

Fitzpatrick didn't leave home without it

...cont'd from page one: "CASA"

As well as the missing cash, Usher claims that the conference has run up nearly \$30,000 in unaccounted expenses. FitzPatrick was in charge of all conference expenditures.

The conference has been postponed indefinitely.

FitzPatrick had been charging CASA expenses using the UNB student council credit card. Usher is not confident that those costs were legitimate CASA expenditures.

"Mr. FitzPatrick appears to have told them [UNB student council] we would pay [the credit card costs]," said Usher.

It was the use of the UNB credit card which alerted Usher to CASA's financial problems.

Charges to the credit card included bills for pizza, a stay at the Chateau Laurier Hotel in Ottawa, and a \$169 shopping spree at The Gap.

"It will take a few weeks for the dust to settle from this," he said. "The shock is still setting in."

CASA has an annual budget of \$128,000 which it collects from student associations at universities across Canada.

Members of CASA include Dalhousie, the University of British Columbia, University of New Brunswick, McGill, University of Calgary, University of Waterloo, University of Western Ontario, and Carleton.

News of CASA's administrative problems came as no surprise to several student council executives.

UNB student council president Kelly Lamrock said his council made the initial complaint that prompted CASA's internal investigation.

After providing FitzPatrick with a line of credit in October to organize a national conference on post-secondary education, Lamrock said he and several other members were concerned by the expenses submitted to council.

"Suddenly, \$600-a-night hotel

bills started to come in. We got a bill for about \$10,000 in letter-head," Lamrock said.

In November, the UNB Student Union passed a motion demanding a full financial account from FitzPatrick by January 7, 1996.

At the time, FitzPatrick denied any wrong doing.

On Nov. 25, FitzPatrick wrote an e-mail message to Dalhousie student council president David Cox that said: "With regard to the allegations of 'financial misappropriation,' I don't know what to say other than to repeat what I said to you in our conversation some weeks ago: THESE ALLEGATIONS ARE COMPLETELY FALSE."

Despite the allegations, FitzPatrick maintained sole signing authority over the conference bank account.

Lamrock says FitzPatrick has yet to submit a report and stopped returning calls after the November meeting.

"We're quite concerned [about

CASA's] financial stability," he said.

Approximately \$13,000 has been charged to UNB's Student Union alone, "and that seems to be just the tip of the iceberg," Lamrock added.

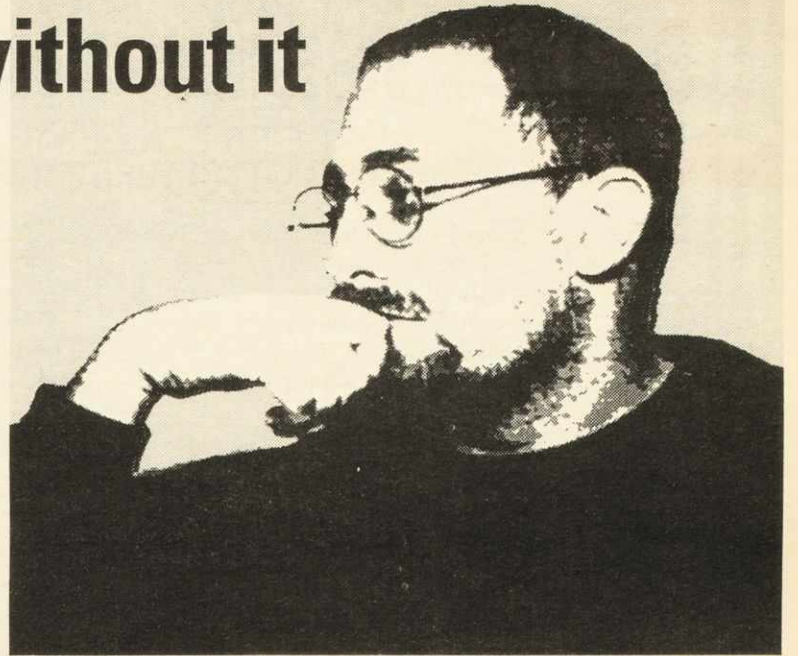
"CASA's budget is not the sort that can absorb these kinds of things. The organization is months old, it's in its infancy and this is a hell of a blow," said Lamrock.

UBC student councillor David Borins said he was originally in favour of giving the fledgling student lobby group a chance, and pushed for UBC to reaffirm its membership last August.

After six months with the organization, however, Borins said he had concerns about CASA's administrative and book-keeping procedures.

He tabled a detailed report outlining his stance to student council in early December.

"CASA has not succeeded in reaching or maintaining the level of administration necessary to



run the organization effectively," Borins wrote.

CASA began in January 1995 as an upstart challenge to Canada's older, politically left-leaning, Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

Spearheaded by student leaders who said they were dissatisfied with the CFS's policies and

tactics, Usher said the Alliance aspires to take a more "bottom-up approach" to representing student interests on national education issues.

Members of CASA will discuss the situation during a conference call on January 24.

FitzPatrick was unavailable for comment.

Memorial service remembers Shannon Bright

BY KRISTIN MCNEILL

The chapel at the University of King's College was full on the day Shannon Blaine Bright was remembered.

On Monday, January 22, the close to one hundred and fifty seats were filled in the small chapel on King's campus. Those who attended to commemorate the young man were mostly family, friends, and members of the Transition Year Program (TYP) in which Shannon had been enrolled.

Beverley Johnson, TYP Director, said the students who attended the service "really appreciated the opportunity to say their own goodbyes."

The 26-year-old student lived on campus in Cameron House in Howe Hall.

His body was discovered on

Jan. 3, thirteen days after he disappeared.

The service began with a welcome by the Lutheran chaplain, James Anderson, Margaret MacDonell, the Catholic chaplain, and a TYP instructor, Alan Surovell.

Several students in the program had been asked to deliver readings. Each took their turn and approached the pulpit close to where members of Shannon's family sat throughout the service.

A reflection was presented by MacDonell, who asked those who mourned the young student to believe that while many of their questions remained unanswered, their grief was not hopeless. She said this was a time to "honour and give thanks for the gift of his life; to grieve the silence of an abrupt ending."

The theme which prevailed throughout the service was resurrection, the belief that there is life beyond death and that death is not the end.

Towards the end of the service, a young woman walked to the front of the chapel and sang "Amazing Grace." This mournful, yet somehow inspiring song provoked Shannon's family to express their grief, and the church was filled with this music and bowed heads.

The eulogy was presented by two members of TYP. One instructor expressed the persistence and courage which she attributed to the young man. Soon after, those who attended the service were asked to write down their thoughts about Shannon and either place the piece of paper in the clay pot on the altar or read

them aloud to the congregation. The pot and its contents were to be burned because, according to Johnson, she wanted these thoughts and prayers kept private.

The Lutheran chaplain invited the members to take a balloon and then join outside to let the balloons go. This was a gesture symbolizing the resurrection of Christ.

Shannon's uncle said a few words and, later, his brother delivered a silent prayer in front of the altar. His mother and father who live in Weymouth, N.S., could not attend. Mr. Bright is currently suffering from health problems. However, "a good representation from the family" was present at the service, said Johnson. Shannon's two brothers along with their uncle who raised him attended the memorial service.

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