

EDITORIAL

Reality and the concert committee

It is about time the Concert Committee started telling the students of this campus the truth. And what is the truth? Very simply stated, this campus has neither the facilities nor the student population to support a big name concert.

But that is not what the committee says. According to the administration, the ballroom only holds about 800 and the gym only 2700. The stadium is no good until spring and even then you cannot guarantee that the weather will be suitable for a concert.

Just for the sake of argument, let's say that we could find some place to jam all those willing concert goers. That in itself is an anachronism. With less than 3,000 students on campus and a total population of less than 7,000, who exactly is going to buy all those tickets? If the show were held in the gym, that would mean selling a ticket to literally every on-campus student. And we all know how likely that is to happen.

But let's say, again for the sake of argument, that all those students are willing to spend a few bucks on a ticket, there crops up another problem. The cost. Thus far, ticket prices on campus have been around \$6.00-\$8.00 and there just are not that many students on this campus who can afford that much money.

To get people to come to a concert, you need a big name, to get a big name, you need facilities to hold a lot of people. And we do not have them. So while the committee can quote chapter and verse how they almost had all sorts of big names, it does not really matter whether they got them or not since they probably could not sell enough tickets and if they could, they have no place to put everyone.

So back to the hypothetical, let's say they actually got a big name, and figured a way to shoe-horn everyone into the gym or wherever. When it is over, how much did we make?

That is the easiest one of all. Nothing, if we're lucky we maybe broke even. Granted they have a decent sized budget, but with costs like security, the band, cleanup and a likely non-sellout they would have to subsidize the loss out of their budget.

But getting back to reality, (which we and the committee left so long ago), we cannot support a big name band on this campus. That is not to rule out the possibility that the committee could book a successful concert, currently BSG is negotiating a spring concert with The Clash. They do say they come close a lot. Chances are that they will continue to miss even if they can continue to justify or rationalize each disappointment.

The seniors who graduate this year will miss out and worse, the students who stay will continue to miss out. The committee justifies the lack of concerts by saying "But we're trying!" they seem to feel that is enough of an answer to the disappointed students. However, if they would face up to reality, they would not even need to justify anything. The sooner they admit that this campus can not support a

big name and that we do not have the facilities, the sooner the students will stop yelling and the sooner the concert committee can put their extraordinarily large budget to good uses.

Like what uses? More buses to Rochester concerts and other school's concerts and more smaller, but higher quality concerts for the ballroom specifically. However, much to the sorrow of the students, the committee seems to be no closer to reality. It's about time someone forced it on them and got this mess sorted out.

The truth hurts, but so do broken promises to students who are expecting something that they will, in all likelihood never get.

Represent the needs of the commuter students

In an efficiency motivated move, the BSG Board of Directors have removed a number of clubs from active status.

While it can be argued that the Board of Directors was acting in the best interest of all the students by weeding out the inactive clubs, who really suffers?

Granted, the board acted slowly and cautiously in removing clubs from active status, and they did make a concerted effort to contact the various clubs. But, because of the failure of certain clubs to respond, the board, determined their fate. The board should have looked more carefully at why certain clubs failed, and what can be done to prevent other clubs from being rendered inactive.

The commuting students should not be blamed totally for the failure of the Commuter Club. The blame must be shared with the Brockport Student Government. Commuters make up a large portion of the students who pay the mandatory fee, and they receive less return on their investment than those who live on or close to campus.

Commuters need to be included in student activities. There is no constituency of people who spend more time in the union during the day than the commuter students. But they do not spend Sunday night watching movies funded by the mandatory fee, nor do they come to Brockport to be bused to concerts in Rochester.

Instead, they are given a crowded union and snack bar to spend time in. In addition, little programming takes place during the hours the commuter students spend on campus.

Commuters at some schools have their own informal student government, at Brockport, they do not even get representation on the BSG Board of Directors. While it may be held, that three off campus seats exist on the BSG board for off campus and commuting students, none of them are actually earmarked for commuter students. Specific guide-lines should be set down to insure that a commuter, not an off campus representative receives one of the seats.

If the commuters have failed to run their club, then the student government must assist them in organizing and planning events. BSG must reach out to the commuters. They still exist even if the club failed.

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