

NEWS

News Editors: Cynthia Kirkby and Joe FitzPatrick Deadline: Wednesday Noon

Newsbits

Budget stuck with \$6,258 bill

An unreconciled \$6,258 credit card bill has been sitting in the Office budget since October 8, 1995.

The charges were made on the now cancelled Student Union credit cards. Though previous bills had been divided among several areas, this bill remained untouched in the ensuing 3 months.

Its location in the Office budget gives the false impression that 90% of the office budget has been spent. In fact only 70% was spent last term. 67% of the entire Student Union budget was spent by the end of term.

Students may recall that previous bills were divided among "student relations," "conference," "office" and "external affairs." Before the realignment of the Student Union budget at the December 5 meeting, the "student relations" budget was over budget by \$350, "conference" by \$325. External affairs was \$1,990 under budget.

Until the bills are reconciled, it will not be known how much was spent where.

Royal Bank student loans

Effective January 1, 1996, the Royal Bank will be added to the list of banks providing student loans to New Brunswick Students.

Advanced Education Minister Roly McIntyre highlighted the advantages for students. "This will improve the service for our New Brunswick students by giving them another option for seeking a student loan," he said.

Fourth annual Ski Challenge

The fourth annual "Sky's the Limit" Ski Challenge is moving into high gear to raise funds to support the work of the New Brunswick Association for Community Living.

Several teams are already committed to the Challenge at Crabbe Mountain on February 17, with individuals and businesses from Fredericton to Woodstock.

The Ski Challenge is not just for skiers. "If you can stand up on skis you can participate," said Chris Heissner, a team captain for the past three years. "It's a lot of fun, a great social event and a great cause and that's why I keep coming back every year."

Community support is important for the success of the Challenge. "In the next few weeks, hundreds of volunteers will be asking the support of family, friends and colleagues," said Anne Smith, this year's Honourary Chair. "We hope everyone will be supportive when they're asked. It is NBACL's major fund raiser and critical to their budget."

The money raised by the Challenge helps to support the New Brunswick Association for Community Living in their mission to ensure that supports are in place for people with an intellectual disability. The Association helps them to live full and productive lives in their own communities by providing families with support, education and training, public awareness and research.

"People who are intellectually challenged have many unmet needs, and it is our mission to ensure that those needs are met," said Lorraine Silliphant, Executive Director, NBACL.

Everyone is invited to put together and enter a team at 450-2SKI as soon as possible.

Students Honor Our Women

Lady Dunn Hall on the UNB campus is proud to present the S.H.O.W. (Students Honor Our Women).

The S.H.O.W. will feature students from the UNB residence community displaying the latest in fashion from the Regent Mall. The S.H.O.W. takes place on Saturday January 27 at 7pm at Lady Dunn Hall. Admission is \$5.00 and all proceeds will go towards Breast Cancer Research.

The residents of Lady Dunn Hall are having a "streetwalk" on the evening of January 23 and are eager for Fredericton's support.

Lawyers Hotline - no flaming

Lawyers Hotline, a new 1-900 telephone service, will allow New Brunswickers to have direct, confidential consultation with an experienced lawyer, enabling the general public to access legal information in a cost effective manner, problem solve and path find through a complex legal system.

This service, believed to be one of the first of its kind in Canada, will be operated initially by four Fredericton lawyers who feel that there is a definite need for this type of service.

"In today's society, consumers are demanding easy access to a broad range of services," noted Edward L. Derrah, one of the four lawyers and a member of the New Brunswick Law Society since 1984. "People do not want to go through the inconvenience of driving downtown, parking and waiting for an appointment to see a busy lawyer. Now, just by picking up the telephone, people will have immediate access to a lawyer who can give them a response to their questions."

The service fee is \$3.99 per minute, and will be billed direct to the caller's NBTel monthly bill. Lawyers Hotline phones will be open for calls from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily, seven days a week.

By-election too costly

by Joe FitzPatrick
Co-News Editor

The Student Union can't afford a by-election, and, as a consequence, Council appointed Duncan Fulton to be appointed by Council following the resignation of the person duly elected to the office. Jeff Clark was appointed Acting Vice-President (Finance and Administration).

