

GREAT PANTHER MYTH

Recently, there has been a great deal of controversy over whether or not the U.P.E.I. hockey Panthers are going to be playing in the dismal Charlottetown Forum or at U.P.E.I.- "The Home of the Panthers."

Pius Callaghan's sports column in the "Guardian" of October 27 expressed his desire, and the hope of a group of people called "us", to see the Panthers play all their seasons games in "Trainers Fitzroy St. Ice Palace" rather than at the U.P.E.I. "ice-house." According to him the "Atmosphere is just not good" at the college rink while "the old friendly Forum has a real hominess about it." He goes further to point out that because of the coldness and lack of seating in the rink "Out on the hill", many of the "folks" in the Charlottetown area have stubbornly refused to travel all the way out to the campus. "There are many people who don't drive their cars in the winter months and the difficulty of getting out to the rink on the hill is a bit much."

Too bad Pius! What about the students themselves? They pay an

average of \$300.00 a year to attend U.P.E.I., so why the hell should they be forced to travel all the way to Trainers Rat-rink and pay \$1.00 or more to see their team play when they can attend the games on campus for free! The "folks" in Charlottetown area don't pay a damn mentionable cent to the Athletic Department of U.P.E.I., so why should they receive any privileges? Sure, our rink isn't the most modern around, but at least "we" like the atmosphere. That's all that counts!!

Mr. Callaghan also says that he and many others take a "keen interest" in the progress of the Panthers. Horseshit!! He is only falling back on them be-

cause the now defunct Charlottetown Junior Islanders have gone to that "Great Dressing Room in

the Sky". He never gave a damn until this year. As far as transportation goes, 95% of the students don't have cars and the only means of travelling to and from town is by hitch hiking.

Mr. Callaghan must be withering with age or something because he says that a college rink is not the place for inter-collegiate games. If that isn't a stupid, ridiculous statement, then I don't know what is.

I only hope that his column will not be taken too seriously. He is obviously suffering from an acute case of malaria or something and this is the reason why he rants and raves so.

Keep U.P.E.I. as "the home of the Panthers"

I have also included two replies or should I say reactions of U.P.E.I. students concerning this issue as they appeared in the "Guardian" of the 28th & 29th of October.

RATHER RIDICULOUS

Sir: This letter is in regard to a sports editorial by Pius Callaghan which appeared in the Guardian, October 27. In it, Mr. Callaghan expressed the view that the UPEI Panthers would do well to take up permanent residence in the local downtown "ice palace". Why the sudden interest in intercollegiate hockey? Don't tell me that someone in Charlottetown has suddenly noticed that we play a pretty fair calibre of hockey out here "on the hill".

Admittedly, the UPEI rink is not a tropical paradise, but nobody has succumbed to pneumonia here yet. Also, we have better ice out here and the equipment for keeping it hard and fast than does the Forum. Mr. Callaghan also points out that there would be a better atmosphere at the Forum. Maybe the college atmosphere isn't Mr. Callaghan's cup of tea, but the students and faculty who make up the vast majority of spectators have never seemed to mind. Also, if such a move was made, most students would undoubtedly find it difficult to attend games in adverse weather due to lack of cars and even then it would be next to impossible to find a parking space when we got there. Perhaps the most interesting question of all is whether the students would be forced to pay admission to see the team, part of their fees go to support. No doubt the directors of the Forum have considered now that the Islanders have disbanded and the prospects of a lean year are a grim reality in their minds.

The UPEI rink has been the scene of many memorable games and the home of many fine UPEI and SDU teams. The thought of the Panthers moving down to

the Forum to play before people who have never expressed the faintest interest in college hockey before is rather ridiculous. UPEI is, and I hope always will be, the home of the Panthers.

I am, sir, etc.,

KEVIN J. MacAULAY

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As Pius says, "there may be better rinks in the maritimes - indeed many of them - but the old friendly UPEI rink has a real hominess about it that in any wildest dreams I couldn't conjure up for the Forum. In closing I would like to invite Mr. Callaghan to a game in which the atmosphere that he finds lacking is only too evident.

I am, Sir, etc.,

JOHN KING

15 Kensington Rd.

NOT SO ENTHUSED

Sir: This is a response to Pius Callaghan's article "Let Panthers Use the Forum".

In his article he referred to a body of people known as "us" who are greatly enthused to see the UPEI exhibition game scheduled for the forum. However, "I", a student am not greatly enthused over this game being held there or the idea of future games either.

I realize that there are many people who don't drive during the winter, but the majority of students don't drive at all and so would have some difficulty in going to "Trainer's Fitzroy St. Ice Palace." And since the UPEI hockey team represent the university it is important that students be able to attend.

I can only appreciate the loss that you "keen intercollegiate hockey fans who stubbornly refuse to go to the university rink" must suffer. However, the UPEI rink is usually amply crowded which shows that there are fans who are keener. Admittedly the UPEI rink is old and the seating isn't the best, but for these 300 people to stand there on chairs provided at one end of the rink.



"We have been getting busted every day now for the past few weeks. I can't help but feel that we've been infiltrated."