

NEWS

Deadline: Wednesday at 12:00 noon. News Desk: 453-4983

By-law amendments could be positive

by Karen Burgess

SU Vice President University Affairs Anna MacDonald says the by-law changes proposed at the January 27 Council meeting could be positive for groups that would be affected.

Conflict between the SU's financial policy and its bylaws became apparent when GALA, UNB's Gay And Lesbian Alliance, made a request that its recognition be reconsidered because it, at present, cannot get ongoing financial recognition.

In a letter to VP MacDonald dated November 9, James Whitehead, Vice-President of GALA, says that the fact that the group cannot receive full financial recognition as a SU club or society violates a by-law which states that, "the union

recognizes the essential equality of all people" and that no discrimination on any basis will be tolerated.

After consulting the UNB Foundation for Students' lawyer, the Student Union proposed changes to both the financial policy and the by-laws which would preclude the funding and recognition, respectively, of any group which "restricts its membership, or discriminates within its membership, on the basis of gender, race, religion, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, age, family status, mental or physical disability or political belief."

A letter included in information handed to all councilors at the meeting named several groups that could be affected as a result of the by-law

changes, including political youth parties, GALA, the Muslim Students Association, and the UNB Navigators.

Also included in the information were several other proposed by-laws, which were not tabled and therefore are not currently under consideration, which would rescind the constitutions of the above-mentioned groups, as per recommendation of the SU's solicitor, on the grounds that their memberships are restricted.

Although the constitutions of these groups do not stipulate any restrictions on membership, MacDonald explains that the SU solicitor questioned "whether or not they were 'open' in the true sense of the word, just because of the nature of their affiliation."

MacDonald says, however that

the groups could be affected in a positive way by the new wording because these groups could apply for full financial recognition instead of only limited recognition as they have now.

MacDonald says that if the by-law amendments are passed, the GALA request will go to constitution committee and the council will be asked to make a ruling, based on the new regulations, on whether the group will receive full recognition.

MacDonald was then asked if there is possibility that council would use the lawyer's interpretation of the amendment when GALA's proposal was considered. This interpretation sees the group's membership as effectively limited, if not limited specifically by its constitution, and would exclude it from

recognition. MacDonald replied that it will be up to council to decide if the proposed by-laws pass:

"It (the council) could very well. There would be arguments on both sides at that point and the debate would take a definite turn in another direction," she said.

Ibrahim Helal, President of the Muslim Students Association, stresses that the MSA is not restricted in its membership, and that it does not promote a specific political point of view, but exists solely to accommodate people wishing to participate in Muslim prayers, or social and informational gatherings which address issues concerning the Muslim faith.

He stresses that the Association is very happy with its current

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Council discusses CHSR plebiscite

by Karen Burgess

At Wednesday night's Student Union Council meeting a motion was proposed that during the upcoming general elections, a referendum would be held to determine whether or not students would agree to continue funding CHSR.

The motion met with considerable contention with several members of council and representatives from CHSR speaking in opposition to the wording and intent of the proposal.

Another motion was proposed to request that the referendum be changed to a non-binding plebiscite, and it was proposed that a representative of CHSR be included in discussions on the wording of the question.

The original motion resolved that the referendum would read:

"Do you wish to continue funding CHSR-FM, UNB's campus/community radio station, at a projected cost to the Student Union for 1993-94 of \$76,071 (\$10.88/student)?" and was put forth by the Finance Committee in light of recent budget hearings.

James van Raalte, VP Finance of the SU explained that CHSR asked for the \$76,071 for next year because without this amount the station would function at a sub-standard level. He says the call for the referendum "stemmed from the fact that there is a difference of opinion between the council and CHSR. One option is that the council represents student views; the other is that we don't represent student views, that we represent our own views. So the Finance Committee decided to recommend to Council that we go to the students and ask them what their level of commitment was."

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African Student's Union presents seminar: Africa in the new world order

by V. Bowlin

On Friday, February 5, the African Student's Union of UNB Fredericton presented a seminar as part of a series of activities to highlight public awareness of the socio economic and political realities of African countries. The seminar was titled "Africa in the New World Order" and focused on the historical analysis of Africa's development up to the pre-colonial era; the present socio-economic and political situation and also on possible solutions to the various problems faced by these countries.

Chairperson of the event was Joy Mighty, Professor in the Faculty of Business Administration, UNB and the three themes of the seminar were presented by Keli Tamaklo (Ghanaian student in the MBA Program, UNB) Saul Mwakatpanya (M. Sc. engineering student) and

Godfrey Onyango - Matata also pursuing a post-graduate degree in engineering. One of the main objectives of the seminar was to examine Africa's role in the global economy and to analyze the means by which this continent can further the increased development of its resources for the benefit of its peoples.

All three speakers addressed some common concerns of African nationals - at home and abroad; including the rise of military power as a dominant form of government in many states and the high percentages of national budgets used to maintain these often repressive and despotic regimes; corruption of government officials and other people in high places to the detriment of developmental programs which focus on education, agriculture and industrial development. Concern was also expressed about the need for more efficient means of communication which could transcend religious and ethnic divisions. A member of the audience gave the example of the use of the Swahili language in her country, as an official language which greatly facilitated commerce and other trans-national activities.

Tamaklo's contribution to the seminar centred around the historical development of many African countries from hunting and gathering communities to pastoralism and domestication systems which were 'socialist' in nature. He further stated that the colonial rule of Africa which followed the insurgency of European nations into the continent led to the introduction of political, social and economic structures which were geared to exploit Africa's natural resources for the development of European nations.

Both Tamaklo and Mwakatpanya described post colonial Africa as being dominated by neo-colonialism in

which multinational corporations and international lending agencies assumed the power once held by European government officials. One member of the audience agreed with this line of reasoning and described the independence of African states as 'a farce', since underdevelopment was actively practiced in order to ensure that Africa would remain a major market for finished goods from N. America and Europe.

Mwakatpanya also spoke of the many political upheavals and the failure of multi-party system in countries where it was introduced. However, members of the audience were critical of his analysis, citing Rwanda as an example of countries where the transition from single party to multiparty state has been successful to date.

On a more positive note, Onyango-Matata advanced some suggestions which African nations could utilize in order to strengthen their economic and political base stating "Africa must pacify itself." His suggestions included closer political unity on a continental level through the Organization of African Unity (OAU) which could as a body renegotiate debt repayment schedules, seek better bargaining position in commodity markets and in general work out agreements with international financial and socio-political organizations which were more sensitive to the developmental issues of African countries.

In the question and answer period which followed it was evident that many African nationals were concerned with what could be done on an individual basis, since there were fears that many who returned highly trained in various professions were quickly co-opted into the system and lost sight of their ideals about helping to improve conditions

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EUS Kamikaze - Buchanan Field was the site of the Engineering Undergraduate Society's 4th Annual Kamikaze Down Hill Chair Race on Friday. This year's event saw a record number of racers, with 18 entrants in all.

Wendy Wright won first prize and the coveted "Head Kamikaze" title racing in the 'M.E. Express', and second place went to Team Kenyan and Leblanc.

Other prizes were awarded in the multiple occupant ski chair division, with top honours going to 'The Dynamic Duo', and the best wipeout category, which was won by the 'Civil Maddogs GNCTR Team.'

Another highlight of the event was an unusual entry from the Geological Engineers built from a bathtub and toilet ensemble. Kevin G. Porter photo.