

# Put the music where our ears can hear

By **MARC MACDONALD**

All is not well in the current state of Island radio. The stations that can be heard throughout Charlottetown and the rest of the Island do not play the music that many young people listen to. The one station that plays music that a lot of young people love, CIMN campus radio, cannot be heard on all parts of campus – let alone in Charlottetown or other parts of the Island.

The four main radio stations broadcasting out of Charlottetown are CBC, CHTN, CHLQ and CFCY, and all seemingly target their programming for adults. CBC is mainly talk radio, while CHTN plays all “oldies” hits and CFCY is a country music station. CHLQ (more commonly known as Magic 93) does play some music that many young people enjoy but targets their music to the 18 to 44 age group.

Finding a radio station that appreciates the varied interests of its listeners is difficult.

Magic 93, for example, plays practically no hip hop music. The station’s program manager explains that this is “probably because we don’t have enough urban people in the area for rap music.” But Charlottetown is not known as a rodeo town and there are not an excessive number of cowboys on the streets either, yet there is still a country music station. While it is true that Charlottetown is not a large urban center, hip hop music is universal and cannot be limited to large cities.

Magic 93 also justified the fact that they do not play rap music and many hard rock acts by saying that they play only “top 40 hits.”

The charting system used by the station is the American Radio and Records (R and R) system. R and R

may not chart much rap music but other major media is the States such as MTV (the top music video channel) and Billboard (a major charting system) are consistently filled with hip hop. Magic 93’s program director also noted that rap was not a major demographic.

However, two of the three larger record stores in the Charlottetown area, Radioland and R.O.W. (Records On Wheels) mentioned hip hop and “top 40 releases” as their top sellers. Black Cat Music’s manager commented that when it came to sales, rap was not that high. But Black Cat, unlike

Radioland and R.O.W., does not give rap its own area and for some unknown reason put rap in the Rock/Pop section.

The question remains: what are music fans to do if they are not pleased with the large Island radio stations?

There is really only one alternative. Music fans’ only other option is CIMN 700 AM campus radio. This is a station that appeals to all ages and all musical tastes – including a weekly, hour-long hip hop show.

“We play an alternative to popular commercial radio,” explains Rob MacIsaac, CIMN Program Director. “It

gives people something to listen to that they normally wouldn’t hear on corporate radio.”

Although the station’s broadcasting range is still limited (mainly UPEI’s three dorms) they hope to be hooked up to the pit sometime the week of Feb. 1 to 7.

MacIsaac explains that an “AM or FM transmitter” would be needed to expand the station’s range throughout Charlottetown. The station’s goal of going FM cannot be reached one of these transmitters, which cost around \$10,000 each.

“The student union does

give support to the radio station, but there is no amount of money we wouldn’t accept,” MacIsaac noted as he commented about the station’s financial situation. “It would be great if we could also get money from outside sources as well,” he added, but continues to say that it is important that the radio station look at ways of making its own money. One of the ways CIMN hopes to accomplish this is by getting advertising once the range is increased.

If you are not happy with other stations, prepare to tune in to CIMN 700 AM: the Island’s only alternative.

## Graduate programs ready to go in Education

### *Master of Science in the developing stages*

By **MELISSA DOUCETTE**

In two months, UPEI will be running graduate programs. The newly created Master of Education (MEd) program will begin teaching its first students in March. The expected course complement is 21 students.

According to Dr. Ed MacDonald, Coordinator of Graduate Studies for the Faculty of Education, the MEd is intended primarily for practising teachers. People from other backgrounds may attend, as long as they hold what MacDonald terms a “professional degree.”

The MEd is consequently a part-time program, although full time studies may be available at a later time in the program’s development. The program is a combination of course work and a thesis, and is projected to take two-and-one-half years to complete. One course is offered in each of the fall, winter, and summer sessions, and students

are required to take a total of eight courses.

Tuition for each course is set at \$480.

The cost is higher than undergraduate fees, a practice that is standard for graduate programs. Tuition fees will be used as cost recovery. Among other things, new library holdings necessary for the MEd will be purchased.

MacDonald insists that the MEd is not intended to be a revenue generating program.

The Faculty of Science is also proceeding with plans for graduate degrees. The departments of Biology and Chemistry are currently in the developing stages of Master of Science (MSc) programs in these areas.

“It’s basically a cost-neutral program,” says Dr. Roger Gordon, Dean of Science.

He anticipates that existing faculty members would provide courses to graduate

students, which may require some additional sessional support at the undergraduate level. Another possibility for MSc students is to make use of existing courses at the Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC).

The Faculty of Science is already teaching graduate students at UPEI. Several students are completing distance education MSc degrees at UPEI. Officially, they are registered at another university, but all of their actual studies are completed at UPEI. None of their tuition is paid to UPEI, but they are supervised by UPEI professors. As a result, little cost is expected in offering the MSc as a UPEI degree.

“I can say with all confidence that graduate programs will not raise undergrad tuition,” states Gordon.

He also feels that the new MSc “will generate a much livelier research climate” at UPEI.

But some people are curious why the Faculty of Arts is not intending to offer any graduate programs.

Dr. Phillip Smith, Dean of Arts, contends that no departments in Arts have come forward with a request to offer a Master of Arts (MA) program. Some Arts professors have indicated interest in having an interdisciplinary MA at UPEI. However, the feeling is evident that library holdings would need to be significantly increased.

Some students are still left wondering why Arts, the largest faculty on campus, is not proceeding with plans for an MA. They feel that Arts is an undervalued program.

“People are really into the ITI – nobody is into education for its own sake anymore. That’s a travesty . . . People are so driven towards becoming some *thing* instead of some *one*,” comments Jennifer MacPhee, fourth year English student.