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RADIO STATION OFF THE AIR

THE CAMPUS RADIO station CIMN has inadvertently had its cables cut because of construction occurring in Main Building. The station has been without broadcast capability since demolition of the interior of Main was completed in late July. The station has been operating unaware of the problem since early September.

CIMN was once located in Main building before they moved to their present location in the Barn. According to John Bentley, technician at CHTN radio who also looks after CIMN, cables leading from the radio station entered Main building's basement for redistribution to the Gym, Steele hall, and to a transmitter located in Bernardine Hall. The transmitter in Bernardine broadcast CIMN to the three UPEI residences.

On Monday, The Gem inspected the former location in Main to find that the boxes containing the connections, and even the wall to which they were attached, have been removed.

There was another very important connection located in Main building as well. "There was a modulator in there for Island Cablevision," says Bentley. The modulator was the device that sent CIMN's broadcast to the cable company for broadcast over Charlottetown's cable system. "It was worth at least 2000," he says. Bentley indicated that the modulator box was probably not destroyed, but rather removed by the contractor during the demolition.

The demolition of the interior of Main was carried out by Island Coastal Services under instructions from the architects, Bergmark and Hamerlund of Charlottetown. "There were a million wires in the building," says

David Bergmark, "and the contractor during the construction went in and cut those wires. They were not documented... as to being saved. It was inadvertently cut."

"Apparently we had notified the contractor concerning that particular cable and it was inadvertently cut even so," he says.

Apparently it was not the responsibility of CIMN or the Student Union to notify the architects about the presence of the radio cables.

"What we tried to do in that building is to know what every single sheath of wires and what every pipe went to," says Bergmark.

This was a very difficult task for the architects since the wiring in Main was mostly undocumented and in many cases obsolete wires were not removed when new ones were added.

Bergmark commented, "It was the MAIN building. Everything was running through it... it was pretty difficult for us to know all the internal workings."

Apparently, though, there was more to CIMN's connections than just a few wires. John Bentley described the wiring as "all disguised, for security, as just simple electrical boxes... and the equipment was in there." Bentley says there were two boxes—one for on campus connection and the other the link to Island Cablevision.

Despite the removal of the boxes, Bergmark would like to know what can be done to get CIMN back on the air.

"What I would be interested in doing is getting that (problem) resolved", he says. "I don't know how that resolution would be made, but... it would probably be best to leave Main building out."

SO how long will it take to get the station back on



the air again?

Bentley says, "If all the cables are actually there, the cables leading to (the transmitter in) Bernardine and from the Barn, properly checked out, they could be spliced together at least for a temporary basis and that could feed the transmitter with perfect quality sound." That could take, he says, as little as a week. However, the gym, the cafeteria, and the library would not be able to be connected through a simple splice. Only the transmitter serving the residences would be reconnected.

Reconnecting CIMN to the cable service would take a little longer. Bentley expressed an interest in setting things up in the Barn to perform that task, but there may not be enough underground cables available for that.

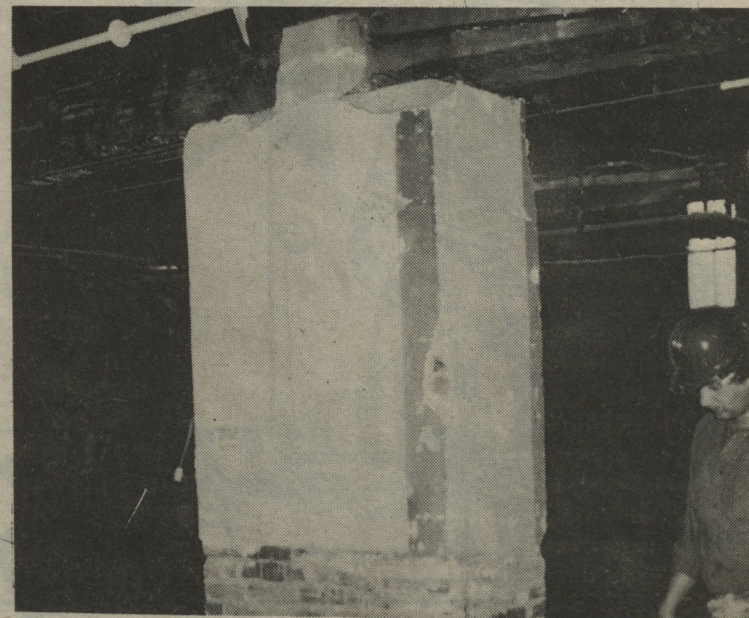
One final problem facing CIMN that has plagued them for years now, is the cable feeding Blanchard Hall. According to Bentley, this cable has also been inadvertently cut by an

other department on campus, so Blanchard residents may here only silence even when broadcasting to Marrian and Bernardine is restored.

CIMN Station Manager Rhonda McLellan could not be contacted for comment before press time nor could the student Council member responsible for the station. It is unknown if CIMN will be

shut down until broadcasting can be restored. There is also the question of advertising revenues that the station may have been paid for radio ads. It is ex-

pected that advertisers will request refunds and it is not known at this time how this will affect the continued operation of the station. ■



Pillar in basement of Main where CIMN connections MAY have been located.