

## Deejays get new rules after CRTC reviews campus radio

By KELLY PEDRO

OTTAWA (CUP) — University deejays across Canada could be spinning more Canadian tunes and fewer hit songs next year if the CRTC goes ahead with proposed changes to regulations affecting campus radio stations.

Among the changes being considered by the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission are:

- o an increase in Canadian-content levels to 35 per cent of air time from 30 per cent;

- o an increase in the spoken word requirement;

- o a decrease in the percentage of commercial hit songs to 10 per cent from 15 per cent;

- o a loosening of advertising restrictions for campus radio stations.

The policy — which is still only at the proposal stage but could be implemented as early as June — wouldn't have much effect on current licensing agreements between the CRTC and campus radio stations, said Morag York, a senior policy analyst with the commission.

The revised policy would only affect new licensing agreements with the stations, he said.

The suggested revisions are generally getting positive reviews from campus radio station managers.

Neil Armstrong, program director for York University's campus community radio station CHRY, says some aspects of the proposed changes complement campus radio.

"There is a lot to be said in in-depth spoken word programs about issues affect-

ing various communities," said Armstrong. "The CBC tries public broadcasting but something is still left out."

But Armstrong says he's concerned there isn't enough Canadian music — especially in categories such as urban music — to meet the proposed 35-per cent requirement.

In drafting the proposed policy changes, the CRTC examined the availability of Canadian music and found that campus radio needs a diverse selection of

music.

To meet the demand for diversification, the proposed policy says turntablism, or the mixing and scratching of records, should be recognized as a category. Even if the artist on the record isn't Canadian, turntablism would fall under Canadian content since the deejay mixes and scratches the records.

This aspect of the CRTC's proposal could be contentious with Socan, the licensing agency that distrib-

utes royalties to musical artists, says Barry Rueger, station manager at Carleton University's radio station CKCU.

But Rueger agrees the proposed changes to CRTC's regulations for campus radio will benefit student-run stations.

"There are some things in the proposed policy that are positive," he says, pointing to a requirement that a campus radio station's board of directors be balanced and not dominated by

student council representatives.

Mario Circelli, station manager at Western University's radio station CHRW, says the proposed changes are a challenge.

"It's an opportunity to provide distinct quality programming," he said.

The CRTC is accepting comments regarding the proposed policy until April 12, when the commission will decide whether or not to implement the changes.

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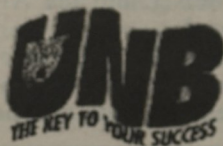
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SMRMH. Last one. ;sigh; Karen