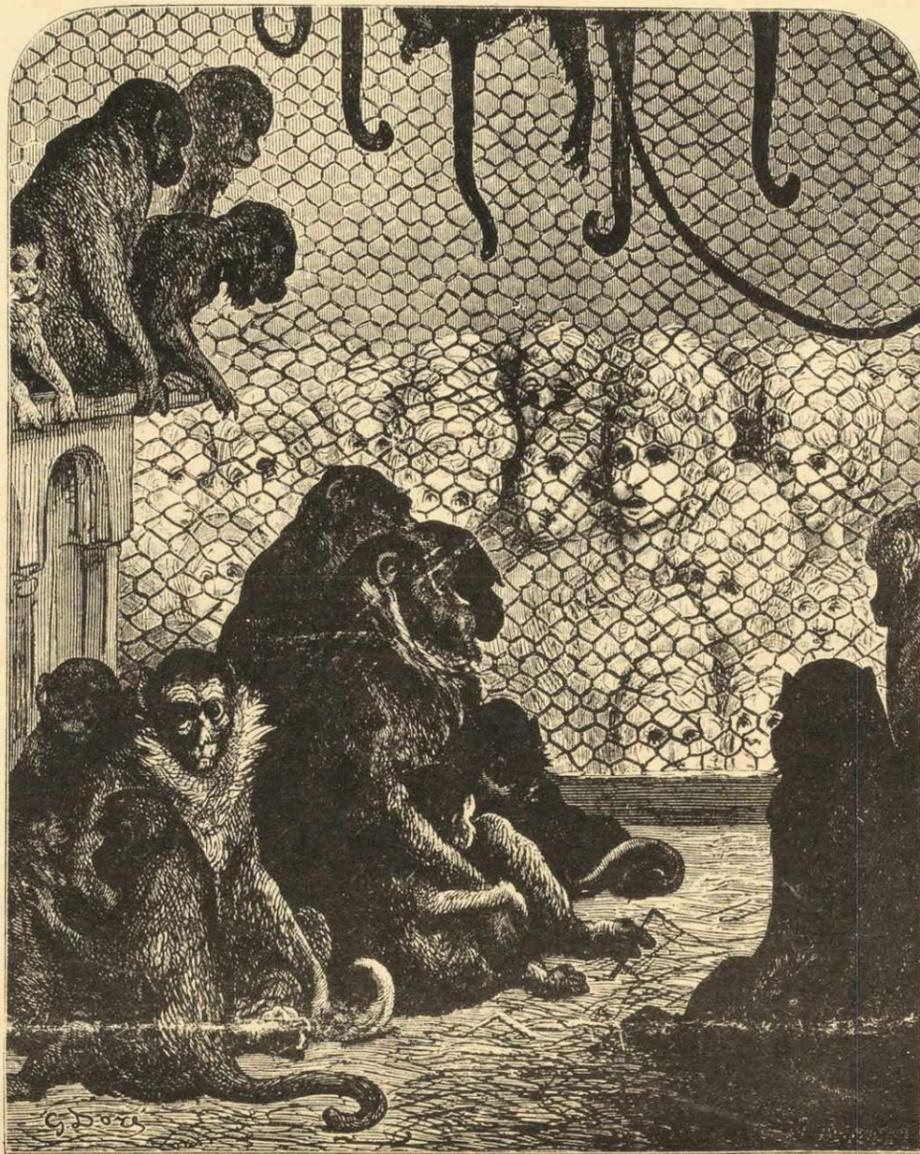


# CKDU for Amateurs only

by Richard Whitby

Dal radio is now CKDU and for some of us that just means that the name of the SUB whipping boy is changed. And to some extent, I guess that is true. But necessarily, all University radio stations are targets for criticism. You cannot under any circumstances put thousands of students together and have them agree on what they want to hear or anything for that matter. The criticism of CKDU is not unfounded. Their selection of music is at times limited despite a large library, their presentation of that music is generally amateur bubble-gum, their news is inane and dated and their public affairs programming is like the proverbial polar bear in a snowstorm - where is it? Now perhaps you may think that is too critical, especially at this early stage in their development. Indeed it sounds overly tough on them, but those are the facts. However, there is no reason why they should be different.

