

# NEWS

THE BRUNS ONLINE: <http://www.unb.ca/web/bruns>

## Tax on books here to stay

GORDON LOANE

THE BRUNSWICKAN

It looks like the federal government is not about to back down and eliminate the federal portion of a tax on books when the new Harmonized Sales Tax takes effect next April.

That was the message delivered by New Brunswick's Minister of Youth and Literacy Georgie Day when she attended a meeting of the Youth Council of New Brunswick last week.

Anthony Knight, UNB Student Union Vice President External, attended the Youth Council meeting, and said the Minister and the

provincial government are still opposed to a provincial tax on books.

"But the Minister did tell us that it does look like there will be a federal tax, meaning that the seven per cent we all pay now will most likely stay," said Knight.

Knight said the news is disappointing but he would rather see a seven per cent tax than the 15 per cent tax that is being proposed under the HST.

Knight also told the Provincial Minister that he thinks Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin's argument is weak when he claims that some \$140 million in annual revenue would be lost if the tax is eliminated.

"I think there are benefits of having a society that has a greater access to reading material," he said.

The Provincial Minister also told the youth gathering that the Federal Minister is concerned about where the line on reading materials should be drawn in tax policy.

"Should the tax be eliminated on just text books or is it CD-Roms too, or is it magazines of all sorts?" Knight asked, citing just a few examples.

Knight said he told Minister Day that it might be better to shift the focus on eliminating the tax to text books and educational materials.

### With no other candidates coming forward

## UNB SU appoints Grad Class Executives

JOSEPH FITZPATRICK

THE BRUNSWICKAN

Jeff Clark and Blair Larsen have been appointed interim President and interim Vice-President of UNB Grad Class 1997 by the UNB Student Union Council.

The decision to make the appointments interim was made after a motion to appoint them permanently was defeated at Council on Tuesday. A similar motion to appoint Clark and Larsen to the positions was defeated at Summer Council.

Vice-President (University Affairs) Anoushka Courage put forward the motion to appoint Clark and Larsen. She cited the risks of waiting for an election, and the fact that only Clark and Larsen have expressed interest in the positions as primary reasons for attempting to appoint the President and Vice-President of Grad Class.

SU President Joie Hellmeister disagreed with Courage's assessment. "These positions represent students, and students should have a say in [who they are]."

Hellmeister also pointed to the fact that Clark was Vice-President of Grad Class 1996, and was currently a member of the UNB Foundation for Students, and Chair of the Anti-Poverty Foundation. Courage responded by saying Clark had fully intended to graduate last year, but in the end, he did not.

Vice-President (External) Anthony Knight pointed to the difficulties that Grad Class had in organizing its activities last year, and noted that they had started in August, whereas it



Responsibilities of Grad Class include choosing, promoting and fund-raising for an annual Grad Class Project. Last year, over \$10,000 was raised to install two benches and lampposts in the main square in front of Harrison and Bridges residences. J.W. FITZPATRICK III PHOTO

would be at least November before Clark and Larsen would be seated.

Several Councillors, including Law Representative Cathy Clark and Arts Rep Shelley Wells, expressed concern that Council, which is not exclusively composed of graduating students, would appoint Executives which would otherwise be elected by only the members of graduating class.

However, records indicate that a move by Council to appoint Grad Class Executives is not out of the ordinary, and several Executives

in the past few years have been appointed in such a way.

The alternative choice of making Clark and Larsen interim was initiated by Arts Rep Jonathan Bishop, who moved that Larsen be appointed interim Vice-President. Bishop argued that Larsen could organize a general meeting of the Grad Class, and Clark could be run for election at that time.

The motion was expanded to include Clark, which, in the opinion of the majority of Council, was a feasible compromise.

### HIP DIAL update

JOSEPH FITZPATRICK

THE BRUNSWICKAN

Would you like to drop your second term of 1995-96 courses? And how about settling down to a good film, like *Jumanji*, now playing at the Loonie Movie?

This information, and other similarly outdated advice, is available apparently free of charge from HIP-DIAL, the UNB Student Union's information line, which has not been updated since the beginning of February.

