



mugwump journal

BY MIKE MACKINNON

Earlier this week I received a letter from a student thanking CHSR for their attempt at getting him a ride to Halifax. Unfortunately this letter was not signed so it will not appear in this week's issue. There was a postscript attached that we should "feel free to re-write this in any manner which is appropriate". Therefore I shall.

The student who wrote the letter had been trying to find a ride to Halifax because it was quite cold and he had been planning to hike. He called CHSR and asked them to announce he was looking for a drive to Halifax. This they did, and though it did not result in his finding a drive, he was thankful for their help. In his words, "CHSR deserves a pat on the back".

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It appears there is little, if any, hope for Carleton Street bridge to be saved from demolition. Council this week voted down a bid to have the demolition delayed. While it would cost \$428,000 to tear it down council feels it would be too expensive to keep the bridge, despite its heritage.

Despite the cost of keeping the bridge I feel council should give serious consideration to making the necessary repairs and keep it. It certainly cannot be any more of an eyesore then will be the piers that are to be left standing in the river after it is torn down.

There are a number of things the city can do with the bridge, the least of them being a walkway for students living on the northside. As it stands now, students either have to walk to the Westmorland Street Bridge or the Princess Margaret, both being considerably out of the way.

To offset the cost of maintaining the walkway a number of booths or stores could be setup, a sort of mini mall. The money from leasing could be used as partial payment on the upkeep of the bridge. As far as maintenance is concerned, it would provide a few more summer jobs in an area that is sorely in need of employment.

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Some good news in the entertainment field, CSL is bringing in the Spoons. I certainly hope we will get a good showing this time, not like some of the pubs we have had in the SUB. Granted, the view of the bands can be rather limited when you get a crowd of people standing directly in front of them (as was the case with Rough Trade) but with a second band upstairs the crowd should be somewhat thinner.

One has to question the logic of putting a group as commercially successful and accessible as the Spoons in the cafeteria. To say that too much money would be lost by placing them in the Aitken Centre is absurd. Of course, this is quite logical if you plan to work on attracting only the university crowd but that is not feasible in Fredericton. The university population is too small and is older than the average concert goer. To make the endeavour a profitable one, the promoters must advertise with off campus radio in an attempt to attract the non-university population as well as the students at the university.

To say this cannot be done is being unrealistic. We have seen that it can be done successfully, case in point, Saint Thomas and Billy Idol. Needless to say CSL has bigger bucks to work with than the Saint Thomas student union does and it is about time they put some kind of effort into making some money. Bands in the cafeteria will not do it.

Don't get me wrong, I applaud the idea of bringing in the Spoons. I am just saying it should be handled in a bigger way so that CSL can insure their funds will not run dry.

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This week we received a letter to the editor which, I assume, the author intended to be humorous. It was an attempt to pull a practical joke on a "friend". I did not find the letter at all humorous, especially since the letter was sent in under the guise of a "serious" letter to the editor. To me this not only falls far of being humorous but is also childish. The Soundof section is not a medium for supposed harmless practical jokes, something this would not have been had it managed to get in. In future, if anyone wishes to continue this practice they may do so elsewhere. Your letters are not welcome here. You know to whom I refer.

editorial

CSL should be open to all students

As is stands now the CSL Board of Directors consists solely of council students. It was not always this way however, with the board consisting of three council members and four non-council members. This was the ratio up to about a year ago. After John Bosnitch won the general election the board fell victim to the many changes he instituted.

Perhaps a bit of background information on CSL is necessary. CSL is a corporation owned by the Student Union accountable to the Student Union through the SRC. It should be noted CSL is a separate entity from the Student Union. With all the entertainment we have had this year CSL has lost \$8000.

The reason for changing the set up of the board was the non-council members consistently voted against the council members and thus, because of their majority, they pretty well decided the entertainment for the year. This entertainment apparently failed miserably at drawing crowds so it was obviously time for a change.

One has to question not only the legitimacy of this change but also the wisdom. By limiting membership on the board to only those students on council you are definitely limiting input. Out of 6000 plus students at this university only 25 or so are allowed input into what entertainment we have.

Of course, last year CSL attempted to rectify this by placing a questionnaire in the Brunswickan. Unfortunately, this didn't fare well as only a few students filled it out. It must be realized not many students are willing to take the time to fill in a questionnaire, clip it out of the paper and send it into the Student Union. If CSL wishes to follow this course of action then a marketing survey of some sort should be performed. If you have to pay some students \$4 an hour to do it there should be no problem with that. It would be worth it.

Last year we had a number of good people on CSL that were non-council students. Their efforts were all for nothing though because nothing was done until after their terms were up. During that time, because of constant bickering we missed a number of good bands, bands that would have fared well. CSL should be opened once again to students who are not on council.

To say CSL would be less accountable to the Student Union if there were students on its board who were not councillors is ludicrous. One body is no less accountable to another if they have different members. In fact, by having completely different membership the two bodies will be made more responsible by eliminating any chance of conflict of interest. This is not to say we should eliminate all council members from the board but rather make some kind of a split between council and non-council members. As we have seen so far, there can be some improvement in the manner of thinking that is prevalent in CSL now. Case in point, putting Rough Trade in the cafeteria.

There is one other advantage to changing the membership of the board. If members were lost because of a councillor being removed from council we would still have the non-council members left. At one point this year there was one person on CSL. This does not allow for efficient running of a business, which is exactly what CSL is.

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