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Bruns Bits

Remember folks, this is the last regular edition of *The Brunswickan* this term. We wish all of our readers Happy Holidays. Good luck on your exams, and look for us in the New Year.

Have a happy holiday, Be careful on the ice 'Cause otherwise you'll slip and fall, And that would not be nice!

Bassett cries foul, quits

by Joe FitzPatrick
Co-News Editor

Nahie Bassett had submitted her resignation as Vice-President Finance and Administration to the Student Council, effective noon today.

"I feel that this organization is lacking and I can no longer continue to share myself with the Union," she said in a prepared statement to Council on Tuesday, November 28.

The resignation follows a series of unanswered questions about the financial health of the Union, the accuracy of the Budget, the implications of large overtures and, recently a document obtained by *The Brunswickan* which contains allegations of violations or non-enforcement of 36 sections of the Financial Policy. The Bylaws hold the VP Finance and Administration as

"responsible for the enforcement of the Financial Policy of the Union."

These allegations include: Union funds were spent without Purchase Orders, items went over budget, expenditures were made without line items, expenditures were made without Council authorization, and expenditures of the executive were not reported to Council, monthly operating reports were not presented to Council as they were completed, travel per diem was not respected, and the Student Union audit has not been published.

Bassett bitterly recounted her experience as a member of the Executive, and indicated how they had changed her. When she ran for the position, she remembers being a student with "lots of energy, enthusiasm and great ideas." Now, she is openly accused of

"incompetence and inconfidence [sic]" and is disheartened by "criticism and [the] condemnation of councilors."

Above all, Bassett decried the methods by which these allegations were brought to light. "Not once did any of you who feel that I am not what you expected, communicate this to me," she said.

She went on to attack the behavior of Council. "Well councilors that is definitely quite the system you have. Very mature I must admit. Form your committees, say nothing for a term then bring it all out in the open at once. Very professional. The communication you have is amazing, and obviously quite rewarding, considering the Vice-President External Affairs resigned, the Chief Executive Officer [sic: Chief Returning Officer] resigned, one councilor was dismissed and will no

longer acknowledge her affiliation of the Student Union."

The Vice-President External, Pat FitzPatrick, resigned on November 6 following allegations regarding his use of the Student Union credit cards, for which he was later cleared. The Chief Returning Officer, Troy Woodside, resigned after a fine he imposed was overturned. Councilor Julie Parent (Science) was dismissed after missing nine consecutive meetings of Council.

According to Bassett the Student Union "... has become an institution and is treated as having a set [of] routines whereby most of the people affiliated [with the Union] are taking advantage of these routines."

Bassett refuted an allegation that her application for employment to the

see Bassett, page 4

Consumer's Guide memo upsets faculty

by Cynthia Kirkby
Co-News Editor

The 1996 Consumer's Guide is already controversial, and it hasn't even been compiled.

"Approximately two dozen professors" have responded unfavourably to a memo issued by Guide editor, Joseph FitzPatrick to 825 faculty members. The memo, issued on November 27, stated that

professors who did not want to be included in the Guide must respond through a certain procedure by 5:00 PM on November 29. FitzPatrick also wrote that "teachers declining to participate will have their names published in *The Brunswickan*."

"The reason I wanted to print it in *The Brunswickan* was because I don't believe there to be any reasonable excuse for not participating," FitzPatrick said. "Since students know

which profs participate and so do the faculty, I fail to see why the publication of names would be problematic."

Several faculty members have protested this logic. Dr. John Christian, Acting Dean of Engineering, issued a memo on November 28 asking "All Professors, Instructors, Secretaries in the Faculty of Engineering" to "please disregard the deadline given in the memorandum from Mr. Fitzpatrick."

"The Consumer's Guide is badly managed, starting with the Very Poor column being transposed with the Very Good column," said Christian. He called FitzPatrick's attempt to rectify the situation a "flippant apology."

Christian also disapproved of the wording of the memo, stating that the word "must" is "not applicable" in reference to opting-out of the Guide, which began as a strictly voluntary project. "4 years ago, I was the first person contacted with the Consumer's Guide. [Shona Bertrand] came to see me about starting the guide, and she assured me it would be voluntary."

As well "the memo was dated the 27, but quite a few of the faculty, myself included, saw it on the 28." He added that there were probably some professors who had not read the memo before the deadline. "I am advising professors and instructors to disregard the deadline."

Christian deferred to VP Academic Louis Visentin for further comment. However, Visentin was unable to be reached for comment.

FitzPatrick has refused to apologize for his behaviour. He responded to Christian with another memo, addressed to the members of the Faculty of Engineering. "Please be advised, that despite the threat made by your Dean, John Christian, to 'not allow the evaluation in Engineering,' the Student Union believes it is not within his power to censor your mail."

FitzPatrick further stated that "the idea was to make opting out a hassle, and therefore you would not do it. Same thing [for the short notice before the deadline.] I don't believe profs should have a choice. More correctly, I don't believe there's a choice to be made."

Despite the unfavourable response, FitzPatrick is optimistic. "At the very least, it has significantly raised faculty awareness of the project."

A path through the woods



A well-lit, snow-free, scenic short-cut

photo by Mike Dean

by Cynthia Kirkby
Co-News Editor

Travellers between UNB and STU may have noticed the path through the woods linking the two universities was recently torn up and littered with machinery. This minor inconvenience was necessary to make the path safer for students to use. And with new gravel and lighting, it is

Mike Ryan, Associate Vice President Campus Services and Planning, said that the problem was first brought to his attention by STU President Daniel O'Brien. "Dr. O'Brien called me and asked me if I'd come out and look at the area. The roots were a hazard, and it wasn't particularly well-lit. Chantale Walker [VP University Affairs] had been involved in a campus safety audit for an

over-all lighting assessment. This was an area of major concern."

"The path probably cost about \$1,000," Ryan said. "It wasn't a matter of just throwing in a couple of wheelbarrows of gravel. We had to remove the roots, and make the path wide enough for snow-removal equipment to keep snow off it in the winter." The cost was absorbed by UNB.