

No more socials for Aitken House

By Erin Campbell

The events that led to the decision to withhold services from Aitken House Socials for the remaining academic year appear to have various interpretations.

Sheila O'Shea, director of the Student Campus Police says that matters "got out of hand" at the residence's thirty-fifth alumni reunion held in February. She reports that there was "a lot of drinking" on the part of past and present students. O'Shea says

that conduct during the reunion weekend was "not greatly appreciated" by the Campus Police staff and that for security reasons, they would no longer provide services for Aitken House events.

Ric Cuthbertson, the Bar

Services Manager, came to the same decision, stating as its cause "the nature of what went on." Cuthbertson does believe that blame for the troubles experienced at the reunion cannot be placed entirely on the alumni committee. He does, however, question the role of Aitken House's leadership, saying that they "did nothing" to rectify the situation.

Reunion committee members Craig Young and John Johnson say that there were no general problems encountered during the reunion weekend. Johnson says that the Campus Police should have known there was a possibility of excessive drinking at the reunion as the alumni "were not angels coming back to sit around."

Both Young and Johnson say that they were not informed of

any difficulties the CPs had until the reunion was over. The reunion committee requested documented complaints but have not received them. What problems that did occur, says Johnson, were caused by a "small number of people." He and Young believe the decision to

The Aitken House alumni "were not angels..."

— Johnson

STU bus pass referendum

UNB Student Union chooses not to participate

by Jonathan Stone

STU students will decide the fate of a proposal to include an all-year bus pass on their student ID cards.

A referendum will be held in conjunction with the March 17 elections asking students the following question:

"Do you support a two-year contract for unlimited ridership on Fredericton City Transit whereby all students of Saint Thomas University will pay a fixed rate of \$40.00 for year one, and \$45.00 for year two from September to August inclusive, to be added to your Saint Thomas Student's Union Fee?"

Fredericton Transit has been searching for agreements with both universities for a number of years, but this marks the first time a council has allowed the question this far.

UNB's Student Union decided that this proposal is not in their students' best interests, and has

closed discussion.

"They weren't as receptive to the idea as St. Thomas was. We gave them exactly the same offer, same prices and everything," said Rob Faulkner, Director of Transit and Parking Services for Fredericton Transit.

According to Tammy Yates, Vice-President External, the existing transit system "isn't remotely convenient" for students and that it is "too expensive."

She explained that at the time of talks between UNB and Fredericton Transit, the deal was \$50 over an eight-month academic year, significantly different from the one given to STU.

She said that besides being slow and infrequent, the buses do not run late enough, and some women feel unsafe waiting at stops at night, or walking from stops to their residences.

"Students who live outside of town end up paying for a service they cannot use," she added.

But she suggested that if these

conditions were to change, perhaps a deal could be reached.

Faulkner admitted that the proposal has some flaws, but pointed out some positive factors. "We recognize that that's not going to benefit everybody - obviously its not. But students have got to go shopping once in a while, they've got to go to the bus station, and they've got to get groceries."

He pointed out that parking fees at UNB are currently \$55 a year, that taking the bus would eliminate paying that fee and wasting extra money on fuel purchases.

"It's not a new expenditure to students, you can just spend it differently," he said.

Other universities in Canada have such programs, including Queens' and Trent. Yates argued that these cities have better overall transit systems, which are worthwhile for students.

STU Vice President Administration Les Connors said, "It's a blanket proposal, it affects all students for a whole year. People who don't use the system pay for people that do."

He added that there have been mixed reactions at STU, although only five people showed up at a public forum held on Monday.

Fredericton Transit praised STU for going this far.

"They agreed to at least take it to the students for a referendum," said Faulkner.

If the referendum question is supported by STU voters, Fredericton Transit is prepared to improve its' service to the campus.

"We're undertaking to do some things we can't afford to do, like building more bus shelters around that area and making sure our maps and schedules get distributed widely," said Faulkner.

"We would also make the same available to UNB if they chose to do that," he added.

Safe-walk? ...continued from page 1

women, but one who will make the caller feel comfortable with his presence.

"I usually choose from between three or four guys on my floor who I know are willing to do it, are really good guys, and are really talkative and friendly," he said.

Valerie Kilfoil, a member of UNB's Wimmen's Collective feels that the concept of the safe walk is only a superficial remedy for a deeper problem.

