

A Technical Look At CHSR-FM

The studios of CHSR-FM are located on the Third floor of the office wing of the Student Union Building. These studios include the Master Control Room (where broadcasting originates), the Production Control Room (where many shows are pre-produced, as well as promotions and advertisements), an announcers booth, and the production studio. All broadcasting, whether live or taped, is controlled and produced in these studios.

The announcer's booth is used for any type of announcing that is broadcast live, such as news reporting, public affairs shows, talk shows, or any programs that require announcing from outside the Master Control Room. The production studio serves as the announcers booth for taped shows. Such events as literature readings, announcing over musical specials, interviews, and news stories are recorded here through the Production Control Room.

CHSR is proud to announce the opening of one of the finest production centres in the Maritimes, thanks to UNB's Associated Alumni. Our Alumni have funded the purchase of a new McCurdy 8650 Stereo Production Console, the major link in the new studio's of CHSR-FM. The functions of this console include mixing the various channels of input from our equipment, and producing on tape finished presentations, ads, etc. Also included in the

Production Control Room are two turntables, two reel-to-reel tape decks, a cassette deck, and a cart recorder. Carts are similar to eight tracks, and are used to record

ads, songs and public service announcements. Using all this equipment, CHSR is able to produce many shows for broadcast, and add various

techniques to create programs which would be difficult to broadcast live.

The Production Control Room can also record or monitor any broadcasts from Master Control and the announcers booth, and if necessary can take over for Master Control, and originate broadcasting.

CHSR's Master Control Room has also been re-vamped with new equipment, the most notable being the new Technics SP15 turntables. These turntables are direct-drive, and include the 78 speed, for more rare recordings. It is important that these turntables are state-of-the-art, because more than half of our programming comes from records. Our turntables are one of the best of the field for radio. Also in Master Control is a reel-to-reel tape deck, and two cart playback units. This equipment,

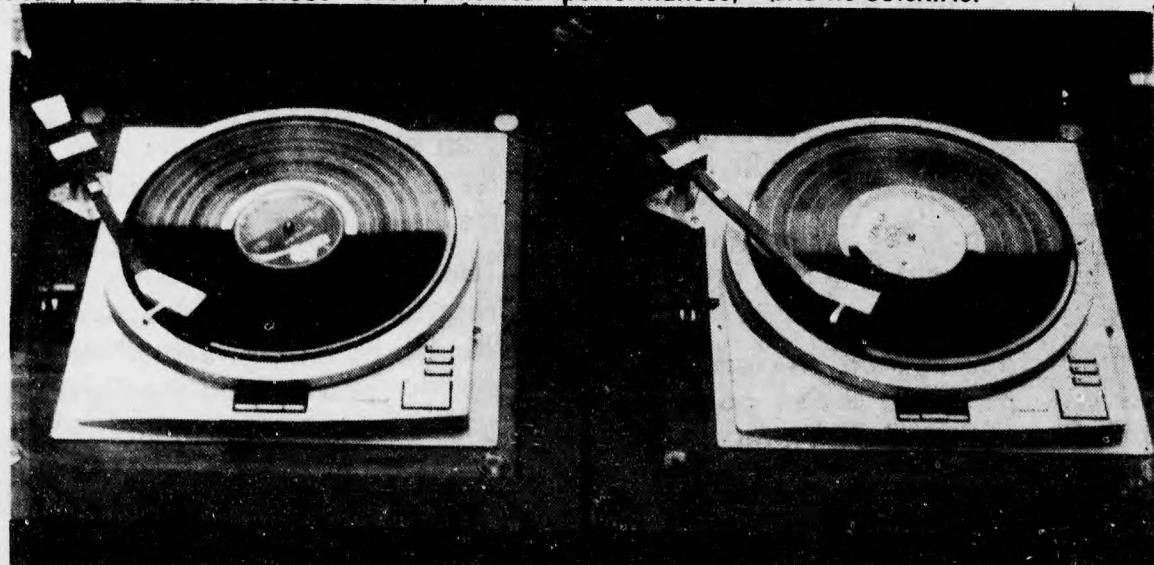
plus the microphones of Master Control and the announcer's booth, is controlled by a McCurdy Audio Console. This console is the link between all live and produced shows, with the operator airing all broadcasts through its controls. Also, all remote broadcasts such as phone reports, sports presentations, immediate news happenings, and live music are controlled here.

