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Weekend Weather

On Friday expect mainly sunny conditions, with temperatures ranging from -8 to -5. On Saturday, be prepared for increasing cloudiness as the day goes on, with temperatures between -14 to -4. There is a probability of snow on Sunday, with high winds, -7 to -5.

Brunsbites

Illiteracy Stats:

- On an average day...
- ... As the result of illiteracy in Canada:
 - 1,560,000 people cannot circle the expiry date on a driver's licence
 - 2,600,000 are unable to read the directions on a bottle of medication
 - 2,860,000 cannot read a highway traffic sign
 - 7,540,000 are unable to circle the amount owed on a telephone bill
 - 13,000,000 cannot find a specific store in the Yellow Pages
 - 18,200,000 cannot find an amount on the income tax table

- from *Which do you prefer: Chunky or Smooth? What Canadians Eat, Watch, Read, Buy and Do...* On an Average Day, by Heather Brazier, 1992, HarperCollins Publishers.

'One Hot Paper' shut down

by Karen Burgess

The Saint Thomas Student Representative Council voted Tuesday night to shut down the university's student publication, *The Aquinian*. The decision resulted in a lock-out of the staff, whose actions after hearing the decision may result in criminal charges being laid against five people.

STU Student Union president Graeme Gibbs explained that the decision to shut the paper down was a result of the staff's failure to present the Council with the paper's financial records for an independent audit. The request for the documentation was made when *The Aquinian's* editorial board underwent radical changes with the resignation of senior editorial staff.

The Union now alleges that when Councillors arrived at *The Aquinian's* office after Tuesday night's meeting, a computer and a laser printer belonging to the SU had been removed. Roxanne McCarthy, SU VP External, said in an interview on Wednesday that "charges will be pressed" in connection with the incident, although further investigation will be needed to determine whether charges laid will be for Grand Theft, or Possession of Stolen Property.

Gibbs says the SU believes that up to five people were involved in the equipment's removal, but that it is not known whether those responsible intend to attempt the continued publication of the paper in some alternate form.

Gibbs explained that Maria Paisley, the current Editor-in-Chief of *The Aquinian*, was present at the meeting, and that the staff was given until midnight on Tuesday to remove their personal belongings. When the computer equipment was discovered missing, Fredericton City Police were called in. The President says that it is believed that some of the paper's financial records were removed from the premises.

McCarthy contends that the decision to close down the paper was made because the Union could not determine the amount of financial risk *The Aquinian's* continued publication would pose for the Union and its student constituents. She commented that there could be no confusion with regard to the ownership of the computer equipment, however, and that it clearly belongs to the Union.

When asked if the incident could have arisen from a misunderstanding about the Council's intent, she answered that that was not possible. McCarthy says that she brought up the possibility in the meeting that the intent of the council might be interpreted as only a shutdown, and she requested it be clarified that *The Aquinian* would

not be permitted to publish any further issues.

Tony Tracy, Managing Editor of *The Aquinian*, said the lock-out decision came as a complete surprise to him. Tracy said he had spoken to Gibbs the afternoon of the meeting, and requested a two-day extension of the Council's deadline for the paper's record. He explained that the paper was in the process of collecting the financial records was delayed by the fact that the paper's credit union had to retrieve files older than one month from microfiche files. He explained that the credit union had promised him the relevant files by Thursday morning.

Tracy claims that during the conversation with Gibbs the president downplayed the importance of *The Aquinian's*

attendance at the meeting, and gave him the impression that it "was not a lock-out situation."

Tracy said he understands that the previous *Aquinian* administration did not practice adequate accounting techniques, but believes that since *The Aquinian* underwent such drastic administrative changes, replacing much of its editorial board, that staff had begun "a set of progressive changes—financially and editorially."

Tracy said that while the removal of the equipment by a "minority faction" within *The Aquinian* staff was wrong, "neither side can be supported," as the SU had "no legal right" to pursue its chosen course of action.

