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Student Union to conduct survey on CHSR

by Heip Vu

During last week's Student Union Council meeting President Greg Lutes brought up the idea of a survey among UNB students concerning the listenership and support of CHSR, UNB's community radio station.

Lutes wished to address some concerns that students frequently approach him with regarding music programming at that station. The survey he proposed would possibly include asking students if they would prefer a change of format. As well, the survey would help in finding out listener preference of styles of music at certain times of day.

The Student Union president stressed that this survey was his own initiative and would be of no extra cost to the Student Union of UNB.

He also felt that it would serve to inform more people about the programming at CHSR, as well as being useful to the staff of the station towards more effective communication.

At the Council meeting on November 27, Lutes announced that the survey would go ahead

in early January. Originally slated for December, the survey will undergo slight amendments due to the concerns raised by CHSR about the document's format.

The staff of CHSR are unhappy about the idea of the survey. For one thing, they were never approached by the Student Union concerning the survey. They had heard about it through word of mouth and had to initiate contact with Lutes to discuss the goals and direction of this project.

Some at CHSR feel that there is a "hidden agenda" in the prospect of a survey; seeking to justify predetermined decisions regarding the future of campus radio.

Long term CHSR members are becoming more and more irritated at constantly having to justify the station's funding every couple of years. They feel that with every turn over of the Student Union Council, there are renewed calls to change the station or its budget somehow. Many feel that few Council members know what community radio is all about, with few having ever participated or become involved at CHSR.

Programming Manager at CHSR, Steve Staples, emphasized that the cost of campus radio is much less than everyone thinks, being approximately 3 cents per day for each student, and the cost is thoroughly justified. Some of the ethnic and community-oriented programming is the international student population's only form of media communication in the city.

Staples also mentions that ideas such as a format change are ludicrous if not impossible. The CRTC the governing body of Canadian broadcasting, fully supports CHSR and cited its

diversity of programming in its last license renewal. In its current format, CHSR is not allowed to directly compete with commercial radio, thus listeners will not hear the "hits" all the time.

CHSR DJ's point out that they can, and do, play other songs from hit albums. They also feel that they are helping determine the future of music by breaking new bands to the public market.

One must also realize that the DJ's are all volunteers and are not going to volunteer time to then be forced to play music they do not wish to hear. If

students are not happy with the music currently played they can always join the station and try to improve the situation. Volunteers are always welcome and can then play almost anything they like.

CHSR serves as a reflection of the diversity on campus and the Fredericton community; a community of varying cultures, races and sexes. To accommodate these differences among the population is one of the attitudes that the station wants to project, and many at CHSR feel the proposed survey wishes to stem the station's initiative.

Jim Taylor brings message of Canadian unity

by Aime Phillips

Students were given the opportunity to involve themselves in Canada's constitutional situation when Jim Taylor arrived at UNB on Wednesday with his notorious message of Canadian unity and a "My Canada Includes Quebec" billboard for students to endorse with their signatures.

Jim Taylor is a down-to-earth Canadian originally from British Columbia. He started displaying his message of Canadian unity on a bumper sticker after hearing a radio

broadcast about Quebec's potential separation from the rest of Canada.

Taylor's next move was to rent billboards to increase awareness of his message of goodwill. Taylor comments "I've found Canadian unity is not a popular topic when it's filtered through the government." The first billboard was in Whistler B.C. and the city unanimously agreed to amend its bylaws to allow the billboard.

Taylor explained his message as just being a statement of how you see yourself as a Canadian " Its



"My Canada Includes Quebec"

Students sign Jim Taylor's billboard to endorse his message of goodwill to all provinces. (Michael David Smith photo)

hard to just find something to convey a message of goodwill, and not convey any political message, and that's what the signs do. They're not a solution but an expression of goodwill and the desire to find a solution."

Taylor and his representatives are traveling around the Atlantic provinces to get their message across to as many Canadians as possible. They were invited to UNB by the Dean of Law, Wade MacLaughlan.

There was a table in the SUB along with a billboard ready to allow students the opportunity to support their nation.

Tammy Yates, Student Union VP External, believes in what Taylor is doing "because it's allowing students to speak out and to express their views on what Canada should be and what Canada is to them. I think its terribly important that we have that opportunity and I thank him for coming and allowing us to

do that."

A supporter travelling with Taylor present at the table, Marten Burns, estimated the day's signatures to total between 800 and 1000.

The results from October's Student Union Bi-Election were about the same, with a student turnout of approximately 10%.

Yates responded "I think it shows that people are far more interested in Canada than they are in Student politics."

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