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Bruns Bits

Best/Worst SU Election slogans:

5. Arts: "Vote for me, not he."
4. Engineering: "I know Lucien Bouchard"
3. Law: "I like to spend a lot of time in the Cellar."
2. Business: "I'm good at spending other people's money."
1. Science: "I'll show up."

Candidate barred from polls

by Cynthia Kirkby and Joe FitzPatrick
Co-News Editors

Arts representative candidate Sarah Mullaly was told that "if she comes within 200 feet of a poll, she will be fined" by Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Troy Woodside.

Woodside made the announcement at the October 10 meeting of Council after VP Student Services Trish Davidson stated that "a red-headed candidate was standing beside a polling station and pulled me and a friend over to the poll saying 'Are you in Arts? Have you voted yet? Here's where you vote.'"

Davidson characterized the occurrence as "very inappropriate." The

CRO's announcement was not a direct result of Davidson's statement, but stemmed from Mullaly's activities on October 6. "She was warned several times to stay away from the polling stations during the advance poll" said Woodside.

While the election bylaw does allow for personal campaigning during voting, it does not allow it to occur "within sight or hearing of a polling station, or those lined up to vote at the polling station."

This was the first official indication of any problems in the by-election. At 9:00 pm on Tuesday October 9, the "media blackout" came into effect, necessitating that all campaign

materials be removed. This was violated by three Arts representative candidates, all of whom have been fined. Sarah Mullaly, Laura Getty, Fauna Woolnough have each been fined \$37.50, the maximum allowed under the Election bylaws (half of the campaign spending limit of \$75.00). The CRO defended the imposing of the fines: "at the all-candidates meeting, candidates or their agents were told that they would be fined if they crossed the line."

The three Arts candidates have indicated to the CRO that they will appeal the fines to Council. Council's decision will be based on whether or not "every reasonable effort" was made to obey the "media blackout."

Mullaly has had poster problems over and above those surrounding the "blackout." The CRO reports that she complained several times that her posters were being removed, while those of other Arts candidates remained untouched. Woodside responded that "we [election officials] have canvassed the campus looking for the person she claims to have seen. She said a friend of hers saw a 'tall, black guy' removing posters."

Two independent sources have indicated to *The Brunswickan* that Mullaly was seen removing some of her own posters during the campaign period. There is no indication that these are the posters Mullaly claimed were removed by someone else.

SU cellular phone controversy

by Joe FitzPatrick
Co-News Editor

"The Student Union is selling the cellular phone." This announcement was made by the VP Finance and

Administration, Nahie Bassett at the October 10th meeting of Council. The cell phone, which was used primarily by the VP External, Pat FitzPatrick, was the subject of a motion of Council on September 19th which states "no

student fees shall be used to pay for a cellular phone." The motion, moved by Shona Bertrand, Law and seconded by Nahie Bassett, grew out of concern over increasing usage charges.

The cost of the cellular phone usage

comes out of the 1994-95 sponsorship package from NB-Tel. The HIP-DIAL information line also relies on this sponsorship package which concerns Trish Davidson, VP Student Services.

During the period of October 1994 to April 1995 there were \$344.65 in usage fees. From May 1995 to September 1995, over \$1,600 has been accumulated. Over the summer, expenses of \$1,100 were made by the VP External alone. The September bill, which came to \$500 is divided between Orientation, Campus Entertainment, SMART-PACC, and the VP External. The breakdown was not available at time of press.

Pat FitzPatrick defended his use of the cellular phone at the meeting of Council on September 19. "There are two things I won't leave home without: a credit card and a cell phone. It's unreasonable to expect me to be out of contact for three weeks at a time."

Shona Bertrand, Law questioned the need for a cellular phone, since the Student Union has a voice-mail service, and pay-phones could be used.

