

# NEWS

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## Computing Services making changes in services

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THE BRUNSWICKAN

Another hurricane has fizzled out, without causing any damage. Greg Sprague, Manager of User Services of Computing Services, would like students to reassure students of this.

One of the changes to UNB's computer services is that students no longer have to log on to either Hurricane or Spitfire, the two Novell servers used by students of different faculties last year. "All the clusters are on one network whereas students simply go and claim an account," he explained. "You don't have to worry about what server you're on."

Besides making it easier to log on, it will also prevent problems when one server goes down. "Before, if one broke and you were on it, you were out of luck," Kirby Keyser, Computing Service's Business Manager.

The Unix system, used primarily by students in engineering and science courses, is undergoing a similar change. Students are asked to log on to [unix.unb.ca](http://unix.unb.ca) now rather than specifying Jupiter or Sol.

"We may change the names, so we want to discourage people from thinking in those terms," Keyser said. Sprague added that the computer known as Jupiter is being retired and replaced by a newer version.

Other projects and changes include: the wiring of residences and study carrels so that students can hook up personal computers around campus; new frequent-user deals for campus net; site licenses that allow students to install software on their home computers; and the upgrading of Windows 3.1 to Windows 95. As well, Computing Services has made arrangements allowing students to use Campus Net from anywhere in the province without accumulating long-distance charges.

"We've done a lot of work upgrading labs, and opening more and more labs to all students, all over campus. We're building a new lab on the concourse overlooking the

science library in the IUC which should be opening mid-term with a whole bunch of Pentiums."

"The other thing we need desperately on this campus are classrooms with computers in them," Sprague said. "The Harriet Irving Library now has one, with 16 Pentiums and 32 chairs, and a Pentium for the professor."

Keyser clarified that these

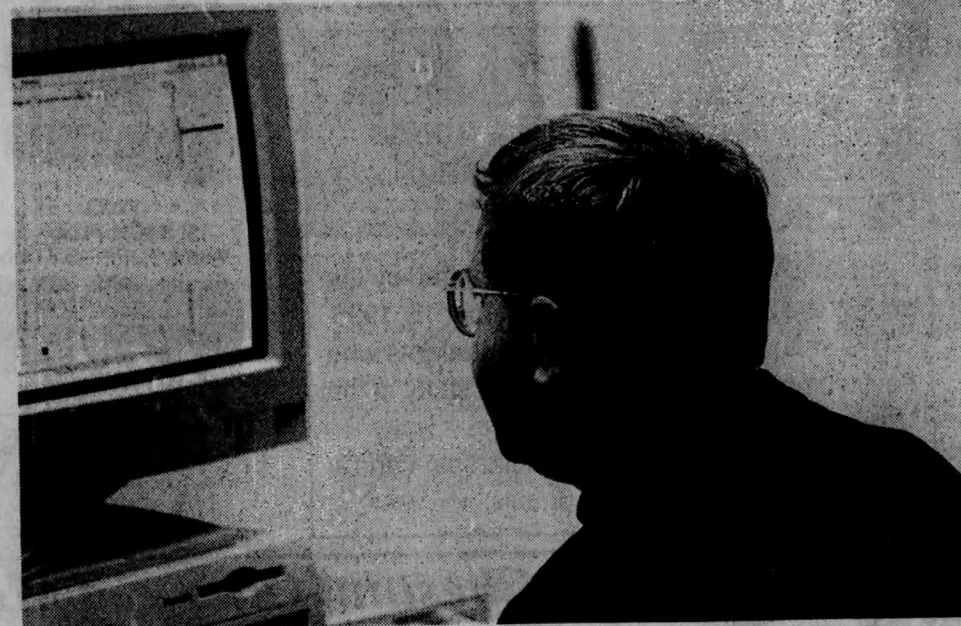
classrooms are not for everyday use, but can be booked by professors. "They use them once or twice a term so the students can learn a particular type of software."

Another change, brought about by student requests, is the installation of more laser printers. "Students wanted them, so we have some on order now," said Keyser.

As part of the shift to using laser

printers, CSD will now charge two cents per 2000 characters for the dot matrix printers.

"A page [of dot matrix printing] is about 2000 characters, but a graphic might be 50,000 characters, so it's much better to do graphics on the laser printer, which costs ten cents a page," Sprague said, adding that the revenue from the dot matrix printers would be used to purchase more laser printers.



