



Blood n' Thunder

Pen pals for culture swap

WHEREVER GOES THE CANADA'S FUTURE

A More Touching and Direct Approach of our Canadian Relationship; One of the solutions to Canada's Future is the Knowledge of Others

I'm doing seriously a lot of international correspondence, for a long time, as hobby. Canadians are renowned in encouraging/promoting harmony, friendship and better understanding among citizens of the world. It could be a very gratifying experience to give it a try within our country especially at this period of time when choices might be made. Whatever the issue we'll have to live together as neighbours anyway. So let's know each other in this part of North America. When we know each other better we have a better point of view of the other. It is a much more touching way to feel the real pulse than just reading headlines. Isn't it? It would be rewarding both ways to be sensitive to the variety that our corner of the continent has to offer. That variety isn't a problem, it's rather an opportunity. If we can live with it, we'll be able to live the global neighbourhood.

It's very interesting to practice languages as French, English or others, in a pleasant way. It could be very interesting to practice the language we won't have often the opportunity to practice in our area whether French or English or others. There're hundreds of thousands of immersion School students or former ones who don't have the opportunity to practice the learned language. It's also very valuable to know how people get by elsewhere, as we are sometimes under economic variations. It is sometimes amazing to learn to set aside our preconceived ideas gathered from written or electronic media available in one's area. When we know each other better, we have a better understanding and point of view of the other. It is surely better than just reading the headlines. Isn't it? It's a more touching, personal, concerning, sensitive way to express your willingness and attachment in order to be more able to live in the global neighbourhood. It's rewarding both ways to be sensitive and open to the variety in all fields that our corner of the continent has to offer.

Friendly correspondence is the most affordable way for a personal openness to others in a remote area.

Friendly correspondence is a good way to encourage and forward harmony and friendship all around while developing knowledge in many areas, such as culture, social particularities, geography, history, languages, our ability to cope with a global point of view, etc. Whatever the people's educational level, situation or age, they just have to grab a pen, keyboard and write to someone in another area to promote friendship. Someone is waiting for their letter. They don't have to let them fear about mistakes, they just have to do their best, it would be a good deed.

We often realize that the diversity of our corner of the continent has a lot to

learn to us. As it is hard to get information on regions, the only way sometimes is by correspondence.

In many areas, the only other way beside TV, radio, movies and printed material to have regularly personal contacts with the French or English language is through correspondence.

Most of us like to hear from the rich and vast experience of a lot of people through correspondence as many people aren't connected or haven't access to internet yet.

It's very exciting to receive all these sendings from all over our corner of the continent and elsewhere when we don't always have the opportunity to travel outside our area. It's an element that brighten/light up someone's monotonous life. Some propose to exchange things from their area and stays/hospitality. All these can be just possible by the gracious publicity willingly offered by Editors, System operators (SYSOPS) and others.

A number of my correspondents ask me if I can supply them with other names of persons, of all ages, interested to correspond. Some areas are indeed under represented on the Friendly Correspondence scene. It would be very appreciated if you would graciously publish a short item, from time to time, in your publication for people interested by Friendly Correspondence. I can graciously let know their name, address and details as languages known, age, sex and interests) they wish to be known, if they write me at the above mentioned address. I can even send FREE of charge by e-mail a short list of Persons wishing to correspond, when it will be available, for those who have an e-mail address. FREE reply for e-mail addresses.

For those who would prefer to get that optional short list of correspondents, when it will be available, by return mail, just have to send me ten (10) - 45 cent mint Canadian stamps, equivalent in cash, or five (5) IRC's (International Reply Coupons available at most Post Offices) to participate in passing on expenses to let know more; their name and details + \$2 in cash only to cover printing charges. Please enclose postage (2 IRC's) for any requested reply by mail. Any constructive suggestion is always welcome.

J.P. Chalifoux
342 Rue Latour
Sainte-Jerome PQ
J7Z 2H2
e-mail address
jpchalif@laurentides.mtl.net

Marijuana anyone?

This is to ask the help of your readers with a book I am researching on the personal uses of marijuana in Canada.

Twenty-five years ago, half of all convictions for possession of marijuana by Canadians resulted in jail sentences. Today that figure has dropped to about two per cent, even though the laws have not changed. Judges have apparently concluded from the findings of some 1200 studies that marijuana is not a threat to health or social order. And yet, the federal government's Bill C7 proposes to stiffen penalties for marijuana offenses. So, what are pot

smokers - who know more about marijuana than either politicians or the courts - to make of this paradox?

I would like to correspond with any of your readers, either students or faculty, who have ideas, experiences or anecdotes about marijuana in their lives. Anonymity guaranteed. Please write to PO Box 54094, North Vancouver, V7M 3J5, fax 604 984-8865 or e-mail JG@unixg.ubc.ca.

Michael Poole

UNB is swell, thanks

Drinking Remind Me Water Source

Dear Editor:

I am going to leave Fredericton for a new career in Ontario next week. I have been living, studying and working in Fredericton for five and half years since I landed on this beautiful city on April 27, 1990 from west Berlin. At this moment, my good impression and feeling of Fredericton could not be described with my limited vocabulary. Please allow me here to express my heartfelt thanks to all my friends and lovely people at Fredericton for their kindness and friendship.

