

# Bringing back Panther Radio

By Sebastian Baglole  
*Panther Post*

To bring up the possibility of a revitalized airwave media here on campus, I must for a minute wax historic on the timeline of student radio at UPEI.

The old CIMN radio was crackling out its final transmissions about 1997. With a reception distance of about the length of campus, perhaps a little more, the station was quite literally confined exclusively to students. This however is the wish of few student disk jockeys who would spread the word further, and since reception was scarce, so too were any promotional assistance or notoriety CIMN might have gathered.

A couple of years ago, a leak was sprung through the cracks in the silent walls of the Kelley building. A team of students headed by Justin Doiron consorted to bring about an all-access radio program available online at [radio.upei.ca](http://radio.upei.ca), which now redirects to the UPEI home page. This was a promising debut from what could possibly be the new student alternative to radio music and local news, what with providing the students with an array of shows and tunes for students by students, and relieving the stress from the steeply declining sensibilities over at SPUD FM, and the atrocities of K-ROCK and Ocean.

These students had nurtured

the embryo of future student radio with their own carefully-preserved equipment, and managed the station almost entirely on their own. And with a number of promotions via Music PEI, the EC-MAs, and the Juno awards, as well as a myriad of other local festivals, Radio@UPEI had shown a lot of promise early on. And because online radio streaming was loose on formality and free of cost, this gave the creators some breathing room to let the brainchild roam free of the Student Union.

"I loved Radio@UPEI, though I think the biggest problem was that nobody had a clue it existed," Nathan Gill, a former member, quite frankly stated. "We did a lot of things very well and a lot of things miserably."

Inspired by the creation of Radio@UPEI, another radio was born and named, coincidentally, Panther Radio. This came after several students voiced a desire to name the radio after their paternal sports team, fusing the station not only on the grounds of local music and campus news, but also with the support of upcoming sporting events. The Panther Radio grew for a year, with all sports games successfully covered.

After pushing on a couple more years, the students moved on, took their equipment, and the project flatlined. Why did it fail? Doiron chimed in to the Panther Post, "I think ultimately it failed because the

founding members basically just finished school without properly training and attracting replacements, which is really a shame."

In such a sad state with no incoming funding from the Student Union in sight nor any other institution of the university, it seems nearly incredulous that a student body can be bereft of such a key outlet, and quite a substantial media tool. A station that students may see as their own will enforce a singular student motif, increase student interactions and social gatherings from this well of collusion, and as such a friendly source of media, it cannot possibly generate the love-hate relationship a newspaper can, springing the kind of camaraderie that print is just not capable of delivering.

So who's on it? Why shouldn't we be on it? From a personal source and many others encountered, UPEI has tended to build a reputation for a distinct lack of school spirit; or alternately, one doesn't feel a strong enough sense of acquaintance.

Maybe we haven't gotten to know the school well enough personally, or maybe we don't share enough in common. It's been proven that something as simple as musical tastes highlight a common ground in student interests, and such a connection can be as useful to a university as a sports team, or even, God forbid, a student paper.

## Faith & Justice Experience program changes lives

By Patricia Urena  
*Post contributor*

It was a life changing experience and it opened her eyes to diversity, the youth co-facilitator for the 2009 Faith & Justice experience program, said in Charlottetown yesterday.

Lisa Walsh, 22, participated into the program in 2007 and is now a short-term missionary with the Latin American Mission Program, an

organization that works towards social justice issues.

Walsh said the program provides an opportunity for youth to experience life in a developing country and encourages them to take this experience and apply it to issues of faith and justice in Canada.

"I want to learn more, keep involved and keep on doing what I can for social justice."

Walsh said many of the participants stay involved with social justice and some have even changed their studies thanks to the experience.

"You commit to work for social justice through faith, but that is working to the truth."

Walsh said the participants stay with a typical Dominican family in smaller towns scattered throughout the central and southern regions of the country.

"I learned to appreciate and respect my family a lot more."

Walsh said the Faith & Justice program consists of six

formation sessions that are important before journeying to the Dominican Republic.

"It's a time to get to know the other participants and the facilitators."

The program is sponsored by LAMP and the Diocese of Charlottetown, Walsh said.

Cathy Ronahan, who works for LAMP as the coordinator for the Faith & Justice experience program, said LAMP was established in the diocese of Charlottetown in 1967 in response to the call of Vatican II to share personnel and other resources with countries of the south, especially with Latin America.

"Since that time, 21 missionaries from P.E.I. have worked in the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, St. Vincent and Grenadines."

Ronahan said the Diocesan Youth Committee was formed in 1998 as a response to the pastoral planning process which set youth ministry as one of the priorities for the Diocese.

"The goal of youth ministry is to foster, facilitate and empower the faith growth of young people."

Ronahan said the program aims to give people from developing countries their solidarity and not their help.

"They are asking for what they need and not receiving what they don't need."

Ronahan said the program gives youth the experience of learning how communities can become independent, have health care, education and food.