To the jaded emigrants from big cities (not including Halifax) CKDU sounds quite amateurish. What most people seem to ignore is that it is an amateur station. It is meant to be the experimental ground for those interested in the media. It is a place where a person can try things without fear of losing advertising revenue, and his job. It is in this area that radio at Dalhousie is seriously deficient. Of course people will sound like a rank Bob Weir if that is their model. In Halifax that is just about the only model, unless one decides that the CBC is to be imitated, in which case the SUB building might be renamed ZZZzzz building. The point is not to imitate anyone. CKDU is not listen-



ed to by sixteen year olds with seemingly terminal acne nor is it intended to quote the latest-pig prices. It is supposed to be for the enjoyment of a university crowd, an educated (at least in a few cases) yet loose audience. This implies that

they are not receptive to commercial bullshit either in the overly cerebral style or the Clerisil style. It is intended for their enjoyment. There is also a diametrically opposite reaction that is equally offensive. That is the cooler-than-thou attitude

that many announcers have. They know what is best and we must sit back and listen to their inflated egos pervade the atmosphere through the wonders of twentieth century technology. One gets the impression that somewhere along the line inventions took the wrong path.

CKDU is not bad under the circumstances. When you have a group of people new to a particular operation, they can not be expected to have the fine edges of professionals nor can they be expected to be familiar with the possibilities within their grasp. CKDU is trying, perhaps too hard to sound professional. In this sense their efforts are misdirected. What is sorely needed is imagination and probably a more diverse familiarity with music. Being a disc jockey does not mean that one has to be able to speak clearly coherently and with some degree of intelligence in any style. It is just as important to have some grasp of the sounds etched in plastic. It is just as absurd to eat a hamburger in a seafood restaurant as it is to play top forty shit while seven hundred albums of every style imaginable sit on racks collecting dust.

It is expected that the station will eventually be a broadcast one. I sincerely hope that the idea is not to compete with the local stations on their own ground, the situation is already ridiculous enough on local radio. The most advantageous and probably the most profitable way to compete would be to offer an alternative to the generally typical commercial garbage on the air at present. Otherwise, someone will have to come up with an alternative to CKDU.

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### Clubs Get Money

by Bruce Russell

Well it was either this or write birthday and Christmas thank-yous so consequently here is a year-end, mid-term, whichever, report of the Student Union's Grants Committee. Normally, this would not be necessary as the Committee's budget is usually pretty well shot by the middle of November but this year, due to a little hatchet-swinging first term plus the fact that one or two traditionally "big clients" are relatively late in submitting their grant requests we are left at the start of 1975 with approximately \$2700 remaining of our original \$9000 allocation. The Com-

mittee members, Peter Costwell Mark Crossman and Bruce Russell do not anticipate enjoying this little nest-egg very far into the new year, however, as already this term several requests for funding have been received.

But let's briefly get down to basics. The Grants Committee is comprised of three Council members appointed by Council, one of the two Council representatives on the Union's Executive being chairman. The Committee's main function is to review all grant applications and to make recommendations to Council concerning them, although for grants of two

hundred dollars or less, the Committee is empowered to award the grant without reference to Council.

Several general guidelines have been established by and for the Committee regarding grant allotment; the two main ones being that 15-20% of its budget is to be used as grants for conferences, (e.g. the Dalhousie Undergraduate Physics Society grant), and that 25% is to be allocated to requesting bodies outside the Dalhousie University community, (e.g. the Black Forum grant). The remainder, of course, up to about \$7000, is earmarked for regular grants to Dalhousie student bodies. The

Committee has also some specific requirements for the requesting organizations. These include the provision of a fiscal resume of the preceding year and of a detailed overall budget proposal for the current year. The most important, yet perhaps least quantifiable requirement we make is that any allocated grant must benefit a maximum number of Dal students, (within the above mentioned guidelines), and it is upon this basis usually that the fortunes, (certainly no pun intended ....), of the request ride or fall.

Unfortunately, there does not seem to be any pat little

formula that can adequately replace these practical stipulations above, that are designed broadly, to best maximize the dollar utility and satisfaction to us students as derived from our money. A certain flexibility of criterion is essential when organizations ranging in diversity from the newly active forty member Physiotherapist Society to the solidly entrenched four hundred odd Law Society to a basically three member group called Black Forum must be considered. As examples, each of these named groups have radically

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