

News

Student Union-CFS dispute continues... Council withholds \$40,000 in fees



VP University Affairs Pat FitzPatrick is burning the midnight oil, crunching the numbers and getting the lay of the CFS land. Photo by Bones

By Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

UNB Student Council is refusing to pay \$40,000 in annual membership fees to the Canadian Federation of Students pending the outcome of a campus-wide referendum scheduled for late next month.

The move does not affect fees currently being paid for CFS health services.

Student Union VP University Affairs Pat FitzPatrick says CFS has failed to lobby federal politicians effectively over the last year.

He cites the recent House of Commons Committee on Social Policy Reform as a prime example.

"CFS officials dusted off a three year old policy paper and presented it to the Committee," said FitzPatrick.

"They did not even appear before the Committee to present their views," he said.

In FitzPatrick's opinion, CFS has been even less effective lobbying MPs.

"I'm not aware of any meetings with MP's in the last year or so," FitzPatrick said.

"CFS is still advocating zero tuition fees. I think this policy is no longer realistic," he said.

FitzPatrick claims CFS is in deep debt and appears to be ignoring financial advice from their own auditors.

"CFS finds itself \$200,000 in debt and the auditors want the organization to balance its books," he said.

"Instead they've recently voted to run a deficit this year," he noted.

According to FitzPatrick, CFS finds itself in poor organizational shape and cites the lack of a full-time field worker for the New Brunswick-Prince Edward Island region.

"We've been without a field worker since September and we have no official date for an appointment," he said. "All I know at this point is that a selection com-

mittee is interviewing candidates."

FitzPatrick says CFS is losing support across the country and says many student unions want to pull out.

"We're not the only school in the Maritimes voting to pullout," he said.

Dalhousie University has already withdrawn its affiliation. But students at Acadia recently voted narrowly to remain.

UNB Student Council is not waiting for the result of a student referendum next month.

Last week, UNB voted to join the fledgling Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, a move which pleases FitzPatrick.

"It is quite surprising to see the degree to which we agreed with other schools on both policy and constitutional matters," FitzPatrick told Council in a written report following last weeks founding CASA convention in Fredericton.

"Virtually the entire meeting proceeded on the grounds of consensus," he said.

Third world focus of student group

By Mark Bray
Brunswickan News

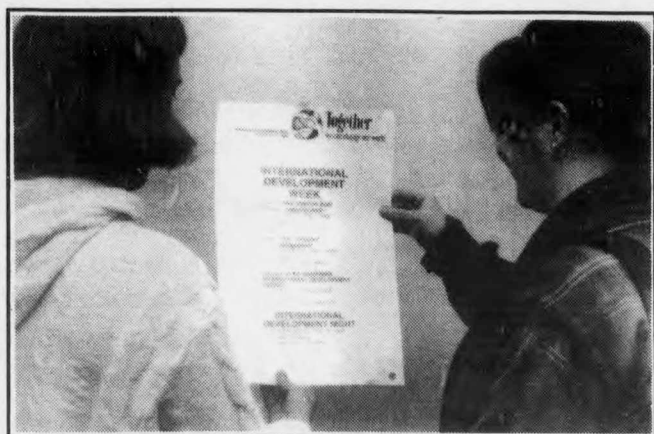
The week of February 5 to 11 is International Development Week in Canada. The week was celebrated at UNB by the Third World Studies Student Association on campus.

The week is sponsored by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). It has been organized in an attempt to promote awareness towards development, both at the local and international level.

Chris Rogers, Co-chair of the association, said that marking International Development Week was important for students.

"There's a lack of knowledge on campus, as in the community, about issues of Third World development. International development week, for us, is an attempt to at least instill some knowledge on this issue," said Rogers.

The student group is found on campus and is interested in discussing development issues such as poverty, exploitation, education, healthcare and foreign intervention.



International Development Week is an annual event. Some of the events this year were two free movies viewed on Tuesday and Thursday. Other events were a talk on Friday morning by Mr. Pierre Racicot, Vice-President of the Americas Division of CIDA.

Racicot discussed Canada's develop-

ment policy and answered questions concerning the agency.

February 11 is International Night on campus. An event will take in the SU ballroom, with a guest speaker, ethnic foods and development organizations providing information about their roles in development.

In attendance will be Amnesty International, Fredericton Anti-poverty, Native Friendship Centre, and the YMCA.