Kilfoil said that until men's attitudes about rape change, then escort services just further the illusion that women need men's protection. Instead, she said, attitudes which men hold regarding violence against women must change so that the need for protection can be eliminated. She pointed out that the majority of

by Karen Burgess

New Brunswickers have everything to gain by joining the Information Technology Game.

This was one of the messages contained in the presentation of Dr. Michael Caughey, speaker for the Dineen lecture entitled "The Information Technology Game, An Ex-New Brunswicker's View."

Over a hundred people attended the lecture Tuesday evening in which Caughey discussed advances in information technology and the resulting effects on society.

The lecture discussed studies which have found that computer memory chips quadruple in complexity every 2.5 years. The resulting technological changes have wide reaching economic and academic implications.

Caughey explained that communication advances, such as internet, extend "fabulous opportunities" to people across the world, and that the capability to communicate ideas globally has facilitated many of the world's recent social and economic upheavals.

Caughey discussed some of the challenges that innovators in the industry face in the promotion and marketing of information products. Caughey believes that the increasing technological

developments can immensely benefit business in Canada, and especially in New Brunswick.

With the expanded information and communication opportunities researchers and businessmen in New Brunswick can exchange and promote information and products on an equal footing with people in larger commercial settings. The provision of these opportunities for New Brunswickers Caughey says, is "historically as important as rural electrification."

Dr. Michael Caughey is an alumnus of UNB, graduating in 1958 with his BSc in Electrical Engineering. After graduating from UNB, he studied overseas on a Beaverbrook Scholarship, receiving his Diploma of Imperial College and his PhD in Electrical Engineering. He worked for fourteen years in Scientific and management roles at Bell-Northern Research in Ottawa. After leaving Bell Northern, Caughey worked for Mitel Corporation, served as founding president of the Ottawa Carleton Research Institute and established Cadence Computer Corporation (now CSI). Caughey then served for a year as president of the Information Technology Research Centre in Ontario, and in 1992 returned to the Ottawa Carleton Research Institute.

Aitken Centre asks for funding

by Jonathan Stone

The Aitken University Centre is short on cash, and is asking the city for some financial assistance.

The 17-year old facility, operated solely by the university, is operating with a deficit and has been for a number of years.

"We have had a subsidy every year since it started, and it's ranged anywhere from \$22 000 in a year up to almost \$200 000 a year," said Associate Vice-President Administration Eric Garland.

He estimated this to be between \$100-150 000 annually over the life of the building.

Garland said it is nearly impossible to gain enough revenue to cover the expenditures of the events, of which 70% are non-university.

According to university statistics, the AUC has housed approximately 1300 events for the City of Fredericton.

"The capital region has been getting a very good deal with having a building like the Aitken Centre own and operated by the university and available to the community," Garland said.

Fredericton Mayor Brad Woodside agrees, and acknowledges the need for some type of subsidy.

"There certainly has been a lot of public use, you know, hockey games, concerts and graduations. I have met with them (UNB) and the provincial government, and will be putting a task force to-

gether to look into the matter further," he said.

"Their (UNB's) request hasn't been that specific. They're dealing in two areas; in capital costs, and in operating costs. The building, being the age it is, requires some upgrading," he added.

Despite the deficit, both parties emphasized that the AUC is in better financial shape than most facilities in the area.

"When you look at it and compare it with other facilities of comparable size in similar places in the Maritimes, the Aitken Centre is being operated as efficiently and effectively as we can," said Garland.

Woodside concurred, "I think the Aitken Centre, from a deficit perspective, is probably one of the best facilities in Eastern Canada, and probably one of the best in the country."

Even if the city decides to allocate funding, this will not take place until 1994, after next fall's city budget process.

Furthermore, the city is already in the third year of a five-year \$300 000 grant to the recently completed Wu Conference Centre.

The original costs of opening the AUC were \$4 846 000, which came from the Canadian Beaverbrook Foundation and the Chancellor, the Associated Alumni, a government grant and a special 'seat sale'.

The city's task force and the university must now negotiate an agreement and work towards alternative funding approaches.

the escort service. The fourth year student, who says she has used the escort service several times in the last year, commented that she would feel safer if she knew the escorts had been interviewed to determine their attitudes about women, or if their backgrounds had been checked for former criminal offences.

She said though that the service as it exists is "better than nothing", and that she has "no complaints" with the times she has used the escort service.

MacInroy said that in the two years that the service has been in operation they have received an average of 12-14 calls per week. He said there have been no complaints or confrontations reported with the existing system.