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Senate postpones Orientation response

by Mark I. Minor

A report entitled "UNB Orientation 1991 Overview and Recommendations" was submitted to senate for consideration on January, 7th, 1992 by Judith Potter, Assistant Dean of Students. The report addresses different aspects of the orientation program which is offered each fall to UNB's incoming first

year students.

The Brunswickian has learned that although the report was distributed to interested parties before its submission to senate, the 1992 Student Orientation Committee, chaired by Jeff Bujold, did not bring up any proposals for changes to its content. Bujold has subsequently reviewed the report and has written a nine page document of response.

Bujold emphasizes in his response that its intent is "not to condemn the UNB Orientation 1991 Overview and Recommendations, but to demonstrate that there are some serious flaws in the report." The response further states that "It is the opinion and the wish of the UNB Orientation Executive that the overview not be accepted completely as written."

Bujold was not completely dissatisfied with Potter's report. He commented that "Some of the recommendations, we concluded, were of great value ..."

Bujold pointed out certain parts of Potter's report that the 1992 Student Orientation Committee Executive disagreed with. Potter's assertion that "The Board of Dons recommends that the orientation period be shortened, primarily to reduce the extreme fatigue with which both first year students and orientation committee begin the academic year."

Bujold expressed his concern about the length of the period by stating that "the idea that both frosh and Orientation staff suffer from 'extreme fatigue' because of a six day long Orientation program does not convince me that the program should be shortened."

He argues that frosh have the opportunity to enjoy six to six and a half hours of sleep each night even if they attend the earliest morning event and the latest event on the preceding night. As well, he indicates that "the residences have quiet hours or 'no Orientation activity hours' from 12:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., thus allowing for sleep if one so chooses."

Another recommendation in Potter's report was to "Continue the commendable trend towards reducing alcohol consumption during the orientation period by making the Student Orientation Committee camping trip an alcohol free event." Bujold countered that

"we must be careful not to take too much away too quickly from those 160+ people (committee volunteers) who pay to partake in Orientation each year." Currently, committee members are requested not to consume alcohol during Orientation week. Last year, a committee member was expelled for consuming alcohol. Bujold fears that restricting the use of alcohol at events prior to Orientation week may be too much to ask. He says that although the Orientation Executive will "encourage, through alcohol awareness techniques, an alcohol-free camping trip . . . in order to ensure a positive turnout of volunteers for Orientation 1992, alcohol will not be banned at this year's camping trip." He adds, "There will be no suggestion of the need to bring or consume alcohol during the camping trip or in any of the orientation events."

Potter's report also recommends the implementation of "means of reducing the alcohol consumption at the outdoor concert (e.g. better lighting, use of more campus police). Bujold's response was that all that was "requested by the 'campus police chief' was done in 1991 and that "If financial aid is provided for more security, we are more than willing to do our part to solve this problem."

Other concerns were cited in Bujold's report. These concerned academic, parent and international student orientation. As well, Potter's

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"If You Love Education"

by Karen Burgess

Today is "If You Love Education" Day, a day for students province-wide to raise their concerns about the state of education.

At 2:00, the UNB Student Union and CFS-NB (Canadian Federation of Students) will hold a press conference, and shortly after will meet with Premier Frank McKenna.

UNB SU members will present the Premier with a giant Valentine signed by the Student Union Executive and students at the university.

Inside the card are five points which the students would like the government to address. The Valentine reads:

"If you love education, you will:

1) accept the recommendations given to you by the

MPHEC (Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission), which you help fund.

2) Reinstate the Student Loan Rebate Program.

3) Make a stronger commitment to student summer jobs in the province of New Brunswick.

4) Lobby the Federal Government to review the Canada Student Loan Program so that it reflects the financial needs of students.

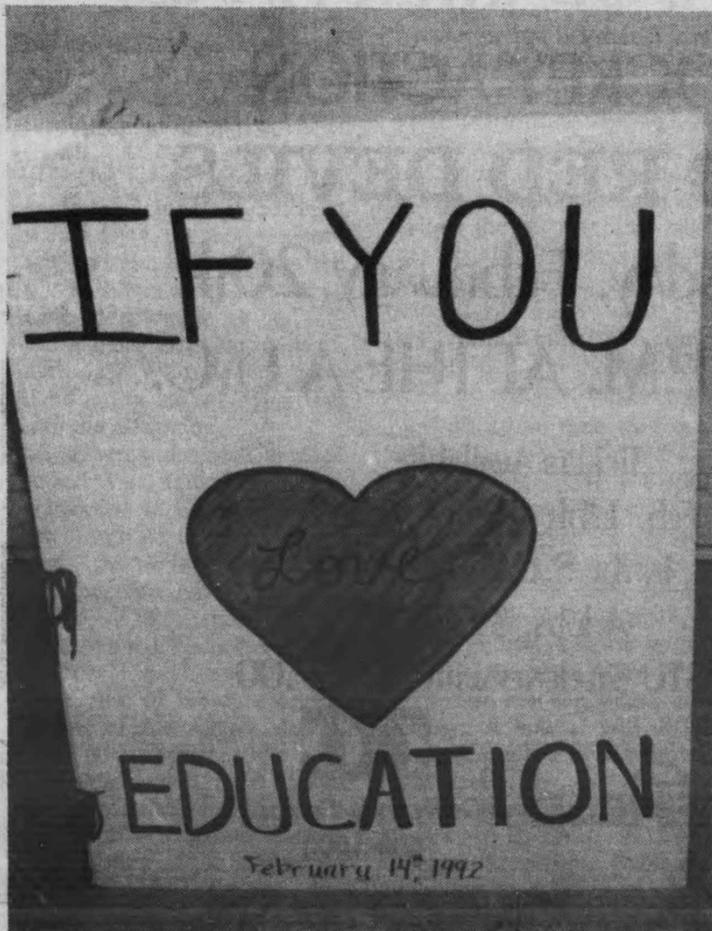
5) Live up to your promises - make education a top priority in New Brunswick.

Tammy Yates, VP External of the UNB SU invites students to sign the card, which will be being the cafeteria today until about 1:30. In addition, she points out that everyone is invited to respond to ads that will run today in the Telegraph Journal, The Daily Gleaner, The Moncton Times Transcript and L'Acadie Nouvelle.

Yates says these measures will help in "Keeping pressure up so the Provincial Government won't forget the plight of students."

STU has issued black arm-bands for all students to wear. In a press release from STU SU VP External Affairs, it is explained that the arm bands are "to symbolize the death to post secondary education as we know it" and to protest recent funding cuts to post-secondary education.

Other schools province wide which are members of CFS-NB are sending cards similar to that which is being sent by UNB, but will be addressed to different politicians.



Shown is a Valentine which will be sent to Frank McKenna by UNB's Student Union. The card is part of the SU's campaign to protest funding cuts made to New Brunswick's universities. James Rowan photo

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