This bemused computer user is checking his e-mail the new way.

JWJ FITZPATRICK PHOTO

## How to stay on Computing Services' good side

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THE BRUNSWICKAN

Do you want to lose your computer account?

When you first log on to your UNB account, you will be asked if you are willing to abide by CSD's policies. If you say yes, you're supposed to have read and understood them. The full text of proper account usage is also available in CSD's "green book" entitled "Introduction to Computing Services" and online at "<http://www.unb.ca/web/CSD/policies.html>".

Abuses of your account include using the computing facilities without due authorization; using,

trying to use, or snooping in someone else's account; deliberately wrecking equipment; plagiarizing; interfering with others' use; and using your account for corporate gain.

Greg Sprague, Manager of User Services at CSD, said CSD has spoken to some students about misuse, such as playing games. "Particularly when things get busy, we have to usher students out."

Another improper use, sending obscene or vulgar messages or pictures, is somewhat controversial because of problems arising from monitoring such transmissions. Despite rumours that e-mail was being censored for profanity, Sprague assures that it is not. Kirby Keyser,

Business Manager of CSD agrees. "Not that I'm aware of," they both said.

"I don't think that's ever been done at UNB," Sprague added. "We don't want to be the censor."

They admit, however, that they will keep an eye on users against whom complaints have been lodged.

"If someone gets unwanted e-mail and they make a complaint, we'll shut [the sender's] login id down. When [the sender] comes in, we'll talk to them and, if it's a particularly bad offense, we send them to their dean."

Sprague and Keyser also admit to monitoring the policies of other universities, to see how problems are dealt with elsewhere.

## Multimedia degree program off to a good start

ERINN GRAHAM

THE BRUNSWICKAN

Multimedia Studies, the latest program added to UNB's curriculum, is off to a good start.

This four year program, being phased in one year at a time, is a bit of an experiment for the university. Unlike other multimedia programs, the UNB program forces students to study the creative side of multimedia as well as consider the impact the media is having on society.

Barry Cameron, coordinator for

Multimedia Studies, feels that the emphasis on creativeness as well as technical knowledge will make multimedia graduates especially attractive to employers. Cameron also spoke of the mix of students in the class of 81. There are Computer Science, part-time, and first-year arts students, as well as students further into their arts degree. Cameron thinks this is important as it is likely that arts and computer science will have to interact in the workplace, and the mix of students in the program will help them to relate.

The multimedia program had more applicants than it could accept this year. Associate Dean Rowcroft realises this will be a popular program and would like to expand, but said resources are limited.

Rowcroft also spoke of visiting specialists, much like the writer-in-residence model, but with a multimedia background. Some of these speakers will be decided on over the next week.

Cindy Gates is a first year student in the multimedia program. "I don't

think it's what the computer programmers expected it to be," she said, adding that it might be going more slowly than they had hoped.

"In the future, when it's more organized, it'll be an excellent program."

Still, Gates finds certain aspects of the program "really exciting."

"By being in the class, you're getting exposed to a lot of philosophy. The workshops are really interesting, takes your everyday thinking and turns it on your head."

## Consumer's Guide: online but on track?

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The Consumer's Guide is like a castle with a crack in the foundation, and rather than repair it, the Student Union is tearing it down.

This is according to Shona Bertrand, Consumer's Guide editor from 1993 to 1995, who is afraid that the Student Union is bringing about the "death" of the project.

At a summer council meeting on July 20 and 21, a motion was passed reallocating \$3500 of The Guide's \$4300 budget. The Guide's budget for the 1995-1996 year was \$30,000.

According to Trish Davidson, VP Student Services, the information provided by the print version of The Guide has been put online, and a coordinator is being sought to distribute forms next year, but the project as a whole may have to be reviewed.

"Students have been questioning the feasibility of the publication with regard to the price students pay," she said. "Now that they have online registration in the spring, it's really difficult for us to do The Consumer's Guide."

"You can get the first term reports back from the students, but how do you get the second term back? It's got to be compiled, and most students pre-register in March. So where does the second term come from? Does it come from the year before, so it's always one year behind that last term?" Davidson asked.

Yes, said Bertrand. "For any given year, you'll always be a year behind."

