EDITORIAL

CHSR's bored of Directors

by Lynne Wanyeki

Last week's issue of the Brunswickan carried a story relating to the present lack of funding for CHSR's station manager search. In it, the Chair of the station's Board of Directors, who also happens to be the acting President of the St. Thomas Student Union, stated that "the situation" at CHSR is not one that St. Thomas University wishes to continue funding. He further remarked that "right now, funding cutbacks and commitments are the Board's and the [STU] Student Union's priorities". His statements upset several station members, who, on Wednesday night, agreed to forward a petition to the station's Board of Director's asking for London's resignation (see page 7, this week's Brunswickan).

It is difficult to tell whether London made the statements above speaking as the STU representative to the Board, or whether he was, in fact, speaking in his capacity as Chair of the Board of Directors. If, on the one hand, he spoke as the STU representative to the Board, then perhaps his words are understandable. For the Board is structured so to guarantee a say to all of the station's funding bodies in the financial affairs of the station. If (despite the referendum held last year at STU regarding the STU Student Union's financial input into CHSR, and despite the agreement reached by the UNB and STU Student Unions on the matter) the current STU Student Union is dissatisfied with its position in relation to CHSR, then London's statements were not only understandable, but indeed, were to be expected. If, on the other hand, London was speaking as Chair of the Board of Directors (which is probably the capacity in which the reporter who wrote the story sought him out), then his words indicate a sorry lack of concern for the station, and an even sorrier lack of consideration for his position as spokesperson for the station.

My argument is somewhat moot, of course, because while the distinction between the two positions can be made in theory, the fact is that London cannot shift gears in this way. What my argument does raise, then, is the question of London's bottom line, and this is a question worthy of consideration by all the members of CHSR's Board of Directors. The validity of having Board members represent their various "constituencies" (if the word "constituencies can be used in a situation where most members of the Board of Directors are appointed and not elected) is not at issue. However, this representation should occur on the basis of a very fundamental premise: that the Board of Directors functions so as "to provide support and ideas to station management for continued growth of the station". This premise is outlined very clearly in the list of duties that the Board of Directors has been mandated to carry out.

There is no question as to whether or not CHSR is in financial difficulty. It is. The Graduate Student's Association this year decided to re-assume the responsibility for allocating its contribution to student media instead of handing such money over to the UNB Student Union. It further decided to allocate the entire contribution to the Brunswickan. The GSA made this decision in order to rectify the fact that the UNB Student Union has, for the past two years straight, given this GSA contribution entirely to CHSR, and further, had begun to calculate this money in its own revenue estimations. However, the GSA had intended for its contribution to be divided between the Brunswickan and CHSR. It had intended its contribution to be thought of as "a gift" over and above the UNB Student Union's contributions to both media. Since the GSA is in no way obligated to fund either student media, the GSA's decision was perfectly reasonable - and unexpectedly welcome from the Brunswickan's perspective). However, as the UNB Student Union's actions had lead CHSR to believe that the GSA contribution could be counted on, and even included in the drawing up of its budget last year, the station now finds itself in a situation where they are effectively $5000 short of expected revenue. This being the case, London perhaps would have been more accurate - not to mention politically astute - had he stated that *spending cutbacks*, rather than "funding cutbacks" were the Board's immediate priorities.

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