

# NEWS

Deadline: Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon. Newsdesk: 453-4983

## Women's Collective threatens legal action

by Hiep Vu

The UNB Student Union may be facing legal action due to a dispute with the UNB Student Women's Collective.

The dispute arose over the Student Union's refusal to recognize the Women's Collective as a club. The reason behind this decision is that the Women's Collective does not allow men to sit on their executive committee, and that this policy is in disagreement with the Student Union's Constitutional Bylaws regarding discrimination.

The Student Union's Constitution prevents it from recognizing any club or society which discriminates by any factor, including gender, race, etc.

By not being recognized by the Student Union, the Women's Collective is unable to be included in the Student Union budget. The Collective is still able to receive funding through the Grant Committee, but this forces them to apply for a grant every time they plan an event as opposed to being allotted an amount in the budget. This could prove to be laborious and time

consuming.

A spokesperson from the Women's Collective says that they may take legal action, citing that their right to exclude persons from their executive is guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The reasoning for the exclusion of men from their executive is that the executive deals with many sensitive women's issues and they would feel reluctant to do so in the presence of men.

Derek Dunnett, V.P. University affairs says that the Charter of Rights and

Freedoms does not apply to universities and that the Student Union is bound by its constitution. The bylaws prevent the Student Union from encouraging any form of

discrimination. Dunnett is consulting a lawyer currently to determine the university's legal status on this matter and a press release is forthcoming.

## GSA President resigns

by Karen Burgess

Purvi Rajani, President of the Graduate Students' Association, tendered her resignation in a letter to Association members on February 17.

Dan Hare, former First Vice President, and now Interim President of the GSA, says he believes the resignation was caused by frustrations experienced by Rajani because "some executives were failing to fulfill their constitutional duties to the best of their abilities."

Hare emphasizes that, as with the Student Union, "different members put in varying degrees of commitment." However, the situation of the GSA is unique because the responsibilities of graduate students differ from those of undergrads. He continues by saying that as a member of the SU, one can become a part-time student or

take on a reduced course load; however, those are not options available to grad students arrangements have been made to ensure business is done." because of their teaching and research responsibilities.

David Wilson, the GSA's secretary, reiterated this point noting that the GSA "represents people who are perhaps, more academically committed."

Despite the difficulty in ensuring full-time commitment from all members of the Association, Hare points out that this year's council has "advanced the Association for more this year than last year."

Concerning Rajani's resignation, Hare says she was "an effective and responsible president" and that it was "unfortunate she felt the need to resign." He emphasizes however, that "the Association has never been compromised,

## Heritage Project on SU finally submitted

by James Rowan

After a delay of five months, the Student Union Heritage Project Report has finally been submitted. Though it went down to the wire, the report on past activities and members of student government was produced by the final deadline for submission.

Mark Lockwood, the student hired to produce the report, had run into difficulties and was more than slightly late in submitting the final report. Lockwood was paid \$6.50 an hour for fourteen weeks on a Challenge Grant to produce the report.

Originally set to be presented to the Student Union in September, at the conclusion of the work period, Lockwood failed to hand in the report until this Wednesday. This Tuesday, February 18, had been set as a deadline by Student Union President Greg Lutes, in consultation with Lockwood. Lutes, who was also responsible for supervising Lockwood over the summer, admitted in the January 31st Brunswickan that Lockwood had "got side-tracked", but found the delay acceptable. The report is still somewhat rough, said Lockwood, but he has informed Lutes that he is prepared to

flesh out any areas that the Student Union might like expanded on.

The Heritage Report, was designed to show the Student Union "where we come from," said Lockwood. The report lists several things that Council can do to ease the work of future historians, when attempting to dig through the archives. Part of the original assignment also entailed the establishment of some form of alumni group of past Student Union members.

When asked what Council would do with the report now that it had been handed in, *Continued on page 9*

## UNB gets a Green Light to Rio

by Karen Burgess

"What is the use of study, if there is no tomorrow?"

This is the question asked by environmentally concerned Canadian Mario Houle, who is touring Canadian universities for the Green Light to Rio '92 project.

The project, which is funded essentially by Houle's personal contributions, was begun 6 months ago with the goal of heightening awareness of the United Nations conference on the Environment and Development.

For the past month Houle has been working his way east from Victoria with a mammoth mural, painted by artist Patrice Boyer, to be signed by concerned students. It is hoped that the signed mural will be presented to delegates at the UN conference in Rio de Janeiro; however, contributions from concerned citizens are needed to ensure the project's successful completion.

Houle, who says he has been involved in environmental

issues since the age of fourteen, has already spent \$7,000 getting the project this far.

His dedication to the cause goes beyond his monetary contribution. He says that the job of rallying the public to act on environmental issues is not a pleasant one, but with recent reports from NASA concluding that the ozone is depleting more rapidly than predicted, the need to solve this problem became more urgent.

In response to Federal Environment minister Jean Charest's warning that in the face of this environmental tragedy young Canadians should wear sunscreen, Houle says "it's ridiculous."

"For us, we can put on sunscreen, we can put on glasses, the animals can't. The cattle the birds, everything. Its getting to the brink because we don't want to wake up. We don't think (the problem) exists. That's why I spent that money -- because I know it exists."

Houle has been distributing post cards addressed to the

UN, from which students can obtain information on the conference. Houle feels the conference is important because it marks the first time at which 153 countries will meet to discuss global environmental issues. Especially significant, Houle says, is that delegates are not only politicians but environmentalists and youth activists.

The conference will deal with many issues, including the creation of an Earth Charter, or, as conference promotional material describes it, "a Declaration of basic principles for the conduct of nations and peoples in respect of environment and development to ensure the future viability and integrity of the Earth as a hospitable home for human and other forms of life."

Houle would like to invite anyone wishing to contribute money toward the project, or to add their comment and signature to the list collected on the mural, to write to him at the following address: Mario Houle, Box 1501 Jasper, Alberta T0E 1E0.



Shown is a representation of the mural which is to be sent to the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development.