New information obtained by *The Brunswickan*, however, indicates that the lapse in service may not be so cheap. Although the per use charge of 25 cents is paid through a sponsorship deal with NB-Tel, there are recurring charges of \$166.25 per month.

Given this number, the SU is contributing \$2,000 to NB-Tel for HIP-DIAL. In 1995-96, the UNB SU contributed \$8,500 to the bottom line of the crown corporation, making HIP-DIAL one of the major expenditures. Although the total office budget increased by \$3,000 this year, it is not clear how much of this increase was due to phone charges because the Office budget, for the first time in five years, was not broken down. It also not clear whether the phone budget was exceeded last year, because the 1995-96 Audit has not been released.

Although usage from HIP-DIAL, which is available from NB-Tel, has been requested from Vice-President (Student Services) Trish Davidson, the VP in charge of the service since last term, she has yet to make them available.



The UNB Woodmen's Competition takes place on October 19 in the parking lot below Chapman Field. Pictured above is a member of the UNB team practicing his art. DREW GILBERT PHOTO

### CASA policy conference

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Lydon is urging students to get involved with the current postcard campaign which urges Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin and provincial Finance Ministers to scrap the tax altogether.

Delegates at the Fredericton conference also passed resolutions calling on the federal government to make Student Union fees tax deductible.

Students also urged the federal government to change its policy with respect to the Education tax credit. Currently each student has a yearly credit of up to \$3,000 and can pass the unused portion on to a parent or guardian.

Students think the unused portion of the tax credit could be accumulated and used after graduation.

"This would really help students who may be in low income tax brackets and really need the tax credits when they are just getting started," said Kelly Foley, Vice-President Education of the University of Waterloo Federation of Students.

Students are also seeking changes in the Employment Insurance program.

"Full time students should not be paying into Employment Insurance if they cannot collect it," delegates affirmed.

"E.I. deductions from students should be refunded in its entirety as a tax rebate," the resolution further stated.

Student leaders from McGill University in Montreal asked the conference to pass a resolution affirming the right of Canada wide mobility on student loans.

Currently, the Quebec government does not provide student loans for those who wish to study outside the province if a similar study program is also available in Quebec.

"This current policy limits a student's freedom of choice," said Chantal Da Silva, Vice-President External of the Student Society of McGill University.

Delegates also voted on resolutions for a national vision for post-secondary education.

Students urged action at the federal, provincial, inter-provincial and university levels on such issues as institutional and teacher accreditation, distribution of resources, innovation funds, life long learning programs and the effect of differential fees on accessibility.

## Council Watch

Kate Rogers  
The Brunswickan

This week's council meeting was called to order by newly appointed Council chair Bob Prince. Council's first order of business was to welcome Prince, along with council's other recent addition, secretary Julie Levesque.

### Student Services

Once again, the Health Plan headlined council's agenda. Vice President (Student Services) Tricia Davidson announced that forms have been sent into Blue Cross, and health cards should be available in the main SU office October 21. In order to make the health plan opt out an even better service, Davidson requested council's input in a forth coming questionnaire on the student health plan. Davidson also requested council's advice on another issue arising from the opt out procedure. Davidson reported that approximately ten students have approached her since the deadline asking that they be allowed to opt out despite having missed the deadline. A few students pled their cases before Davidson explaining that they just were not able to make it to the SUB office the day of the deadline due to reasons such as having the flu, or a cold. Davidson says she understands the significance of a \$95 rebate.

"But, it's the principle of the concept. If we allow these ten students to proceed with the health plan opt out, others will want the same favour, making our deadlines insignificant". Councillors agreed that two months is plenty of time to complete the ten minute procedure of opting out.

On that note, Davidson added that she and four other executives were impressed by a visit to Health Services this week. The Health Services Department hosted a tour of their newly renovated services.

Davidson also reported on a meeting with International Student Advisor Kay Nandall. Davidson proposed that council form some sort of scholarship fund designed to give financial assistance to refugee students. Davidson suggested that an annual fundraiser be held on Halloween or Valentine's Day in support of this cause. Davidson also urged councillors to promote UNB's WWW site to their constituents. The site is graphically based, but not well known.

