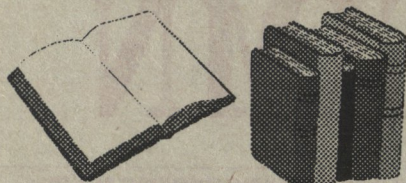


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Radio In Jeopardy

CIMN Threatened With Closure

by Marko Peric

Something is amiss at Student Union. It seems that CIMN is the object of a vendetta by certain members of the SU executive. In the Council meeting on Sunday evening, a motion was passed to cut funding to the radio station. The Student Union has reduced CIMN to club status, on the same level as the Chemistry Club or the Music Society. This means the station can apply for the same funding as any other club -- less than \$100. These members of the executive have taken it upon themselves to re-evaluate CIMN, claiming that most students are not interested in the station. This is despite the more than 70 loyal volunteers at the station, and a survey circulated last week in support of CIMN, which was signed by more than 400 students. If Council acts to shut down CIMN, it will not be acting according to the will of the student body.

It should be pointed out that the entire executive is not opposed to CIMN. Two members of the executive -- who cannot be named here -- have expressed their support for the station. However, they are only two members, and they feel greatly outnumbered by the anti-CIMN forces.

For the most part, those members who are working to shut down the station are not running for re-election in this week's general election. This means that a lame duck executive is undertaking an action that will haunt next year's executive. Many of the current members will not have to deal with the problems that they are about to create.

Even if the station remains in operation, this puts the possibility of CIMN going FM in the near future in jeopardy. Opposition to the change to FM makes very little sense. CIMN would

reach out to a different -- and for the most part, younger -- audience than the established local stations. Incumbent VPO Finley Martin pointed out that by blocking the move to FM, SU would be losing a very valuable avenue of advertising for shows at the Barn. As well, music recitals, sports events, and many other campus activities could be publicized to CIMN's potential audience of 40,000 listeners.

Closing the station is an unethical and unjust action. The volunteers and staff would be deprived of valuable experience. Many past members of CIMN have gone into the music business, but that would be made impossible if the station was closed. As well, some high school students already involved in the station would be discouraged from attending UPEI if the station was closed. In this era of falling enrollment, can SU afford to chase away potential students?

In addition to the more than 70 volunteers, five employees of the station would be out of work. These people have already been hired for next year, but closing the station would cost them their jobs. Is SU prepared to fire people without cause?

Despite the extensive repercussions, some members of SU executive are doing their best to eliminate the largest sub-organization, and one of the few student media voices on campus. This is wrong. Student Council is elected to act in the best interests of the student body -- not elected to be a dictatorial committee. There can be no justification of the closing of CIMN. Shutting down the campus radio station would be an unethical manoeuvre. Student Council has done something ludicrous.

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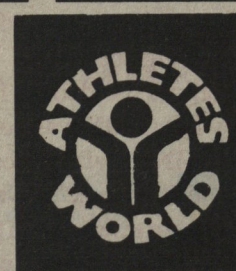
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