

# The Brunswickan



Volume 125, Issue 3

CANADA'S COLLEGE OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION

September 26, 1990

Song taken off playlist

## CHSR receives letter of complaint

by Karen Burgess

"I've got to commit a sacrifice before I blow into paradise. Satan had a word in my ear today 'What he say? What he say? What he say? What he say? He said the only good Christian is dead'"

This is an excerpt from a song by Foetus Inc called *The Only Good Christian is a Dead Christian*. This song, and another called *Cooler than Jesus* by My Life With the Thrill Kill Kult, are the subject of a letter of complaint sent by Anglican Minister Father John Harvey, to the station manager of CHSR-FM.

In his letter, Father Harvey calls the practise of playing the songs "strikingly offensive", and says "No protestations of freedom of speech and censorship of the arts or media by radio station staff could possibly justify the playing of pieces which so totally denigrate the beliefs of Christians....."

In response to the letter, CHSR station manager Jeff Whipple has spoken to Harvey and subsequently has taken *The Only Good Christian is a Dead Christian* off the playlist. However, the song "Cooler than Jesus" still remains available for DJ's to air.

Although this complaint was not officially registered with the Canadian Radio and Television Commission Whipple still considers it, and other concerns of CHSR listeners, important because when we are getting 40 or 50 new records a week it's really hard to listen to them all, so basically they get put into the control room and until someone complains generally nothing can be done.

Presently, the screening is done by two senior members of CHSR staff, Jeff Whipple, the station manager and Steven Staples, the programming director. For some time, the station and its board of directors have been working on a proposal to establish a supervisory committee with several members, to jointly

interpret the station's policy on broadcasting standards, and to develop guidelines that can be used in the screening process. However, the question still remains of what is to be done until such a committee can be approved.

CHSR's Policy on Broadcasting Standards states that CHSR FM will not broadcast any material that tends or is likely to subject any individual, group or class of individuals, to hatred or contempt on basis of race, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability or sexual orientation, but such a policy is impossible to uphold when the decisions as to what selections will be aired are left to the discretion of the individual DJ.

CHSR is not the only campus radio station having problems concerning its policy on acceptable material. Unlike CHSR who promptly provided a satisfactory response to a concerned listener's complaint, CITR FM, the campus station of the University of British Columbia, ignored the request of five different community organizations to stop playing albums by Public Enemy, who have been accused of anti-semitism.

As a result of CITR's refusal to consider the input of these organizations, an official complaint was made to the CRTC, and a request made that the station's broadcasting licence be revoked.

Obviously, there is a fine line between the protection of certain groups or individuals, and censorship. In the case concerning CHSR FM, however, everyone involved agrees that it was an issue of poor taste.

John Valk, a representative of the UNB Campus Ministry says that obviously "not all music is in good taste and sometimes we're a little to accepting of some things. I think we have to be careful because music is such a powerful medium." Though he

Continued on page 3



### Albums of controversy:

Two songs from Foetus Inc. and My Life With the Thrill Kill Kult, which have been played at CHSR, have been the subject of a letter of complaint. (photo by Pat FitzPatrick)

## SU President views Taxi Association's suggestion "unacceptable"

by Gail Anthony

The Fredericton Taxi Association has suggested to its members that any fare to or from an educational institution will be discounted 25 cents.

Kevin Bourque, Student Union President views this as "unacceptable".

"The problem being to and from educational institutions. There are 800 to 900 students of 6500 living in residence. This means the majority of the students live off campus. That is not going to address the needs of students in terms of going to get groceries, going to the mall, or places of employment. 25 cents is not a very big discount," he notes.

According to him, the Student Union anticipates there will be another increase in taxi fares and the present discount will offer no consolation.

Bourque discusses the issue of the Student Union endorsing one cab company who is willing to offer a "good" student discount.

"There has been some progress made. We are dealing with two companies now which we are very close to closing a deal, but I do not want to reveal any names at this time," he says.

"Again the same philosophy applies in endorsing one cab company who would give a substantial discount. I'm not talking 25 cents, we're looking

at somewhere around a dollar at the minimum," Bourque adds.

He explains the Student Union would endorse that company; lobby the SUB board for a taxi stand; market them in the residence system; and associate the company with their alcohol awareness program.

"It looks promising. The discount they are offering right now is totally unrealistic. It does not address the needs of students," Bourque states.

"The 25 cent discount is a joke," he adds.

He explains the taxi cabs were offering a 50 cent discount.

"So now they are going to increase the price and offer a 25

Continued on page 8

### Contents:

Blood 'n Thunder ...	p 17	Entertainment .....	p 12	Spectrum .....	p 10
Classifieds .....	p 34	Feature .....	p 18	Sports .....	p 27
Distractions .....	p 22	News .....	p 3	Upcomin' .....	p 33
Editorial .....	p 4	Opinion .....	p 5	Viewpoint .....	p 21