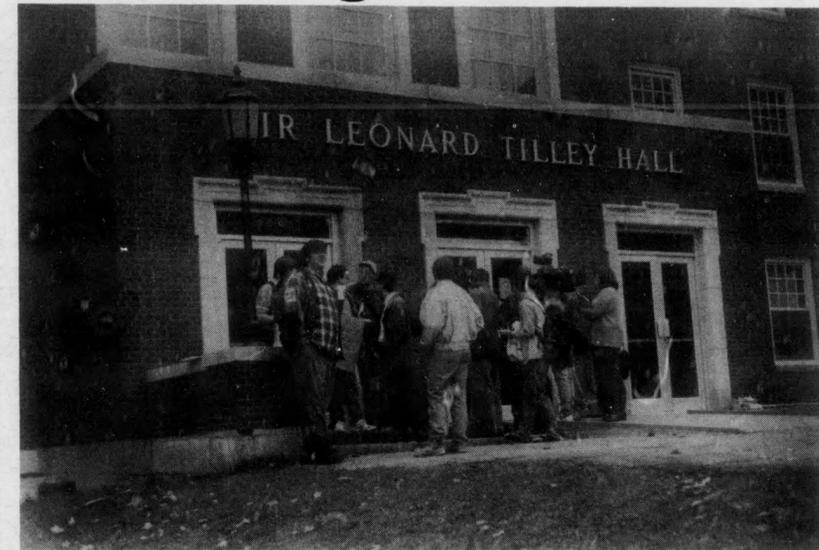
Derek Ferlatte, member of the Activities and Promotions committee, said "we got along fine without them. If we don't have the money for them, we shouldn't have them." To FitzPatrick, he asserted: "You don't need it."

FitzPatrick countered that "most people, including government officials, won't leave voice mail at the Student Union if I'm traveling."

The new sponsorship package from NB-Tel, according to Ms. Davidson, will not include services on an ongoing basis. This would not preclude organizations such as SMART-PACC, Orientation, Campus Entertainment or Elections from applying for the use of cell-phones, pagers and two-way radios, but NB-Tel will deal with these requests on a "case by case" basis.

FitzPatrick pointed out that the External budget, paid \$945.66 for the cellular phone set only 11 months ago. At press time, no potential buyers have come forward.

Protest: meager student turnout



Students standing in front of Tilley Hall, preparing for the protest. photo by Marc Landry

by Sarah Estabrooks
Brunswickan News

A group of 10 or 15 concerned students gathered Wednesday afternoon in front of Tilley Hall to express their anger at proposed cuts to health care and post-secondary education. The protest was planned to coincide with National Students Day.

The protest, which was slated to begin at 2:00, was spearheaded by members of the International Socialists, CFS, the Fredericton Area Coalition for Social Justice and Ox-Fam. It was also endorsed by groups such as the Fredericton and District Labour Union.

The issue is that the federal government budgets a certain amount of money for health and education to be divided

between the provinces. It is these health and social services transfer payments that are on the chopping block.

The indirect result of these cuts will be less money available for the provinces to give to the universities. In order to maintain or improve the quality of our universities, students will have to pay the difference through tuition hikes. These proposed increases in fees have students nation-wide looking bleakly at the future of education.

Wednesday's protest began on a disappointing note, with only the organizers arriving at the appointed time. At the point that the speeches began, a game of hacky-sack was playing in the midst of the "crowd." The spokesperson for the protest, Shawn Corey, delayed the protest until classes

got out while he answered media questions. He expressed the disappointment the organizers felt at the lack of support on behalf of the Student Union. The SU's refusal to endorse the protest meant that there was no student funded promotion of it. The organizers believe this is to blame for the lack of student support of the issue.

A group of silent counter-protestors, including SU President Kelly Lamrock and VP External Pat FitzPatrick were part of this group. The SU refused to support this protest on the basis of tactics; according to Lamrock, the International Socialists "tend to make a fool of students." Along with CASA, the SU would rather rally for students in a way that doesn't "make the government look good and students look stupid."