When asked what the staff's

next actions would be, Tracy said that he hopes they can regroup and take a more progressive direction. He explained that the staff cannot now present the Union with the records and try to work out the paper's future with the STU SU, because Gibbs seized all of the financial records which Tracy possessed.

McCarthy said that the SU has no intention of permanently discontinuing *The Aquinian's* publication, and that the Union delayed taking any action with regard to the paper as long as possible in the hopes that its financial situation would be clarified. She said that it is hoped that this year's council will be able to sort out the restructuring that will be necessary before the paper reopens.

Are safe-walks safe?

Ontario incident raises concerns over screening procedures

by Karen Burgess

An alleged sexual assault by a Centennial College "Walksafe" program volunteer has raised concern about the screening of volunteer escorts.

A female volunteer in the program claims she was sexually assaulted by her male co-patroller. The Ontario college is now considering a three person escort team, comprised of two females and one male, instead of the current two person, co-ed team.

The male patroller was charged with sexual assault by Metro Toronto Police as a result of the alleged February 5 incident.

At UNB, students can benefit from the safe-walk services of volunteers from the Neill House Residence. The Knights of Neill House Escort Service provide escorts for students walking alone on campus between dusk and dawn.

Craig MacInroy, a proctor at Neill House, explains that, though no formal screening procedure exists for those wishing to volunteer, several safeguards are in place to ensure the deterrence of incidences like that allegedly occurring at Centennial College.

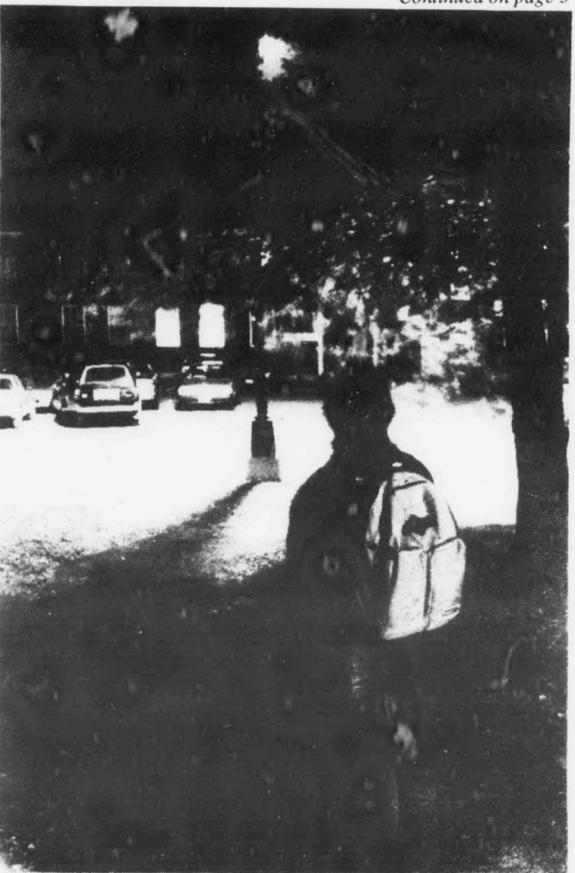
The Neill House Escort Service is operated through the UNB Security office. Anyone wishing to be escorted can call security who in turn contacts Neill House. Security is given the patroller's name, which is then passed on to the caller.

MacInroy says the fact that patrollers are aware that UNB Security and the caller have his name would prevent any negative incidents from occurring.

MacInroy also believes that the manner in which individual escorts are chosen helps to ensure the caller's safety. He explained that one of the three proctors in the house is given a pager by which security can contact them when requests for escorts are received.

When a call comes in, the proctor will choose an escort from among several volunteers. MacInroy commented that an effort is made by the proctors to choose a suitable escort, one who not only has no past history of problems in dealing with

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Students at UNB can use the Neill House Escort Service if they are wary about walking alone on campus after dark. The Neill House service has operated successfully since its initiation two years ago.