good members, but many are not really interested in radio", said Geary. Geary concluded by stating that "the willingness is there to train new people if they come up to CHSR."

This past week saw what Program Director Geary termed "the first real attempt at a listener survey for a few years." Although Geary expressed disappointment at the number of surveys returned, he said that the preliminary results would be very useful in setting priorities as far as programming is concerned. "Most of the feedback was constructive" according to Geary. The major results of the survey included appreciation for the specialty shows (jazz, blues, classical, etc.) and the 'all nighters' on Friday and Saturday nights. Much of the criticism was directed towards particular DJ's with respect to their styles of music. The surveys indicated that there was a lot of criticism of the amateur nature of the CHSR newscasts. In general, Geary felt that the surveys reflected more positive feedback from the women's residences.

Geary stated that the feedback from the listener survey was very useful to him. "I was aware of most of the problems brought up, but the survey reinforced my awareness and will give me an idea of where to start solving them." Geary stated that "listener surveys should be done at least once a year", but added that he did not plan another one during his term of office.

The listener survey indicated that in several areas in residence, the technical quality of the signal was low. Chief Engineer Jim Nason agreed that "there were problems, some of which are impossible to cure". However he stated that some of the problems were due to aging equipment, some of which is due to be replaced this year. Nason said that the listener survey indicated that the most serious problems were in Harrison, Bridges and Jones Houses. Nason stated that new equipment was due to be installed in Neville, Harrison and Aitken during the Christmas break, and that newer equipment will be put into Neill, Bridges, MacKenzie, and Jones Houses, and L.B.R. In addition a new transmitter will be put into the Dunn-Tibbits system during the same period.

The executive of the station generally expressed the idea that the student body was getting value from the money put in every year. Program Director Geary felt that "people who contribute to CHSR really get a lot out of it, and anyone from both STU and UNB can join CHSR." Geary also stated that "those students who can get CHSR are getting value because we offer something different than the commercial stations." "We cater to different tastes with

shows for those interested in classics, jazz, blues, and folk, in addition to some public affairs programs relating to the campus." Chief Engineer Jim Nason believed that "students are getting their money's worth as CHSR produces something which is worthwhile if students take the time to use it." Nason added that it was true that "the majority of students did not have the chance to listen, but then many student services such as the SUB and even the Brunswickan were not used by all students."

Asked how he felt about the possibility of meeting program requirements for off-campus broadcasting, Program Director Geary said that CHSR could go off campus provided a full time person was available to look after programming. In general, Geary felt that the current membership would not be able to satisfy program requirements of off-campus FM both in terms of quality and responsibility. Geary added however that he thought that "more people would be interested in working at CHSR and the necessary quality would be available." On the whole, Geary felt that "people would have to be more responsible, and I feel that most would be."

Station Director Porter also thought that CHSR would attract enough new people if broadcasting off-campus to meet all requirements. Porter suggested that "major changes in the internal operation of CHSR would be required". Chief Engineer

Nason observed that discussions with other campus radio stations which had already made the transition from on-campus to off-campus indicated that membership increases and they individually are more conscientious. Nason felt that "there is no reason to believe that this would not happen at CHSR as well."

Director Porter said that a committee was being formed to examine the possibilities of CHSR expanding to a low power FM operation. This would be a committee of the SRC's of both campuses and would include the executive of CHSR. It is expected that work will start on this early in the new year. All members of the executive contacted felt that the expansion of CHSR would be very good for CHSR and the university community. Chief Engineer Nason stated that the move to off campus would have several effects, "There would be a positive effect on the membership as there would be more to work towards." "Most members", he said "feel that CHSR could do a very good job off-campus". In addition, "students who at present feel that CHSR has nothing to offer them would tend to come up and contribute" according to Nason. Nason also pointed out that the move to an FM system would "also increase the Fredericton community awareness of UNB" as CHSR would inform the community in general about the university and its activities.

CHSR off-campus? Triple budget necessary

Having been associated with CHSR since its move from Memorial Hall to its present location in the Student Union Building, Doug Bearsto is well known for his experience with the station. Bearsto has been involved in two previous bids to take CHSR off-campus, and helped to represent CHSR at the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) hearings which granted CHSR's present carrier current license.

Bearsto notes that the idea of taking CHSR off-campus is not at all new. In 1967, an FM committee spent several months and approximately \$5,000 to gather informa-

tion on using a high power FM transmitter. By 1969, the SRC and CHSR were almost ready to do this, but it was found that it was impossible to raise the necessary \$150,000 to effect this. The conclusion of the committee at that time was that we should wait until the CRTC made up its mind on student operated FM stations. This past year, the CRTC and the Department of Communications (DOC) approved the use of the relatively inexpensive low power type FM transmitters.

Bearsto estimates that the capital costs involved in a low power FM system would be in the vicinity of \$20,000. This would

continued on page 5

This is not going to be an advertisement to sell our clothing. We should like to feel that, by now, many of the first-year students and new members of the faculties of both UNB and STU know where we are located, even if they don't all know that we have been serving the public of the Fredericton area for more than half a century at this same location.

What we want to say now is just this: Many of you will be either going home, or travelling for the holidays, and we hope you all have a truly wonderful Christmas vacation — restful and enjoyable — and that, if you are driving, *please do drive carefully.*

We look forward to seeing you again in the New Year, which we sincerely hope will be one of achievement and happiness for you and yours.

"For Those Who Prefer Quality & Personal Service"

GAIETY Men's & Boys'
Shop Ltd.

(546 Queen St.)

(Next to Theatre)

Creative Arts Theatre
Canada's Finest Mime Troupe
Beyond Words 2:30p.m 8:30p.m
at the Playhouse
CHILDREN'S MATINEE: \$ 1.00 per head
Adults unaccompanied by child-\$4.00
EVENING PERFORMANCE:
CAC Subscribers, UNB; STU Students; FREE
(Any remaining seats will be on sale
at the door for \$5.00)
Tickets: Art Centre, SUB, Residence office
UNB Faculty office (STU) DECEMBER 2