

NEWS

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

Student Union march poorly attended

Less than thirty attend march, but SU president "really happy"

by Kathleen Johnson-Tracy

A poorly attended rally held on Wednesday acted as U.N.B.'s contribution to National Student Day. The rally, sponsored by the UNB Student Union, began with a march of less than thirty students from the Student Union Building to residences and the dining hall. The marchers were later joined outside the Student Union

Building by fewer than seventy other students.

With a rather large percentage of the students in the rally wearing "Student Union" sweatshirts, identifying themselves as student union councillors and executives, the march and rally appeared to be rather poorly planned and advertised.

Student Union President Kevin Bourque, however, described himself as "really

happy" about the turnout. "We got the ones who were really upset about the problem", he said during a press interview.

The rally focused on three proposals by the Tory government: the GST, a three percent tax on student loans, and Bill C 69, which would cut back educational transfer payments to the provinces. In addition, recent taxi fare increases in the city were cited as another reason for the demonstration.

Chanting slogans such as "don't tax my loan", "axe the tax" and "kill the bill", the students waved placards and listened to Student Union representatives. Kevin Bourque spoke of the need to lobby the government with phone calls, letters and petitions.

There was no mention of any plan to build larger demonstrations of students, or to link the movement with labour groups and others who are more actively attempting to fight against the new taxes.

Notably absent were more militant demands of a full grant system, which were popular student demands during the seventies and early eighties. In fact, the speakers did not question the legitimacy of the "loan" program itself, only that of an additional proposed tax which will come into effect next September. Bourque asked, "why are they taxing students for going into debt for their education".

Numerous other countries, including Britain, currently have a full grant system for post-secondary education, which pays tuition as well as living expenses. The loan sys-

tem itself has been proven to discriminate against the most economically disadvantaged students, who are forced to take on a huge debt loads in order to receive even basic post-secondary education.

However, the movement for increased funding for education has been picking up in other cities across the country. In the late spring of this year, a grass-roots movement from seven universities in the Halifax area organized a successful march and rally of over five hundred students.

In February, a rally was held outside the provincial Tory headquarters in Toronto which drew over a thousand students, many waving placards calling for a free education system.

In each case, student leaders made a point to build on the militancy of the movement by making links between various campuses and setting up demonstration committees, rather than focusing on lobbying and letter writing. Quebec, which traditionally has had the most militant student body in Canada, has also maintained the lowest rates of tuition in the country.



UNB march: Although only about thirty people showed up for the SU march on Wednesday, Kevin Bourque, SU president, believes that that the ones who were really upset about the problems showed up.

Photo by Randy Goodleaf

UNB gamers upset with SUB director's handling of rooms

by Allan Carter

Last weekend the SUB Building was subject to quite a bit of room shifting.

The UNB gaming club, a Student Union recognized group, held their Enbicon convention last weekend in the SUB Blue Lounge - at least until Saturday night.

After Saturday night the games were asked to move their convention down into the patio end of the cafeteria and in room 26, which is adjacent to the cafeteria.

Kim Norris, SUB building director, explains that the games were moved at the last minute due to unforeseen complications.

Norris says that he "didn't expect that type of weather or humidity." And because of the hot weather and large crowd in the Blue Lounge, the smell of body odour was a major concern.

Room 103, which is on the third floor of the SUB, was being used for convocation purposes, which was also held on Sunday.

Norris says things "wouldn't have moved as smoothly" on Sunday as they did on Saturday with the two groups.

He felt to prevent any "hard feelings" he would move the gamers downstairs.

"I had to make a decision and I made it," says Norris. He adds that the gamers were very cooperative in moving downstairs.

Although the gamers might have been cooperative, hard feelings were not prevented. Rick Gagneur, chairperson of Enbicon and interim president of the UNB gaming club, is quite upset with all the room shifting.

In fact, an official complaint has been made to Jim O'Sullivan, vice president of Finance and Administration for UNB. Gagneur claims that Sullivan said he would look into the matter.

The *Brunswician* could not reach Sullivan for comment.

In addition, the gamers have a complaint into the SUB Board about the matter.

Besides given very little notice about the room change, Gagneur claims that because

the access to the convention could not be controlled in the cafeteria, there were "definitely some who didn't pay at all."

Gagneur says there is no way to estimate how much money they lost, but the event did lose some money.

Because of the room shifts, Gagneur is not sure how much the group will be charged for the rooms. But regardless of the amount he says the group will wait until someone responds to their complaints before they pay.

Gagneur says it was "almost unanimous" to hold Enbicon off campus next year because of the problems that the group ran into this year.

Doris Nicholson, Secretary for the UNB president, says that the Blue Lounge was never booked for the convocation, nor was any indication given that the Blue Lounge would interfere with convocation activities.

Norris says that Gagneur has every right to question what happened, but adds that "I wouldn't have moved them, if I didn't have to."

Plebiscite: create smoking room in SUB

by Aime Phillips

The unofficial results from the UNBSU By-elections are in.

The outcome of the Plebiscite dealing with smoking is as following: The majority of the students who responded, agreed that smoking in a non smoking area would be an offence liable for a fine. However, the majority also agreed that the Student Union should create a designated smoking room in the SUB.

The following is a list of the by-elections results: V.P. Activities - Jason Burns; V.P. External - Marc Lockwood; Arts Rep. - Andrew Knight; Education Rep. - Mark Fletcher; Nursing Rep. - Dawn

Disqualified

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Empey is not satisfied with the decision taken. He feels there is a problem with grouping his three appeals into the one vote that council took.

Council will decide at its next meeting what will become of the now vacant Board of Governors seat.

As appeals are heard until the election ballots are destroyed,

Marie Mackenzie; Science Rep - Arthur Doyle; Student-at-Large - Patty Smith; Grad Class President - Tara Scott; Grad Class Vice President - Pam Schlosser; Grad Class Secretary Treasurer - Bernard Lawless.

Candidates Arthur Doyle and Burton Empey were disqualified. Both were nominees for the Board of Governors ballot. Due to the disqualification, the seat will most likely remain empty for the remainder of the term.

According to Vish Nandall, Chief Returning Officer, 10% of the student population participated by voting for the bi-elections.

any candidate has the right to appeal until October 24, 1990.

Empey has declared his intention to appeal the entire electoral process.

Arthur Doyle, despite the debate over his disqualification, was seated as Science Rep. last Wednesday, and will continue to serve in that position unless council decides otherwise.