The organizers of the event are Chris Rogers and Donna Heimbacker, co-chair and chair of the Third World Studies Student Association.

The group meets in the Spanish lounge, which is located on the third floor of Carleton Hall. To date, the group has watched movies and had an informal social night which included music and food from around the world.

Academic-types let loose during weekend in Maine

By Marcus Peddle
Brunswickan News

Seven UNB English students, with Professor Ted Colson, headed off to Maine last weekend, where the University of Maine hosted the Annual Undergraduate English Conference.

Students who said they had left home worried that the event would be dry and academic, came back raving about their experiences at the conference.

Professor Colson said he felt that UNB students who gave readings at the conference outdid other schools.

"Our people were better than anybody else," said a pleased, if immodest Colson. "They were the best there in every which way."

The conference began Friday evening with registration and a coffee house where students were invited to perform. Students played guitar, or read poetry, and one woman played violin.

Readings began early Saturday morning and continued until late afternoon. From UNB, Hannah Grant read a paper comparing The Time Machine (H.G. Wells) and Zamyatins We. Education student Michelle Grant read poetry and short fiction. Sean Yeomans read a paper on Zamyatins We as well as poetry.

Fourth-year honours student Ted Hamilton read about a journey of criti-

cal theory entitled "The Conceptual Canoeist", Mike Belyea read a short story, and this reporter read a number of poems.

Topics by students from other universities included the political incorrectness of many nursery rhymes, Old English ballads, crows that speak to people, and a boy with an enormous penis (the author, when asked if the story was autobiographical, made no comment).

Saturday night's entertainment featured a local band, but stealing the show (and the band's equipment) was the intermission performance by UNB delegates Hamilton and Dan Volesar, who gave a stirring condition of their original, improvisational list, "Sledgehammer of Love."

Volesar said he was moved to compose the piece by a girl from Mount Allison.

The Conference was officially finished Sunday morning, but a storm forced most of the delegations to stay until Monday. The University of Maine graciously provided accommodations and meals free of charge for those who couldn't return home on Sunday.

Everyone who attended from UNBF agreed that the conference was a great time and Professor Colson added that it was the best one that he had ever attended.

Bridges collects tons of food

By Cheryl McLean
Brunswickan News

Bridges House had their fourth annual food drive for the Fredericton Food Bank, last Saturday, collecting 2.8 tonnes of food.

The challenge this year, put forth by Mayor Brad Woodside, was that Bridges increase its food collection by 1.5 tonnes, making this years total 3.5 tonnes.

The mayor promised to take the icy plunge with the rest of Bridges for their annual Polar Dip if they lived up to his challenge.

However, Bridges fell short of the Mayor's increasingly high expectations.

"It's getting harder every year because of the raise expected," says Tony Kotsos, President of Bridges House. "We need more people to get out and col-

lect.

The members of Bridges House went door to door of the north and south side of the city, organized into eight car pools collecting the canned goods. The food was then weighed in at the food bank.

The first year Bridges conducted the food drive, the challenge was to raise 1 tonne, and they came in with 1.6 tonnes. Last year they were challenged to raise 2 tonnes, and they raised a whopping 3.2 tonnes.

The big question is: will Mayor Woodside take the dip in the chilly St. John?

"The Mayor is still going to jump or come down and support," said Kotsos.

The Polar Dip has been postponed until February 18th, in hopes that the ice will thicken for those hypothermia addicts.

Lady Dunn hosts dance-aid

By Amber McCulley
Brunswickan News

The Lady Dunn Residence hosted their 4th annual "Dance 'til you drop - Dance-A-Thon", and have raised \$1200 so far in their fund drive.

The marathon dance started at 7:00 p.m. Friday night and ran until 7:00 a.m. Saturday.

"There was a great turnout with teams representing just about every house", said Kim Beck, organizer of the event.

Prizes were given out every hour and teams consisted of six people with two remaining on the floor at all times.

The money will go to AIDS N.B. and to Sex Without AIDS Today (SWAT), a program run by UNB students with help from nursing professor, Grace Getty.

Beck commented that although there is little consistency from year to year as to how successful the dance will be, this year was a prosperous one. She added that donations are still being accepted.

Correction

In an article which appeared on page 3 of last week's issue of The Brunswickan, concerning ice-covered sidewalks, UNB's Building and Grounds supervisor is Harold Burns, and not Barnes, as we originally reported. Our apologies to Mr. Barnes.