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Weekend Weather

It will be cold and cloudy on Friday, with light winds and highs near -9. On Saturday, expect frigid temperatures ranging from -18 to -8 during the day. Sunday will be cloudy, with a chance of flurries, with temperatures between -19 to -6. Have a wonderful weekend!

Brunsbites

- Tuition this year is \$2350, an increase of \$250 over the previous year.
- Tuition in 1990-91: \$2100
- Tuition in 1988-89: \$1975
- Tuition in 1987-88: \$1775
- Tuition increase since 1987: \$575.
- The Canada Student Loan maximum loan amounts are based on what it cost to go to university back in 1984.
- The New Brunswick provincial government has announced it may eliminate bursaries and replace them with loans—further increasing student debt loads.

-Numbers courtesy UNB Comptroller's Office.

Bursary program to be cut?

by Karen Burgess

Concerns have been raised over the New Brunswick government's plans for the future of its student loan bursary program.

A February 17 press release from the UNB Student Union discusses a meeting, held in Fredericton on Tuesday night, to get public input on the recently released Excellence in Education Report on higher education. The release outlines a revelation by Minister of Advanced Education and Labour, Vaughn Blaney, about "his government's intention to end the bursary program." Tammy Yates, UNB Student Union VP External explains that funds would be used to finance additional loans to students.

Currently, the federal and provincial governments share the burden of student financial aid, with the federal government providing the Canada Student Loan Program and the NB provincial government supplementing it with the bursary program.

The loan limit, which has not been adjusted since 1984, allows students to borrow a maximum of \$105 a week, or \$3360 a year. Only students receiving the maximum allowable loan can receive a bursary, the maximum amount of which is \$2700 a year. Currently 46% of UNB students are receiving a student loan, and approximately 1/3 receive a provincial bursary.

At a further meeting concerning the Excellence on Education Report, which was held on Wednesday, Blaney was asked questions about the bursary plan by UNB and STU Student Union representatives.

UNB SU President Eric Burchill pointed to several concerns which students have with the existing bursary program, and conveyed to the minister students' fears over the possibility of cutting the bursary, and putting the funds into further loan programs.

Burchill commented that such a plan would not only increase students' debt loads substantially, but would also make university education less accessible than it currently is.

Blaney says that he never said the government planned to cut the bursary, but only that they were considering changes. He comments that the current program is only approximately 70-80% effective, and says "there has been no improvement in the system in recent years," for which both the federal and provincial governments must share the blame.

He outlined some possible changes, which included putting the bursary money into loans, or creating an income contingency program, wherein students borrow during university and pay it back after becoming more estab-

lished after graduation. Blaney has also raised the possibility of giving partial rebates to some students after they finish university.

Roxanne McCarthy, VP external for the STU Student Union asked Blaney what she should tell concerned students who question her about the future of the bursary program. She asked, since that point the minister had not confirmed or denied that the bursary program would be cut, if he

would answer definitively.

Blaney expressed his regrets that he could not, as he did not know what the future would hold for the NB Bursary Program, but promised that he would meet with students and their representatives as soon as a decision was made.

In the SU press release, Vice President Yates said the a decision to end the bursary program would be "unacceptable."

"The McKenna government has no mandate to make this kind

of decision," Yates says, "they campaigned on a platform of education as a top priority and they've just spent over a quarter of a million dollars on a Commission to study 'excellence' in education. Ending the bursary program would be a complete violation of their promises."

See page 16 of this issue for a petition to show the government your concern over the proposed changes.



Police and firemen attend the site of an accident simulation held to promote Alcohol Awareness Week, February 13-20. The event, which was called "Krash Test Dummies," drew dozens of spectators from the SUB and residences. Photo by Kevin L. Porter.

UNB Alcohol Awareness Week

by Mimi Cormier

Students walking between the campus residences and the SUB this week may have been shocked to see two wrecked cars there. But that is exactly the reaction that Alcohol Awareness Week organizers are hoping to get from students.

The wrecked cars were part of Alcohol Awareness Week activities. During noon hour this past Monday, the cars were used in a simulation of a real car crash involving a driver under the influence. Organizers called the event "Krash Test Dummies," but the humour ends at the name. The aim of the event was to make it as realistic as possible to show students the serious consequences of drunk driving.

Details of the "accident" were planned in advance. Several students participated by acting as "victims." The driver of one car was to have been drinking at a nightclub on the night the accident occurred. Upon being refused further service and then thrown out of the club, the driver then proceeded to drive home.

The drunk driver then ran head-on into a car holding three passengers. At this point of the accident, the Fredericton Police and Fire Departments became involved. The driver of the second car was pronounced dead at the scene. One passenger suffered a spinal injury while another had serious fractures. All car passengers suffered severe lacerations and loss of blood. After being questioned by police at the scene, the drunk driver was placed under arrest for "driving under the influence of alcohol exceeding the legal limit."

A fact many people are not aware of is that as the result of such an accident, the club that served the drunk driver would also have changes pending against it. Lisa Lane, who is on the executive of the Alcohol Awareness Week committee, the club would "be charged with negligence for overserving a customer and not taking proper measures to ensure safety."

"Krash Test Dummies" succeeded in attracting the attention of many students. The sirens brought dozens of students

down from the SUB and out of the residences. Several students thought there had actually been an accident, until organizers explained that it was a simulation. Flyers were also passed out at the event explaining its purpose. According to Lane, one of the students acting as a victim was so "spooked" to the point of crying at the realism of the situation.

Organizers even had the cooperation of Ambulance attendants who applied first aid to the crash victims.

Alcohol Awareness Week is sponsored by SMART PACC at UNB, with the theme SMART SPRING BREAK. SMART PACC believes that the examples that will be shown during the Alcohol Awareness Week can be put to good use and carried on throughout the Spring Break. Alcohol Awareness Week activities continue today with a display by NB Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission at noon in the SUB cafeteria. Alcohol Awareness Week ends tomorrow with the SMART PACC and CHSR "rave" in the SUB Ballroom at 9:00 pm.