

NEWS

News Editor: Jonathan Stone, Deadline: Wednesday Noon

Refurbished Placement Centre to open

by Gordon Loane

UNB's Placement Centre started out this year in what is a new home, located in the old Neville Homestead.

The staff are holding an open house today, so students are encouraged to visit the historic two-storey white and green house which belonged to long-time UNB groundskeeper Fred Neville.

The management of the centre has some advice for those looking for a summer job or something a bit more permanent.

"The job market remains very tight and is expected to stay that way again this summer, so start looking now," said David Bonner, the director.

"There seems to be more optimism out there among employers this year," he said, "There's a feeling that the worst of the recession may be over. Unfortunately, I can't say that this optimism has yet translated into more jobs."

Bonner said most of the permanent jobs available this year are in engineering, computer science, business, forestry and general arts. "The private sector seems to be hiring some, but the public sector is very slow."

But the education field has been particularly hard hit.

"There are teaching jobs out there, but they're mostly in remote and northern communities. There are some supply positions available as well. I know it's small consolation, but the trend in education should improve in the next few years as more teachers retire," Bonner said.

While academic achievement and technical skills are certainly

important, Bonner said employers are generally searching for well-rounded applicants no matter what faculty they graduate from.

"A well-rounded student has interpersonal and communication skills," he said.

To help students with that all-important search, the Placement Centre has just installed a new computer and printer which is linked to the federal job bank.

"The job bank lists permanent jobs by both occupation and location," said Bonner. "If a student sees a job they're interested in, they can get an immediate print out," he said.

The computer purchase was made possible thanks to a \$3500 grant from UNB's Futures Fund.

Two large bulletin boards dominate two walls in the room. One bulletin board lists permanent jobs, while the other lists summer and part-time jobs. Both bulletin boards are currently well over half full of job notices.

And the wall contains stacks of information, listed in alphabetical order, of over 200 potential employers. Directories and addresses on smaller companies are also available.

"The upstairs contains four interview rooms that are used by various employers at different times of the year," Bonner said.

Nearly 300 employers looking for permanent or summer help use the Placement Centre each year.

Finally, there is a self-help centre where tips on preparing resumes and cover letters are provided, as are job search and interview techniques.

"We have a stack of video tapes provided by various companies that are available for viewing," said

Bonner. "We also refer students to career counselling when we feel it's appropriate," he said. Career counselling is located in the Alumni Memorial Building.

"We also have a photo copier available for students use," Bonner continued.

The Placement Centre also provides services for UNB graduates for up to two years in conjunction with the Associated Alumni.

"Graduates still looking for jobs or seeking a job change can register with us and be referred," Bonner said.

Despite the services being provided, a dark cloud hangs over the centre's future because the federal transitional funding grant runs out in April. It will now be up to UNB to pick up the centre's operating budget.

"We've submitted a budget in the \$60,000 to \$70,000-range for next year," said Bonner, "We should hear an answer in the next few months."

The centre employs three full-time staff during the school year, including a manager, an employment counselling assistant and a reception clerk.

In the meantime, at least one student leader is optimistic about the centre's future.

While UNB faces an operating deficit next year estimated at 2.5 to 3 million dollars, student union Vice-President Pat Fitzpatrick said the university has received some new funds of late.

"The university will not be operating a health plan next year because students will operate their own CFS plan. Some \$250,000 is the potential cost saving for the university," Fitzpatrick said.



A student uses the computer job bank in the new Placement Centre. The Centre's Open House is today. Photo by Mark Bray

No membership fees for STU students

STU taps into Pub

by Gordon Loane

The Saint Thomas Student Union and its UNB counter part are negotiating a joint management and financial agreement aimed at operating the 'Pub in the Sub' next September.

Word of the negotiations comes one week after the UNB Student Union received approval in principle to take over the pub from the UNB administration.

The UNB SU's proposal was accepted over that of the only other bidder, the College Hill Social Club.

While negotiations are not yet complete, STU hopes to get several positions on the new pub's Board of Directors with UNB.

"The President of the UNB and Saint Thomas SU, and two Vice-Presidents would constitute a hiring board to hire the new Pub manager," said Melanie White, Student Union President for STU.

In addition, Saint Thomas would share one third of the monthly operating cost of the Pub, while UNB would pay two-thirds.

"Our loss would be no more than \$5000 per year as a part of the operating deal," White told the Saint Thomas Student Council this week.

White cited a long list of additional benefits.

"We would be full partners in the pub and would not need associate memberships. Associate memberships would cost each student \$15 plus an event charge at the door. With this deal the cost of membership would be zero," she said.

"Saint Thomas students would be able to seek employment at the pub," White said. "We would also be able to expand our alcohol awareness program."

"This would be a perfect facility for bands and other live acts," she said.

STU Vice-President Administration Kelly Lamrock, in supporting the deal, asked council not to be scared off by the thoughts of some financial loss at the pub in the first years of operation.

"I suspect there are few pubs who make a real profit in their first years of operation," he said. "It's a sweet deal for the Saint Thomas SU," he continued. "There's no capital investment, our losses are limited to \$5000 and the cost of membership will be zero," Lamrock said.

STU's Council agreed unanimously to allow the negotiations to proceed towards a deal with the UNB SU.

STU students asked to contribute \$15

STU to hold referendum on expansion fee

Brunswickan staff

Students at Saint Thomas University will join their counterparts at UNB and be asked to approve a SUB Expansion fee in a referendum, to be held in conjunction with spring student elections.

STU students will be asked for a \$15 yearly fee. That's less than the \$25 annual fee being requested at UNB.

Kelly Lamrock, Vice-President

of the Saint Thomas Student Union, has been appointed Campaign Co-ordinator for the referendum.

In seeking approval for the referendum and urging STU students to vote "yes," Lamrock told the regular weekly council meeting of expansion benefits.

"Our shared services with UNB would be improved in a new facility," he said. "Eventually we should be able to improve services by adding a pharmacy, health centre and

maybe a bookstore or bank. It will also give Saint Thomas students a say in an expanded SUB," he continued. "It looks like it will be some time before a new building will be added at Saint Thomas to house these services."

In addition, Lamrock said student clubs and organizations at STU could benefit from new space for their activities.

But before approving the SUB referendum question, several student councillors raised concerns. Some wondered about first-year students next year who must pay the fee yet won't have a say at referendum time this year.

At least one councillor was concerned about space for Saint Thomas students in an expanded SUB.

"We won't pay a fee for a new building like the one opening today at STU and get little or no student space in it, will we?" one councillor questioned.

A Brunswickan Reader Poll

The Student Union Building will be 25 years old on Saturday, January 29. A number of events are planned to commemorate the anniversary of the SUB. In stories in this week's News section, the future for SUB expansion rests on the passing of a referendum, to come later this spring. In it, students will be asked if they would contribute \$25 annually until the mortgage of the new expansion can be paid off. Provided all goes well, this is estimated to take 30 years. As well, STU students will face a similar referendum to approve a \$15 annual fee as their share. What would you vote? Why? Submit responses to the News Editor at the Brunswickan office, Room 35 of the SUB. We will examine them and print the results in a future issue.