

CIMN

The management of CIMN would like to express its views on the Nov. 7 editorial regarding the policies of CIMN. Instead of maligning the management of the X-Press to somehow improve our image, we would instead like to explain a few facts that Mr. Large seems to have overlooked in writing this editorial.

CIMN is a sub-organization of the Student Union, as is the X-Press. We do not feel it appropriate that the X-Press use its editorial space as a medium to berate other S.U. organizations. Especially when the editorial in question is based almost wholly on the opinion of one person.

In writing this editorial, Mr. Large did not consult with the management of CIMN to get a balanced view of the situation. If he had, he likely could have gained an understanding of the complexities of running an organization that must be responsible not only to the students of UPEI, but a government body called the Canadian Radio, Television, and Telecommunications Committee.

The CRTC requires radio stations to have a certain format and in college and university stations, that format tends to be alternative music- a niche that is

rarely filled by commercial stations.

Without this alternative format, groups such as REM, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Look People, the Crash Test Dummies, Extreme, or even Men without Hats would not have received the exposure that later allowed them to become commercially acceptable. In fact, The Barenaked Ladies, an alternative band from Canada, has entered the retail sales chart without the support of a major label! This is due almost entirely to the alternative format of university stations.

If UPEI students wish to discover the bands that will become Top-40 in the future- bands that could not exist without the support of alternative stations- they can tune into their own station- run by DJ's that instead of regurgitating music that has been over-exposed, are challenged to search out and expose new music. Music that often can be found in the Top-40 charts at a later date. Reading the alternative charts of the past proves this very point.

If the editorial columnist would like, in the future, to consult CIMN's management to question the alternative policy, we invite him or her to do so. The result would produce a more balanced and fair editorial.

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To the indigenous peoples of Latin America, and for that matter those of Canada and the rest of the world, the planned festivities marking the discovery of their lands are viewed with frustration and anger.

Juan de la Cruz, a Blivian peasant union leader asks: "Why would we celebrate five hundred years of oppression, humiliation and degradation?" Handy agrees. "It is not useful to celebrate the arrival of Columbus, it is something that should be mourned." But celebrate is what Canada and many nations of the world will do. An estimated forty million dollars will be spent of the Canada pavilion for the "Age of Discovery" Expo 92 in Seville Spain. Canada will participate because it makes good business sense. As the Government's promotional material explains: "Canadians have always excelled in using expositions as a medium to communicate the significance of their

country and their achievements in many areas of endeavour."

So the party will go on, celebrated by some and mourned by others. At this point it is difficult to tell whether my brother's children will grow up admiring Columbus. Somehow I feel they will be more interested in Schwarzkopf and friends Gulf War paraphernalia.