### External

VP (External) Anthony Knight reported on CASA's quarterly meeting held this past weekend here in Fredericton. CASA refined two national policy statements. Knight explained that these statements provide CASA's reps with a definite direction as they meet with MP's and other policy makers. CASA members agreed that emphasis must be placed upon differential fees and governmental assurance of accessibility. CASA also finished up other business here in Fredericton, releasing a press release on the issue of Pat Fitzpatrick. The release was signed by Kelly Lamrock and all present members of CASA.

Knight also reported that he and Joie Hellmeister met with STU council to ensure STU participation in SUB expansion. STU council agreed to continue to monitor the process. Another Committee meeting is set for October 21.

### Finance & Administration

VP (Finance & Administration) Monique Scholten distributed this month's operating report, adding that there are no major debts.

### University Affairs

VP (University Affairs) Anoushka Courage reported that she is busy placing students on committees. Courage announced that either side of the football campaign is allowed a \$300 budget with which they may attempt to sway voters to vote yes, or no to university football. Election nominations will be held October 14 to 15, and campaigning will run from October 26 to November 4. Advanced polls will be open November 4, and the official polling period will be November 5 and 6. Courage also briefed council on this week's joint Health/Safety meeting. Courage said there have only been 11 student accidents, most involving alcohol. "Surprise!"

### President

President Joie Hellmeister reported on a busy week also. Hellmeister reported on her meeting with student mentors last Sunday, praising them for their dedication. "I would be a student mentor too, if only my GPA were higher!" she said.

On the note of academics, Hellmeister requested that a marketing committee be established. Hellmeister reported that she hardly makes it to class anymore! Hellmeister also met with the residents of Harrison House last week, urging them to take advantage of their student fees and invest in Student Union facilities. Hellmeister added to VP (External) Anthony Knight's summary of CASA's weekend conference reporting on the National Vision Conference she attended.

Sporting a flashy new jacket emblazoned with the logo of Alexander Keith's, Hellmeister announced that the spot for councillor of the month has been extended to student of the month. Any student involved with some aspect of university life is eligible. Applicants must have one other person to verify the applicant's list of student related activities. Hellmeister stated that the jacket is October's prize, adding that no, she doesn't wear the jacket around campus. In other business, Mark Morgan and Eugene Davis were affirmed as Students at large members of the UNB Student Union Finance Committee.

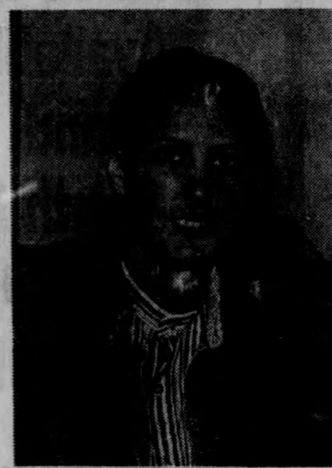
Council ended on a sombre note as Arts representative Brent Bishop submitted his resignation. "To this end, I, due to circumstances beyond my control, am no longer able to put the ample amount of time and energy necessary to contribute positively to this forum and represent the Arts faculty in a most effective manner." He said, reading from his letter.

### Most heavily-debated motion

Council addressed the issue of 1997 Grad class elections. VP (University Affairs) Anoushka Courage motioned that Jeff Clark be appointed Grad Class President '97, and Blair Larson be appointed as Vice President. Although no one disputed the qualifications of either applicant, controversy arose when it was noted that the appointment would be prior to fall bi-elections. Councillors were concerned about appointing electoral offices. Council felt it was not their responsibility to appoint individuals on behalf of an entire grad class. Thus, a motion was passed to have Clark and Larson, upon their approval, act as interim until fall bi-elections.

### Council quote of the week

"It was a complete success. They took full advantage of me for over two hours!"



TERRY SULLIVAN PHOTO

SU President Joie Hellmeister, describing this week's Student Union promotional at Harrison House.