Twelve students were in favour of the appointment, at Tuesday's Council meeting; three students abstained from the vote; three more students opposed the appointment, including Chris Rogers.

"I've been talking to students, and generally, they're quite upset with these appointments," the Arts representative told Council.

The possibility of calling a by-election was rejected by Trish Davidson VP (Student Services).

"Aside from the fact that we just don't have the money, what do you suggest? The way the finances are we will just afford the general election," she replied.

Rodney Chiasson, student-at-large, dismissed the idea of a by-election as futile. "Even if we had the money -

what's the point if we only get 100 people out to vote?"

Fulton is the second SU Executive to be appointed by Council following the resignation of the person duly elected to the office. Jeff Clark was appointed Acting VP (External) in October.

The Student Union has spent \$3,200 of its \$7,500 election budget. Normally, 1/3 of the budget is spent on a fall by-election.

For the last three years, according to the Student Union audit, the elections budget has been exceeded.

New conferences for SU

by Joe FitzPatrick
Co-News Editor

Trish Davidson, Vice-President (Student Services), cited the lack of a conference in her portfolio as the primary reason for her unbudgeted trip to a Washington conference last term.

Both Executives have stated they have, or expect to, reap many benefits from their respective conferences.

Council was made aware of the conferences, and no objections were raised. Council authorization was not obtained for either unbudgeted expense.

The total budget for conferences is \$17,700. Without these extra expenditures, conferences were already over-budget by \$1,425 before the budget was reworked in December.

SU budget difficulties have apparently not prevented the Student Union Executive from adding unbudgeted conferences to the already over-budget line item.

Chantale Walker, VP (University Affairs), left Thursday for a five-day conference in Edmonton Alberta.

The conference, entitled Canadian Academic Round Table, is the second 1995-96 CART conference. Over the summer, Walker attended a CART conference in Waterloo. The budget only makes reference to the Waterloo conference.

SU and CAMPUS to negotiate new deal



Barb Clogg-Wright in the CAMPUS office, Singer 154.

Photo: Mark Bray

by Joe FitzPatrick
Co-News Editor

A lack of communication was cited as the primary reason for the recent action of the Student Union which ended a four-year deal with the Continuing, Adult, Mature and Part-time University Students according to the organization's president, Alison Webb.

"They should have attempted to reach us...or left a message on the phone," she said. However, Webb is taking some of the blame for the breakdown. "We're as responsible as the Student Union [for not keeping in touch]."

If the agreement is not restored, there is a possibility that full-time students would have to pay a course fee of \$8 for each course they take in intersession or summer session.

"If this is the way it's going to be," said Webb. "[We would] approach the administration and put those fees back in place, and of course, not offer the \$2,000 scholarships."

Webb's opinion of the decision was

that "[the Student Union] drew some conclusions that maybe they shouldn't have."

Webb is cautiously optimistic about the deal. "I don't think this is necessarily cast in stone," she said. "I did have a meeting with Kelly Lamrock [on Wednesday January 17] and he's going to have Duncan [Fulton] contact me to maybe have something sorted out."

"Kelly did not really have a total understanding of what the situation was so when I explained it to him, of course, it was a different story."

It was not the first time that this type of situation has occurred between the Student Union and CAMPUS.

"In 1992, the Student Union unilaterally decided to approach the administration to have those part-time fees, which at the time were \$6 a course, not charged to anyone who was a full time student," said Webb.

"At the time, it caused great hardship - we had budgeted for that amount. When the Student Union realized that they had caused us some undue

hardship, they came up with this plan. An agreement was signed. The equivalent amount of fees that would have been paid by those full-time students over intersession and summer session would be paid by SU directly to us," she said.

Part of the agreement was the establishment of a \$2,000 scholarship/bursary which would be available only to those full-time students taking intersession and summer session, Webb stated.

"In effect, they [the Student Union] have hurt their own," concluded Webb. "It really doesn't hurt us that much."

Under the deal, approximately \$4,500 would have gone to CAMPUS, representing approximately 9% of the CAMPUS budget.

If the fees were reinstated at present levels and enrollment remained the same next year, approximately \$8,700 in fees paid by full-time students would go towards their operating budget in 1996-97.