



The Brunswickian

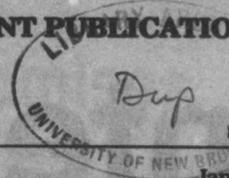
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Iraqi flag will stay down for now

by Allan Carter

The Iraqi flag at UNB is down and it doesn't look like it is going back up soon.

Last Friday five students from Aitken House took down the Iraqi flag which was hanging in the McConnell Hall Cafeteria.

The flag, which was part of a display that consists of 40 other flags, was later returned to the university administration provided that it didn't go back up.

Apparently the students rolled over a free-standing ladder which had been left in the cafeteria by the UNB physical plant.

The Manager of Beaver Foods at McConnell Hall was asked by the five male students if they could roll over the ladder and take the flag down. She told them they couldn't do that, but says, "I knew once I turned my back (the flag) would be gone."

The whole thing started last December when a petition was circulated through the residences asking that the flag be taken down due to the current problems in the Middle East.

The petition, with over 1,000 signatures, was sent to Professor Eric Garland, UNB's associate vice-president.

Garland later responded in a letter to Professor Rod Cooper, the don at Aitken who sent the petition to Garland. Garland informed Cooper that since the flag display in McConnell Hall was not a project with any political connotations, the university was not prepared to take the Iraqi flag down at that time.

However, according to Cooper, the University did put up a Kuwaiti flag which he felt was "a step in the right direction."

Ian McKenzie a first year student from Aitken House who took the flag down, says that they were willing to return the flag as long as it didn't go

back up.

McKenzie doesn't believe taking the flag down shows disrespect to the Iraqi students at UNB but feels it does show disrespect for the Canadian troops if the flag stays up.

"I didn't believe it should be up and neither did anyone else in that cafeteria."

Garland says that the project of the flag gallery "is, in principle, simply one of having a home flag of any and all of the international students" that attend UNB.

Currently there are two Iraqi students at UNB.

Ric Cuthbertson, associated dean of residence immediately met with the students after they had taken down the flag.

Because he was unable to promise them that the flag would not be put back up, he arranged a meeting with Garland.

Although Cuthbertson feels the students should have gone through the proper channels, he was happy that the students didn't damage the flag in anyway.

He feels they just wanted the flag down, and that "they took good care of it."

After almost an hour meeting with Garland, Garland agreed with the students that the flag would not go back up immediately or in the near future.

Garland says some students have expressed discontent over the flag being taken down, and feel it should go back up.

Despite these protests, the university is not putting the flag back up, at least not immediately.

"The flag is down (and) it will stay down for the time being."

Garland is not sure if the university would have taken the flag down after the war erupted if the students had formally asked them. But he did say they would "have given it serious consideration."

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Missing flag: The Iraqi flag that was in McConnell Hall was taken down by five students from Aitken House last Friday. photo by David Smith

Letter to Bank of Montreal expresses dissatisfaction with banking hours

by Patsy Wallace

In a recent letter to the Bank of Montreal Community Area Manager, Al Joudrey, UNB's Vice President of External Affairs, Mark Lockwood, expressed the student population's dissatisfaction with the service at the Bank's Campus Branch. His principal concern was over short banking hours caused by limited staff.

Lockwood speculated on possible solutions to student concerns. He believes the extension of more services in the form of additional hours and tellers would greatly ease heavy traffic during the afternoon.

Primarily, Lockwood would like to see these additional hours implemented during lunch time. Presently the bank closes daily from 11:00 - 12:15 when most students are free to do their banking.

In his letter, Lockwood also presented problems caused by the absence of proper commercial telling services. The Student Union Council finds the lack of an expedient commercial area inconvenient.

In their reply letter to

Lockwood Andrea Crozier, Campus Branch Manager, and Joudrey affirmed their dedication in providing the best services possible to the university.

Joudrey stressed the branch was restricted by staff compliment levels. And although they could not staff to totally eliminate wait time, it should not exceed 10 minutes under normal circumstances.

Crozier noted that before they took the position of closing during lunch hours there were constant complaints that line-ups were too long. Tellers taking shift lunches during this time left the bank unprepared to deal with heavy traffic. Heavy traffic dispersed throughout the afternoon could be better dealt with.

Crozier said the amount of business at the bank would not allow for further staffing. It would not be profitable.

Crozier said the availability of a commercial teller service depended on the amount of accounts with the bank. She said a minimum of 20-30 accounts were required to warrant a commercial teller. UNB holds only five or six

such accounts.

Joudrey mentioned that the installment of an Instant Teller machine in the Student Union Building last fall indicated the bank's commitment to the students. Students could use this machine, along with the machine located in the Bank of Montreal building, to do their banking business.

Complications arise with this solution. Depositing cash or cheques in the Insta-Bank leads to a 48 hour hold on the transaction with many student accounts. Many students run their finances on a day to day basis and find this system inconducive to their needs.

The university population may not provide the amount of business necessary to warrant additional staff.

However, Lockwood points out that it does constitute 6,400 undergraduate students who will some day be successful professionals who will be looking for a bank to do bigger business with.

He feels the initial introduction to banking at the University level will undoubtedly influence their future decisions.

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