First, my thanks go to the University of New Brunswick, especially the Mechanical Engineering Department, who provided me a wonderful environment to complete my Ph.D program and granted me scholarships for both of my Ph.D and post-doctor research. I will never forget Dr. Hussein, my supervisor at UNB. I think he was, is and will be always my teacher and friend in my life.

My thanks go to all my colleges, graduate students in Mechanical Engineering Department of UNB and all Chinese friends for their supports and help during my services as president and vice president of the Student Branch at UNB, American Nuclear Society, president of the Association of Chinese Students (ACS) and vice president of the Professionals Association of Chinese at New Brunswick (PACNB). Together, we have made great success in many activities. We all remember the great support from Mrs. Nandall, the International Student Advisor; Mr. Skillen, the director of Alumni Affairs; Dr. Edwards, the associate dean of Graduate Studies and Research; and Dr. Armstrong, the president of UNB.

I greatly appreciate Mrs. Mehlitz and her family for their warmly and giving-out help in many aspects to have my whole family feel like living in our old home town. Our friendship will last forever.

There are so many people I own them for their kindness. I could not mention all their names here. However, I will remember them forever.

In the past five years, I saw great development in UNB and Fredericton too. I hope I can contribute to UNB and Fredericton with my talent in the near future. Fredericton is my second home town, I will be always proud of being a Frederictoner.

P. Han

As you know by now, our esteemed UNB President Robin Armstrong has reached his pinnacle of scholarly life and has decided to retire on June 30, 1996. I admit when I first heard of his intentions to retire, I was somewhat surprised. Comfortable job, comfortable person - why not stay for another tour of academic duty?

However, I am enraged at the prospect of the University Administration denying our say in the next selection of UNB President.

It seems the University Administration, its Board of Governors and the powers that be, have decided to exclude you in a decision making process that will undoubtedly effect your life at UNB for the next few years come.

The University Administration is excluding us, the students, and our right to an opinion in the selection of the next university president. Surely the current Administration would concede us that right to participate in the selection process; Past administrations have.

This is the first time in recent history of the university that there has not been a student on the search committee for a UNB president. You can look down the line. From Colin B. McKay to James Downey and President Armstrong there has always been a student representative on that committee and now there is none.

Fine and distinguished individuals that read as a "Who's who" in any professional directory comprise the Selections Committee but not one single student. Why? This is the question I ask the Administration.

When the university tells you as a student your input doesn't count, not only is this unacceptable, it is morally wrong.

The Student Union at their last council meeting passed a motion to "condemn the exclusion of student representation from the Presidential Search Committee and endorse the request for a visitation schedule, a student resource person, and the distribution of a student questionnaire to short listed candidates." I support the council wholeheartedly. Will the Administration, the Board of Governors and the powers that be entertain the Student Union's motion from their "highchairs", that remains to be seen.

I just loathe the fact that we are getting short changed. Morgan rule #36 "If you're not heard, then you don't have an opinion."

Remember without the students there is no university.

The Mugwump Journal

I poked my head through the curtain just in time to hear the charming Mr Melanson regally proclaim "There will be no moshing, no stage diving & no crowd surfing". Wait a minute there Jeff, you missed the golden rule of the Aitken Centre. You will NOT put your feet up on the seat in front of you. And all because of your incomplete warning, I got fingered (index mind, not middle) several times by some officious looking man patrolling that large expanse of floor at the back.

Yep, I was at that fab frosh concert. Missed Sandbox, gee I thought doors opening at 8 meant that the first band, not the second one, came on at 9, but hey, you may have already missed their Dock concert too. The Wild Strawberries, showed that dancing ability and originality can go hand in hand, while Spirit of the West were considerably better than their "It's fall term, so it must be time for them again" reputation. If you want the real review of the concert, its on page 17, this is merely a tale of amusements.

First things first. That dirty phrase at SU concerts - stage diving. It smacks royally of those dodgy little "Danger Falling Ice" signs. In winter ice falls from eaves - at concerts people stage dive. And the common motivator for the signs/announcements: "We don't want to get our butts sued off." Would it be beside the point to mention that everyone knows you're not supposed to stage dive, this is its attraction - you know the danger thing, the possibility of being man-handled from the building by some bouncers. Pointing out that you're not allowed to stage dive has about as much sense as waving cigarettes under the nose of someone who is trying to quit smoking.

Of course there's also the question of sitting on shoulders. If you're trying to stop people having even a remote chance of hurting each other then you really don't want people toppling off shoulders and hurting those behind them, not to mention the neck strain of the person they're sitting on. And I don't even want to think about all the potential hazards of spinning yourself dizzy to fast celtic rock tunes without a nice soft landing spot.

And in the end there was the encore with guests (as is the case so often these days). The highlight by a long way was the drummer slugging a cold one in all of 10 seconds. For all their "please don't stage dive as you'll hurt someone" rhetoric, I don't recall hearing a please don't drink too much or you'll ruin your internal organs. No mention of DUI either. The drummer also had the most telling comment. "Do you know, we get paid for this?" Well, I had guessed that, but here's a question I'd prefer answered: HOW MUCH?

Neil Duxbury

Letters to the Editor

Anyone with a beef, kudos or extra time on their hands are encouraged to vent their views in Blood n' Thunder. Letters must be under 300 words or will not be considered for print.