Rather than have the first and second term of one year, she suggested, The Guide could display the second term of one year and the first of the next. "Pre-registration changes things, but you can work around it."

Another factor that may harm the future of The Guide, said Davidson, is the behaviour of last year's editor, Joseph FitzPatrick. FitzPatrick, who is currently Managing Editor of The Brunswickan, distributed a memo that caused several professors, and notably the faculty of engineering, to refuse to participate in The Guide. He suggested that cutting the summer position for someone to compile The Guide has done more harm. Either way, both agree that there will be no new information for The Guide this year.

"It still represents what is so important about The Consumer's Guide," said Davidson, "which is making profs feel like the students are trying to hold them somewhat accountable for how they teach and what they teach. It publicizes it for the students, and then it gives them a say."

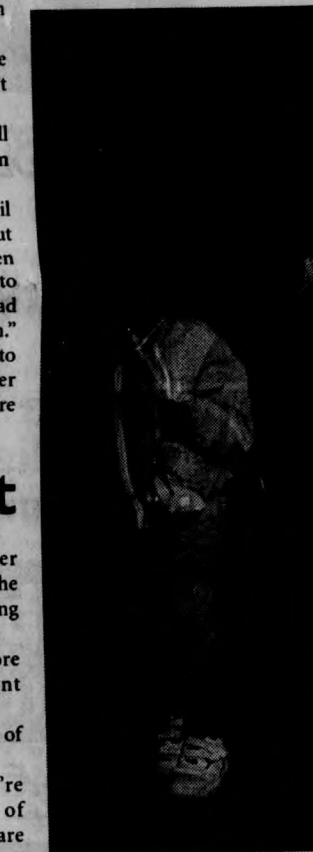
Bertrand agrees, but is disappointed that more effort was not made to fix the problems The Guide encountered.

"It's a really positive thing for students and professors, but it takes strong leadership at the top, and that's lacking."

## High stress girls shorter study shows

AMY MCCOMB

THE BRUNSWICKAN



Will this little girl's happiness be a major factor in determining her height?

AMY MCCOMB PHOTO

Young girls who suffer undue anxiety may grow up to be five centimetres shorter on average than their happier contemporaries. Boys do not appear to be affected. This new evidence has been recently reported in New Scientist by scientists at Columbia University, New York. The study demonstrates just how powerful the mind can be over the body. It is believed that the connection between anxiety and stunted growth could be hormonal. Earlier studies have suggested that anxiety depresses levels of growth hormone in the body. It is thought the fact that boys in this study were not similarly affected may be because they suffer far fewer emotional disorders than the girls. This said, it must be kept in mind that any disorder or illness that increases anxiety levels may be responsible for wreaking havoc with one's human growth hormone (HGH) level. For example, scientists have assessed HGH levels in children with other anxiety-inducing disorders such as dyslexia. In this study, significantly lower levels of HGH were present in the dyslexic children. Further research is currently being done to determine the link between anxiety and respiratory illnesses in children. It is yet to be determined whether anxiety is the cause or result of such diseases.

## Council Watch: football, illiteracy, transportation

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The majority of this week's council meeting was taken up with the issue of football. VP (External) Anthony Knight suggested that council reconsider last week's decision to hold a football referendum in the fall, pointing out that the No side would have more time to prepare if the referendum were postponed until the spring election. President Joie Hellmeister voiced the concerns of many councilors who felt students needed more time to review the issues. "I want students to be sure they are aware of what a long-term commitment this is," said Hellmeister. Other councilors, including Law Representative Cathy Clark, felt that the issue should be decided upon quickly, while it is still fresh. "If I can cram for an exam in two nights, I'm sure students can figure out the details of football in four weeks," said Clark. Council voted 12 to 7 to stand by its previous decision to hold the referendum in the fall. ... VP (External) Anthony Knight has been working on the "Don't Tax Reading" campaign. Councilors were recruited to encourage