Another new piece of equipment that we are proud of is the new Remote Pick-Up (or RPU) Unit. This consists of a transmitter about the size of a shoebox which is totally wireless and portable, and an antenna and receiving unit located in the SUB. The transmitter is used much like a portable tape-recorder, except that the signal can be immediately used on-air, or taped in Production Control. It can be used for sports broadcasts, musical performances,

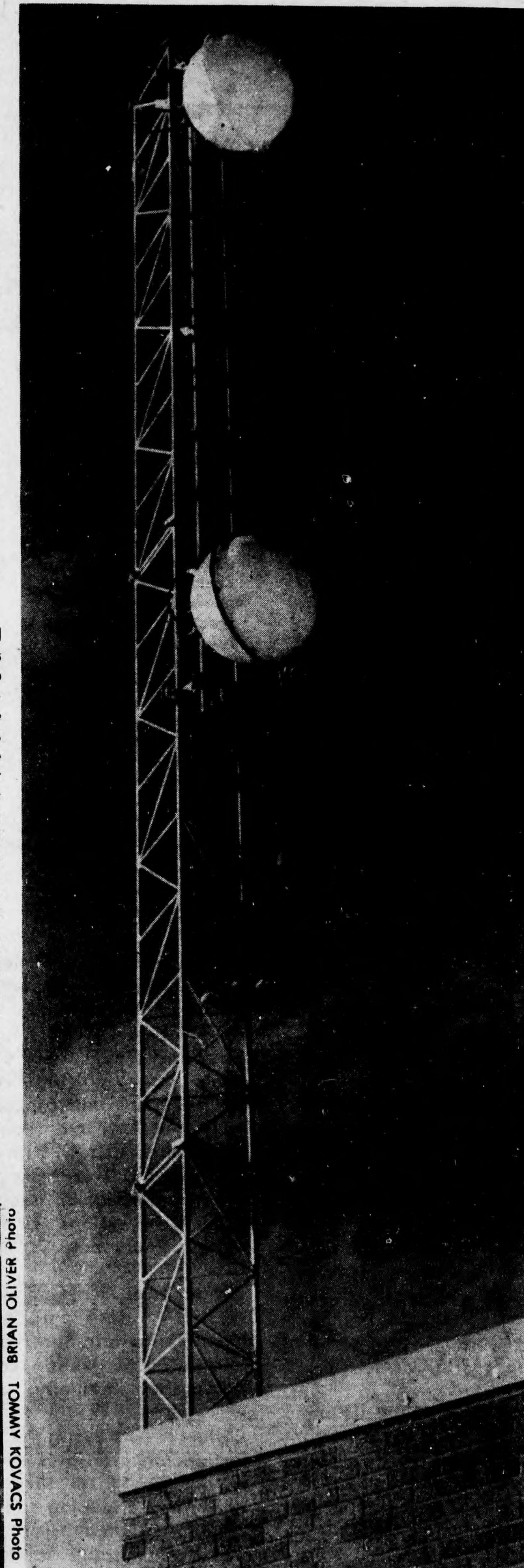
or (most importantly) for immediate reporting on newsworthy events. It can transmit anywhere in the Fredericton area.

The Master Control Room is unique in its versatility; it is arranged so that many forms of broadcasting can originate here, from turntables to cassette decks. This is due to a specifically planned jackfield in Master Control which requires only the connection of patch-cords to set up any type of broadcasting. Also in Master Control is the Campus distribution system, which will continue to broadcast CHSR to the SUB and other lounges and dining halls of UNB and STU.. Control includes a stereo synthesizer which forms a stereo signal from mono sources such as the cart machines, and an off-air monitor which allows us to easily check our signal quality and transmitter performance from the station itself.

From the Master Control Room, our signal then travels along underground cables to our transmitter on Montgomery Street. There are close to 40 miles of such cables beneath UNB and STU. These cables deliver the signal to our transmission equipment located in McGee House on Campus. Here the signal passes through a stereo generator and signal processor, one of the best available and one of the first of its kind in Canada. This forms the stereo signal for the transmitter. The transmitter takes the signal and with an FM Excitor forms the FM radio wave, which is sent to the antenna. The antenna is enclosed in two spherical cases, and can be seen attached to a 40-foot tower perched atop McGee House, the highest building on Campus. It broadcasts to the entire city and its outskirts.



TURNTABLES IN MASTER CONTROL



THE F.M. TRANSMITTING ANTENNA

BRIAN OLIVER Photo
TOMMY KOVACS Photo