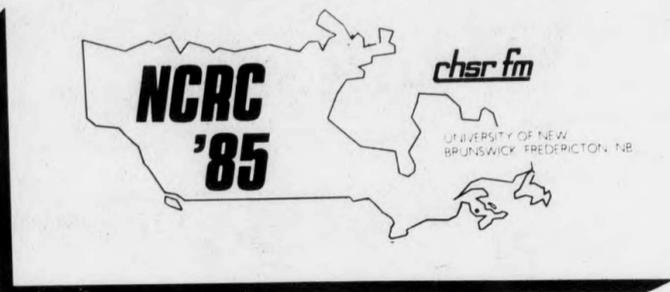


# CHSR radio conference overwhelming success

Last weekend, over 100 delegates from 30 campus/community radio stations got together in Fredericton for the fifth annual National Campus/Community Radio Conference. The conference was hosted by CHSR-FM and offered an intensive and diverse selection of seminars, lectures and workshops over a four day period. Conference organizers termed the event "exhausting, but overwhelmingly successful."

Since 1981, when the first NCRC was held in Ottawa, student and community broadcasters have used the conference to exchange technical and programming ideas and information, and to try to find solutions to mutual problems. Campus/Community radio stations are often severely underfunded, and the lack of adequate funding can easily affect both the quality and quantity of programmings. Though each station has its own formula for raising the funds needed to operate, most stations rely heavily on grants of some kind from university student unions. Many stations derive some revenue from sales of program sponsorships, and a select few operate an annual public fund-raising drive. Other sources of revenue include studio rental, government and other grants, and presentation of special events.

Many stations suffer from a 'viscious cycle,' in which pro-



gramming quality is impaired by shortage of dollars, resulting in more difficulties convincing student unions, governments, sponsors, and the general public that the station deserves a higher level of funding. In addition, increases in costs due to inflation tend to be higher than average in the broadcast industry, and the result is that many stations have to make do with fewer real dollars with each passing year.

One of the Conference seminars dealt specifically with the problem of funding. Seminar leader Pat Nagle of CKCU-FM in Ottawa stressed the importance of diversifying each station's revenue base. He made particular mention of the importance of the public fund-raising drive, emphasizing its usefulness both as a source of revenue, and as a barometer of public opinion. CKCU-FM currently raises about one third of its six-figure budget through public donations.

Other conference seminars included Sports Broadcasting, with the CBC's Tony Doucette, Interviewing Techniques, with political commentator Arthur Doyle and CFNB News Director Duncan Matheson, and Specialty Programming with Augusta Lapaix, host of CBC Stereo's *Brave New Waves*.

Still other sessions dealt with technical aspects of radio broadcasting, including the different types of transmission, and the importance of regular maintenance of facilities. CHSR-FM's Doug Beairsto, active with the station and its forerunner Radio UNB for seventeen years, gave an ex-

planation of an electronic mail system utilizing computers which would allow Campuscommunity stations to exchange information almost instantaneously, and, in many cases, for less than the cost of traditional mail or long distance telephone. Beairsto said that he demonstrated the system to dozens of delegates and that "five or six have said they may start using the system by the end of the month."

CHSR-FM Station Manager Doug Varty was excited about the proposed information network.

"Every year at these conferences there is an incredible outpouring of enthusiasm and optimism. People make plans to exchange information about programs, music, equipment, and other matters, and each year the plans fall apart because of the slowness of communication by mail, or because of the expense of long distance phone calls. This system will solve those problems. At last a national network of campuscommunity stations is within reach."

Varty was echoing the sentiments of CBC television producer David Mowbray, who gave the keynote address at last Sunday's closing banquet. Mowbray has a long history of involvement in campuscommunity radio, particularly at CKCU-FM, where he was the longtime producer and host of a feature program dealing with issues in science.

"I've waited a long time for this," said Mowbray. "This weekend you have gone a long way toward the establishment

of a second public radio broadcasting network in this country." He went on to say he was confident that, within a year, the national organization would produce its first series of live, coast-to-coast radio broadcasts. That, Mowbray said, was only the beginning.

Just prior to the address by Mowbray, at the closing session of the conference, proposed incorporation documents for the national organization were approved by delegates. The documents itemized the objectives of the National Campus and Community Radio Organization and provided guidelines for the appointment of a Board of Directors. At the closing session, eight provi-

sional directors were elected, including CHSR-FM's Doug Beairsto and Gary Greer of CHMA in Sackville. The directors will establish a management structure for the organization, and will draw up an operating budget for the first year.

At the conclusion of business, delegates were remarking on how much they had learned in the four days. It was generally conceded that the only downside to the conference was the unusually wet weather, and a number of problems associated with the "double stamp" system used to control guests at the six-act concert on Saturday night.

## HERE AND THERE chsr-fm notes

The license renewal process at CHSR-FM is proceeding smoothly. The current license expires on September 30, 1985. After soliciting comments about the station from the public, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), the body which governs and regulates the Canadian broadcast industry, has scheduled the renewal as a non-appearing item on the agenda of the May 28 public hearing in Halifax. This is generally taken as an indication that the CRTC intends to approve the application for renewal. Also included as a non-appearing item at the same hearing is the application of Attic Broadcasting Inc. (CHMA, Mt. Allison University) to establish a low-power FM station in Sackville. This would be the third station of its type in New Brunswick, the other two being CHSR-FM, and the French-language CKUM-FM at the University of Moncton.

CHSR-FM's Program Director Curtis Baxter says it is unlikely that the station will have to reduce its broadcast schedule during the summer months, as had been the case in the past. Baxter says that a considerable influx of new programmers and the return of a

number of others, combined with the usual student unemployment, has resulted in a full schedule so far. He is, however, still looking for one or more people with extensive knowledge of Jazz and one or more interested in French-language programming to take on a couple of hours per week.

As part of a renewed effort to offer an alternative radio service to the Fredericton-Oromocto community, CHSR-FM is offering broadcast time to groups or individuals interested in bringing their views and ideas to the public. Those interested in sharing their thoughts with the community can call CHSR-FM at 453-4985. Ask about Community Access Programming.

CHSR-FM will carry a live broadcast of this year's Encenia starting at 2:30 PM this afternoon. Join News and Public Affairs Director Regan Legassie as guest speaker Fred Davidson, President of the University of Georgia, addresses the graduates.

Got a request? Call CHSR-FM at 453-4979.

### TYPING

### Contact

Laura Anderson  
201 MacDonald  
Ave.  
472-6309

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