



Planning Better Building Accessibility for the Handicapped at U.P.E.I.

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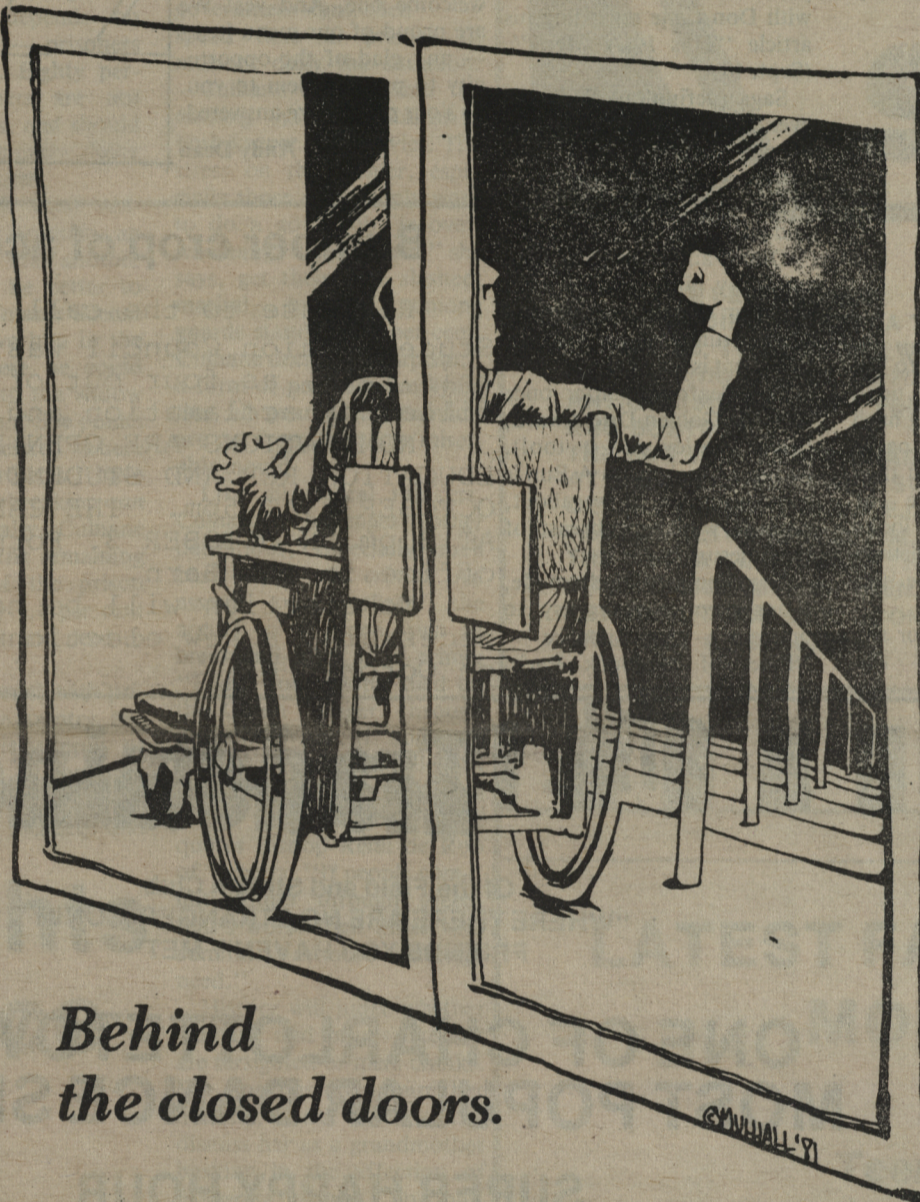
Last week, the NETTED GEM went to talk to UPEI's physical plant manager, Don Coles, about improving U.P.E.I. facilities to better accommodate the handicapped. He informed us that major plans were already in action. The Kelley building will be the first structure to receive major design changes. Tenders for this project were received up until last Monday. He estimated that work would commence one week later, (Monday, Sept. 30).

If you are wondering why KELLEY will receive total accessibility first, it is because of the necessary services that it contains, such as the Registrar's office, the Business office and the Bookstore.

The main entrance to Kelley will remain basically the same, but there will be an extra entrance to the left of the existing one. The fourth window from the left will be replaced by a door, and people using this entrance will join others on the ground level of Kelley via a new corridor. The freight elevator that is currently in operation will be converted into a passenger elevator.

The next building to be improved upon is the Robertson Library building, simply because it contains the library, the language lab, the computer center and the Audio Visual Department. The design specifications will be drawn up simultaneously with the actual renovation work on Kelley.

Duffy, Memorial, and Main are to be worked upon as a group project. The



*Behind
the closed doors.*

GRAPHIC/VARSITY

exterior and first floor of Main would be renovated for accessibility, but it is not feasible to work on the rest of Main at this time. Mr. Coles explained this by saying that Main would be receiving extensive renovation in the near future, and the problem of accessibility for handicapped people would be solved at this future date.

Mr. Dennis Clough, Director of Administration and Finance at the University, named the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (M.P.H.E.C.) the source of this project. He informed the NETTED GEM that the University is only given this funding once per year, so there is currently no definite amount allotted for next year.

In the long run, there are plans that will enable handicapped people to access all of the University's buildings. However, these plans require a large amount of money, which the University cannot afford in a one-year time span. Thus, we can only look optimistically at this one year.

If you have any questions, comments or beneficial ideas, you may contact the University's "Committee on Accessibility". It consists of Mr. Coles, Susan Buchanan (an Education student at UPEI), and John Hochstadt from the Council of the Disabled. I am sure that they would appreciate any input that you might have. You can contact Mr. Coles at local 0390.

By Don Lane

"And Where Are They Now?"

By Michael Zinck

Inside the Student Union Office, you can hear the thumping from the recorded music on the second floor. It's break-time, the Ronnie Hawkins band members are relaxing between sets.

Outside the Barn by the back stairs dressed in a light windbreaker against cool breeze, Steve Thomson, Ronnie's manager, is up-tight. He is waving his arms but saying little. Oh, he wants to, but the words are blocked by the pent up anger he feels. You can tell by the look on his face.

"He's a legend of Rock N' Roll. He came here to give these kids a taste of real music, and where are they?" He pauses to catch a breath. "These supposed broad-minded students!"

Where are they is the question of the night, it's Thursday. Ronnie Hawkins, after 37 years of the best in Rock N'Roll, is playing at the Barn — to a half-full house.

Legends don't come cheap, but more important than the money was the chance to hear a first-rate band. Steve's flying now, "Holly Good should be commended, just

commended for an excellent job!" He starts pacing back and forth. "We're here because of Holly as a special favour, and at a fraction of our normal price." We walk around the corner to the back of the Barn where the band's bus is parked. Steve wants to get some promo material from a big black suitcase stuffed full of Ronnie's albums.

He gives me about a five page handout. There's a drawn look on his face, tired. The disappointment starts to show again. "It just hurts to not see the place full." We

head back around to the Student Union Office — its a quiet walk.

As we round the corner Ronnie walks out "Do I start after this one?" he asks, waving his hand thumb-up towards the second floor where the band has started. Steve listened to the music for a second, "No, the third song, then come in". He turns back to me as Ronnie starts back inside to the Student Union Office table, loaded with cold cuts and cold beer.

"Just tell'em, let'em know they should've have been

here. And ask'em, — where were they?" I surely will Steve.