students to send postcards to both the federal and provincial finance ministers. Booths will be placed throughout campus. ... UNB SU will meet with STU Council representatives October 3 to present further proposals for SUB expansion. ... VP (Finance) Monique Scholten reported that a recent Cellar Board meeting discussed the possibility of extending Cellar bar services to buildings other than the SUB. ... Hellmeister announced the initiation of Labatt-sponsored "Councilor of the Month" awards. Those councilors demonstrating the greatest dedication of time and effort will not only be recognized by Council, but will receive Labatt prizes. The awards are also open to representatives of SU-sponsored clubs and societies. ... Hellmeister also discussed Coke's sponsorship of the SU. The SU has been allotted 130 cases of Coke. SU-affiliated organizations may submit written requests for Coke a week before their event. ... Student Council voted unanimously to hire Mark Morgan as its publications, ads and design person. Morgan will update the SU web page and be available to all SU-affiliated organizations to

produce posters. An honorarium will be awarded for this position. ... VP (Student Services) Trish Davidson and VP (Internal) Anoushka Courage reminded councilors that there are a variety of positions still open to volunteers interested in working for the SU and that some of these positions come with honoraria. ... VP Davidson said that the health-plan opt out procedure has been paperwork intensive, but should hopefully wind down soon. She also announced that this year's student directory will be sent to the printer soon after she receives the data from the Registrar. Davidson suggested that council consider discontinuing the student directory next year, since students can now take advantage of UNB's web pages to get student and faculty information, instead of spending student fees on the printed directory. ... VP Knight addressed the Bank of Montreal's handling of student loans. The bank will no longer process student loans. This announcement has caused an inconvenience delay of 60 days for students who previously held loans at the Bank of Montreal. ... VP Courage announced the launch of

next week's AIDS Awareness Campaign. Councilors will be recruited to distribute condoms and red ribbons to students. ... President Hellmeister briefed Council on bus route changes proposed by Fredericton Transit. Fredericton Transit has proposed to reduce both evening and summer runs to UNB and STU. Hellmeister addressed the obvious problems such changes would pose for evening and summer students and circulated a petition, initiated by a UNB student, protesting the proposed changes. ... The President outlined plans for a Financial Aid Awareness week. Students will have the opportunity to listen to six bank representatives give free financial advice seminars. ... Hellmeister ended her report by suggesting that council consider meeting bi-weekly instead of weekly.

Council Announcements: The UNB Debating Union will be in Halifax this weekend. ... Engineers are hosting the 22nd Annual Coasting Derby this weekend. ... Council accepted the constitution of the UNB Chess Club. The new club will charge an annual fee of ten dollars and is open to anyone.

## Beaver Foods renovates dining halls

JOSEPH FITZPATRICK

THE BRUNSWICKAN

Students will notice shorter lines, better food, and faster service following the remodeling and retooling of the dining halls in McConnell Hall, Lady Dunn, and MacLeod House, according to Marc Hewitt, Food Service Director for the campus food services provider, Beaver Foods.

The rooms have been extensively remodeled and the equipment replaced with state-of-the-art facilities as part of a \$500,000 proposal made in Beaver's bid for the Food Services Contract last Spring.

Beaver won out over two other companies for the Food Services contract until 1999, with a possibility of renewal for three more. The value of the contract in 1994-95 was \$4.5 million. The proposals were based on the results of a survey done by Beaver Foods. "It showed our customers wanted more self-service areas, better quality food [among other things]," Hewitt said.

In addition, the University expressed an interest in improving the dining areas for residence students. "The University is interested in keeping the residences full, and a big part of that is food services," said Hewitt.

"They certainly needed them," he commented. "The University [felt it]

needed to bring facilities more into line with modern food preparation techniques and new concepts."

McConnell, which provides thousands of meals daily to students and faculty, was last renovated in 1984. The kitchen was rebuilt in 1989 following a fire. "The [service counter] was gutted to the ground and gravel and completely redone," said Hewitt.

The facilities are now equipped with the most modern equipment, including induction cooking, which produces no heat, but generates a magnetic field which causes metal pots to heat up. "It's an instant on, instant off technology," said Hewitt. "It combines the benefits of gas without the hassles."

Being completely electric means there are no propane tanks or gas lines to install or worry about. "It's a very efficient state-of-the-art system," he concluded. There is not only new equipment, but also new emphasis on display cooking, a method which allows the customer to see the food being prepared.

Beaver Food's executive chief was flown in from London from a two-day training workshop.

"There's a fair bit of learning [with the new equipment]," but mostly he says, it will be a matter of the staff getting used to where everything is. "The knives aren't where they used to be," he commented.