

Up against a Bureaucratic stone wall

Dear Sirs:

Perhaps you were, as we were, under the impression that the idea of the athletics department here at UNB was to give students the chance to participate in sports.

We're terribly disappointed in having discovered through bitter experience, that this is not the case. Our information comes first hand; in the past month at least forty to fifty hours of the members of our Tennis Club have been wasted in the attempt to have some sort of tennis program organized here at UNB.

Simply enough, our only request was for permission to attend the intercollegiate tennis tournament in Halifax. We asked for no funding from the P.E. Department; we were willing to pay our own way, we had a representative group of the best tennis players at UNB, and all we needed was permission to go.

In past years, UNB has participated as a club in this event, and we have always done quite well. This year, with Marc Pepin playing the #1 spot, (he's ranked by the N.B. Tennis Association as the top player in the province) we were hoping to bring the trophy home.

The steps we took in trying to

get permission to attend the tournament are outlined in the following

1) Tennis players interested in forming the club this year got together,

2) We approached the UNB Director of Clubs, Shirley Cleeve. The immediate response was that there was to be no Tennis Club this year, especially not at the intercollegiate level. Reason: as a club, it has no business in intercollegiate sports. No other concrete reason was given why we couldn't form a club.

3) We approached Mel Early - the Athletic Director for UNB at the intercollegiate level. When asked to discuss the tennis program at UNB, he replied, "This will be the shortest conversation on record." This in our opinion seemed to be a summation of the attitude of the P.E. faculty towards us and our enthusiasm.

4) Next, our club president, Steve Bingham, talked to the Dean of Phys. Ed., Denn Paton. He gave us "permission" to start an "official" UNB club, and gave tentative O.K. to the trip to Halifax; telling us to set it up now and then come back to see him.

5) We placed an ad in the Brunswickan, asking for players

interested in tournament competition, had a club ranking tournament, and consequently formed a team of the top four people to go to Halifax.

6) We returned to Dean Paton, informing him of our completed team. A coach was found to guide the team, and to provide faculty assistance.

7) The Athletic Director of UNBSJ was then contacted, and said that he didn't mind if the club played in the tournament as an affiliate of UNBSJ (they don't have any interested in a men's tennis team this year), if we were turned down in Fredericton.

8) Steve Bingham then attended an executive meeting of the Phys. Ed. department, where he presented a brief of the team's behalf. A request was made for permission to go to Halifax, the only thing needed being the signature of the Dean or Athletic Director on our entry form. It was made plain that no money was being asked for, that the team would pay its own way. He argued that since a spot on the draw was reserved for a UNB team, why not allow somebody to go?

9) As you may have guessed, we were turned down. Reason: that the team was of an "ad hoc

nature, and that the club had no written constitution; a ridiculous claim when no input or co-operation was given in the formative stages of the club by the P.E. department. No mention of this constitution was made until it was too late for us to do anything about it. We concluded from this that in our opinion the real reason was either bureaucratic incompetence or just plain spitefulness, hopefully the former.

10) Robert Bonnell, (Athletic Director at UNBSJ) was again contacted, and again gave us his O.K. As a formality he decided to talk to Mel Early at UNB. When he called back a complete change in attitude had occurred. Bonnell had been told that we "...didn't follow the right procedure..."; as no incidents of this had been cited, the charge was impossible to refute.

11) Being hopelessly deadlocked in every avenue, we sought the aid of the Dean of Students. Although enthusiastic at first, after attending a meeting of the P.E. executive, he emerged with only the consoling thought that could probably go next year. That didn't help Marc Pepin much as he graduates this year.

12) Other steps also took time

and effort: i.e. frequent calls to Halifax in the attempt to get assistance from AUAA executives, conferring with Robert Jackson (student organizer for last year's club who has since graduated), numerous trips to the S. Thomas Athletic Director for help, etc.

Is this total frustration? Does anyone know what's going on? We don't think so.

On the basis of this evidence, it's our opinion that it is obvious that the P.E. department make it its policy to discourage interest in sports other than Hockey, Basketball or Football? After battering our collective heads against this bureaucratic stone wall for two months it's our opinion that this is the case.

Signed: "Unofficial UNB Tennis Club"

Executive: Steve Bingham, Phil Vanicek, Steve McAlinden
Club Members: Marc Pepin, Neilan Mehta



Here's to UNB and the Brunswickan

Gord, Kathy, et al:

First of all I want to thank you for sending me the Bruns each week. I can't tell you how much I look forward to it in the mail. I may not be there in body, but I certainly am in spirit. I'm following all the issues (assuming the Bruns is covering them all!!) and find the goings-on at UNB exciting compared to things here at Dal.

