Akerley has memories to show for his UNB years

By BILL AKERLEY



Photo by Ken De Freitas

Editor's note: Bill Akerley, the former Director of CHSR, left the campus recently to take up a career with the CBC. Akerley, who originally came to the campus in 1965, provides some insights into the past, and gives a brief history of his 'career' at UNB and STU.

Seven years at University and all you've got to show for it is a B.A. That's when the people I met in the SUB on those last days at CHSR began to ask questions. But before I go any further, perhaps I should explain.

There were four years in which the Bachelor of Arts degree was dealt with – that was St. Thomas, 1965 to 1969. Yes the STU class of '69. None better, but more on them later.

Then there was one year off. Well almost off, executive assistant to a provincial politician, and a regular show on the campus radio station on weekends. It was the campus radio station that kept pulling me back. I'd always wanted to be Director, but in those days if you went to St. Thomas you couldn't be director (an SRC policy) so I'd served in most of the station's executive positions but never as director. More on that later. Well the opportunity to go into Law School was there – it seemed like a decent thing to do. I'd dabbled in politics and rather enjoyed it; besides most lawyers make at least $30,000 a year.

There were two years of Law School, and almost two years as director of CHSR. Then there was a man who said, you want to be a newsman, I'll let you be a newsman...and it was the start of a whole new gig. Think of it, it might lead to a career as a journalist. Wow. You know: "Bill Akerley for the National!"

Well back to the ground. That should explain where the seven years went...

I came to this campus in September, 1965, fresh out of good old Cormier High and entered St. Thomas. The biggest moment was when the speaker box in the corner of my room went on that day. I must confess that radio has always been my first concern. (I'd done some in high school and so it was only natural for me to walk down the hill to the old Mem. Hall studios.) If you know where they are, you know what I mean by old. Butthat's only half the story. The Services Building was under construction, and the hill next to it was nothing but mud. Actually mud would become a good friend through the mid and late sixties.

This was UNB's finest hour – the Colin McKay building boom. And I'm not being facetious.

Imagine if you will, nothing but trees from STU to Carleton Hall, and you'll get a fair idea of what it looked like in 1965. No library, no SUB, two buildings at STU, no MacKenzie House. The people I met on my first day at Radio UNB, I'll never forget... Burke Brisson, Jim Pye, Armand Paul and sweet Sue Greene. Oh well, come to think of it they've probably all forgotten me...

I'm telling you, there were no hassles in those days St. Thomas dances on weekends; man you hadn't lived if you didn't go to a St. Thomas dance. I mean that was the thing to do – 1500 people crowded into the dining hall every Friday and Saturday. And if you were lucky an upperclassman would invite you in for a beer. Beer. That was the extent of the carousing on weekends. If you had a case of beer you had it made. UNB had a reputation in those days of being one of the wildest campuses in Canada. It was all due to good ole Moosehead Brew. Now times have changed!

I'm sitting here trying to remember who was the first person on campus with long-hair...and I can't remember. But I assure you it was the talk of the campus for weeks. Heads turned around, professors grunted. It was the new thing.

There were good moments too. Winter Carnivals; the top groups. UNB's winter carnie was something special and expensive. That always kept the Brunswickan headlines busy after the fun was over. 'SRC loses 12-thousand on this years carnie' etc. But then in those days there was a thing such as campus spirit.

I think that's probably what this University has lost the most of – Campus spirit. It just doesn't exist. There are still a few dying vestiges of it in some residences, but people just can't get it together anymore.

Pity.

Can you dig-it? Seven years have gone by and what's to show for it?



The Harriet Irving Library is one of the many developments of UNB during Bill Akerley's seven years on campus. During this time was UNB's finest hour – the Colin MacKay building boom.

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I thought you were doing a nice job when you carried an article entitled "Sex and the College Girl" and a series of feedback articles in the Brunswickan earlier this term. They were educative in the light of the epidemic of VD on College Campuses last year (as reported by the Times Magazine). Are you now subscribing to the view that UNB should take a "holier-than-thou" attitude on this problem? Isn't it time you come up with a realistic appraisal of the problem as applied to UNB so that many innocent boys and girls will not be decieved by your article of last week? I know you can do it. Your readers are keen on knowing the way you see it.

Joseph Ajai

Dear Sir:

Thank you for printing my discussion of Buckminster Fuller's lecture.

I noted in reading it over that it contained two errors; one a printer's omission, the other a result of poor expression on my part.

The printer's error involved the omission of a rather important part of one sentence. The correct version is: "Therefore, if we are considering two rival theories, one of which predicts that an event 'A' will occur, the other of which predicts that 'A' will not occur, then we can decide in advance, on the basis of logic alone, that it is not the case that both theories are true . . ." The printer's version mentioned only one of the predictions, and thus failed to make clear why it is that laws do not contradict.

The second error was mine. I said that laws of nature are not *a priori*, because they can be false. This is incorrect, because a genuine law cannot be false. However, no statement which purports to be an expression of a natural law can be such that no fact could ever falsify it. Otherwise, it would be merely a tactology, and would thus tell us nothing about the world. It is for this reason that we say that laws of nature are not *a priori*; i.e. because their truth is contingent.

Allen Stairs

Dear Sir:

An article in last week's Brunswickan titled "Fuller's Talk Misled Students?" might have been headed "Alan Stairs Misinterprets Fuller?" One gets the impression that Mr. Stairs believes that Dr. Fuller believes that God has the form of a wise old man who, "in the beginning" made everything perfect and now sits around handing out all-day (eternity) suckers to those who still believe in his existence. If that is Dr. Fuller's approach then surely it can be misleading only to those who wish to be misled. However, Dr. Fuller's lecture still had a great deal of meaning for, and did not have to lead astray anyone who does not believe in the existence of a god in any "form".

Whenever Dr. Fuller used the word "God", it was possible to insert the words "the collection of first principles of the universe", and no ambiguity or contradiction arose.

Admittedly this is just another (mis) interpretation of Dr. Fuller's lecture but at least it allows one to think positively and not negatively about what he had to say.

Andy Pletch

Dear Sir:

In your November 3, 1972 issue Mr. Allen Stairs charged Buckminster Fuller with "misleading students." The gist of the charge seems to be Mr. Stairs' allegation that Fuller "suggested a teleological argument for the existence of a God who controls the universe." (Page 5).

I do not purport to fully understand the whole of Mr. Stairs' logically intricate accusation. But I, also, listened to Fuller's talk, and I did not, emphatically not, hear him present any teleological argument for the existence of a "designer," "controller" God.

Fuller did something quite different: he *identified* the a priori design operative in nature, presupposed and approximatively discovered Fuller maintains by the scientific pursuit of truth, with God. The a priori comprehensive integrity of nature is God. Comprehensive synergy is God, and vice versa. It is not produced by, or it is not "the result of" a God. It *is* God, or better than fundamental and synergestic dimension of integrity to which we have historically attributed the appelation, "God".

Fuller is certainly criticizable. And it might very well be that he "mislead students" the other night. But in all fairness I must insist that the charge fit the man; that the accusation fit the statement. This one does not. Mr. Stairs did not do his homework.

Sincerely yours,

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MEETING

Every Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Bruns Office, Room 35.

All writers please attend.

Anyone who is interested in reporting for your paper are also invited.