

Planning or what ?

Without a doubt, universities are feeling the pinch these days and are a bit desperate for students.

But, not at UNB, no sir. They've got it sowed up so good here they can turn students away at the gates. Political Science professors will talk about the heady days back in the 1960's when they had more students than they knew what to do with. They had to actually make it difficult for students to get into the program.

And every university boasts about its top notch program, where demand always exceeds the new openings.

But at UNB, the 'powers that be' have taken it one step further. They've actually concluded that there are more students than we need in just about any program.

Having realized this wondrous truth, they have set up a special bureaucracy to systematically discourage students to enter the university. Only the best can make it by the barriers they've set up here.

Now, actually, they probably didn't do that, and it would appear that UNB is as desperate as anyone for more students, but you would never guess that from some of the things that have been happening around here lately.

All we've heard around here for the last while is about students who tried to get into UNB, but gave up in disgust because of the red tape they had to go through.

Don't feel sorry for them - far from it.

Most of the cases we've heard about are safely registered at other campuses where the system could bend a little and be just a bit reasonable.

Two cases we know of right off will demonstrate the absurdity of UNB's apparent drive for suicide through bureaucracy.

We'll start close to home. The student sat in the registrar's office for a whole afternoon - about four hours. There was nobody else to wait on and the lad was told to take a seat and wait.

After the four hours were up he went up to Saint Thomas university in total disgust where he registered in about 20 minutes.

That couldn't have happened by accident. It must have taken planning. But, for the non-believers, let's look at case number two.

This Hong Kong student arrived at UNB to enter Computer Science, but the official at the registrar's office refused to give her an application form because she didn't have the results of her English language adequacy tests, usually referred to as TOFEL.



"ONE MORE COURSE CHANGE AND HE'LL BE DONE FOR."

After some humming and hawing, she went to the head of the Computer Science division, who said he would accept her. He phoned the TOFEL centre and got the results sent down 523 out of 700.

However, UNB requires students to have at least 550 out of 700, even if the students had an 80 percent average in school, as this one did. She already had her acceptance to Saint Thomas University, the University of Toronto, Wilfred Laurier University, York University and Carleton University.

This went to the student union Grievance Committee, which met with the dean of students.

After some more humming and hawing, they finally convinced the powers that be to give the student an application form.

If it had ended there, the story would have had a happy ending for UNB. However, it was another week before they finally got around to accepting her into the university.

By that time, she was safely registered in Carleton University, for about two days.

Now, did that take planning or not?

Stay tuned to The Brunswickan. We promise you more on this one.

Motorcycle -truck accident-Doesn't anybody give a damn ?

The accident that wiped out the motorcycle rider in front of the Dunn, (a UNB residence), on Monday has stirred me to wonder how the truck driver ever got off 'scot-free'.

If you read the article about it in this week's "Bruns", you'll know that the truck involved in the collision had made a left hand turn . . . in front of the bike coming from the opposite direction.

The dip in the road spoken of hardly seems significant enough to obscure the truck driver's view of John Saunders biking down the hill on a clear sunny day at noon.

Yet police report that "no charges will be laid".

This mystery is too common! To my experience at least, the parties that appear to be as guilty as sin get off free as larks.

I hope I've only seen the worst, but how much worse could it get?

Two winters ago 'back home', (Ontario), an accident occurred during some bad weather. It was snowing hard and vision was very poor in places but a local 'hometown' resident managed to find his way out onto the highway; hammered as usual.

The resulting collision killed at least two people, (I'm not sure how many might have died in hospital later)

He should have been convicted of motor vehicle manslaughter. The driver at fault on Monday,

and your damn right there is one, was lucky he never killed Saunders.

The pisshead, God what a satisfaction to have it published, drifted over into the opposite lane. The bad weather didn't allow the other vehicle coming towards him enough warning to get over and out of the way.

The old boy managed a couple of broken legs, just enough to get him out of blood and breathalyzer tests. If not for his injuries, and because the riders in the other front couldn't ever tell what really happened . . .

Although no one is beyond being at fault in a serious accident, justice should still be served.

When the police say "no charges will be laid," they'd also state why, especially concerning the accident Monday.

Then again, why should they when witnesses get out of sight as soon as "involvement" is in view.

When asked to comment on the accident, a police witness replied, "I don't like to say". Even when she was told police records showed that the motorcycle was going uphill and was the vehicle that turned causing the collision, (the records have now however been corrected), she still held no concern.

We can't have it both ways. Get better soon John!