First of all, the Student's Union here has a very low profile. No one even knows what the Union is CALLED, let alone anything about how it operates. All it takes is a little poking around to find out how it works; believe me, I did. The Union executive are notoriously known to be crooks, and since they are unaccountable the trend continues....

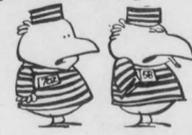
The SUB here saturates itself with events, to the extent that they lose money. They book all the events months in advance, and don't even think of cancelling a few because they're losing money. All the Union entertainment is

handled by the Entertainment Office, who half the time hires friends, etc...they are equally unaccountable to the Union. Since such a small portion of the students live on campus, there is little sense of solidarity in the student body. There is so much to do in the city that people only go to SUB events if they want to stay in a student crowd. And the people who do go to the SUB events...I work a night a week at the SUB, and was amazed at the amount of rowdies and fights. In the three years I worked at the UNB SUB I could count on one hand the number of fights I saw. Here it's a regular occurrence. At UNB it seems everyone socializes and drinks. Here, a smaller percentage drink, but they drink more. The social club here is packed every night, and the fights there are as regular as the ones at the pubs. The staff (myself included) are instructed to let them go at it till they tire of it. At UNB you'd throw them out on their ass, but here

they let it end, and don't even throw them out. Strange, but that is the way it is. The Gazette is really a rag. I meant to tell you that in the opening paragraph, but the paper here really stinks. No one reads it. They leave a pile at the front doors of the SUB and half are still there on Monday, Tuesday.... Maybe it's just that the Bruns is so much better? I'm serious, I've been showing it to the people here and they agree. There is a quality that separates the two papers. One thing is that the Bruns uses many different type styles, headline styles, colors, etc. A more visually interesting format. Second the headlines are bigger and really try to say something (I always loved making up heads with Tom Best). Thirdly, the Gazette has historically been a left-wing paper, while the Bruns has always been somewhere further to the right. The students here are sick and tired of reading about politics in South America, etc. (The same sentiment at the

Brun resulted in the dropping of CUP in favour of more local news) There is a lot of local news here, but none gets into the paper. All the photo work for the paper is done by a separate organization, Dal Photo, of which I am a member. The go-between principle inevitably confuses things.

I suppose the most obvious difference between Dal and UNB is the academic level. Things move faster here, and the competition is stiff. There is a large proportion of grad and professional schools here, and everyone is trying to get into them. Since I'm here trying to get the A's, it is even tougher. Most people here study every night they can. It's a dog's life. The courses are good, though. Well taught and interesting.



Well, I just wanted to dash you off a note of thanks, and I ended up writing you a cross-sectional analysis of Dalhousie. Maybe you understand this place a little better now, especially when you read the Gazettes (can you stand them?)

I will be returning on the 14th or so, and will pop in a number of times over the holidays to say hi. Hope to see as many of you as possible.

What was Tom Best's name doing on the staff list? Is he back in Fredericton?

Yours truly,
Allan Patrick



Hostage taking--- Middle East vogue ?

Is the government of the U.S. wrong in proceeding to deport the majority of the 55,000 Iranian students present in the States?

If they are playing by the same rules as the Iranians are, should they not hold these students hostage and treat them in the same manner that their own citizens are being treated by Iranian students?

The situation at the U.S. embassy in Tehran has made it quite apparent that wealth doesn't

instill civilization in a country. Perhaps the former Shah of Iran was a great offender of human rights, but so is the present government in Iran - and the people of Iran - if they believe justice involves executing innocents.

Contrary to the beliefs of most individuals in this nation, and I believe I can safely state this, life has a greater value than revenge.

I don't know enough about the Shah's history and his association

with the U.S. government so that I could condemn or congratulate them for harbouring the Shah; however, it is awfully difficult for me to understand why American citizens should become victims of a Middle East vogue, (hostage taking), to rectify the Shah's crimes.

The demonstration this week by our eight Iranian students strikes me as nothing more than a mindless following with little regard for a large tension arowina

over this hostage situation in the populations of both the United States and Canada.

I believe foreign students should be accepted here with open arms. We should understand one another and learn to be compatible whether our beliefs are alike or not. That is possible - if we don't threaten one another's well being.

The Iranian people have other bargaining powers to see the Shah served justice, and I believe the

demands of the students are reasonable now. They should be accomplished however, by nothing greater than economic blackmail, which I still abhor.

If the Iranian students here believe that the U.S. citizens held captive should be killed if the demands of their counterparts in Iran are not met, then I would like to see them leave this country, and I do mean - Get The Hell Out -! Peter Archibald Forestry IV