

News

Need a cab? Taxi fare increase imminent

by Jonathan Stone

Beginning at 6:00am today, taxi fares will be going up.

This is a result of meetings last week, attended by 83 of the city's 120 full-time taxi drivers, where an association was formed to ensure that cab company owners keep their fares at a level high enough for the drivers to earn a decent living.

With the low fares caused by recent fare wars between companies, many drivers were doing all they could to keep their vehicles on the road.

All of the city's major companies, Checker, Trius, Standard and United, agreed to up fares to the zone maximum minus 50 cents.

However, according to Ron Grant, President of the newly formed Fredericton Taxi Drivers Association, "There's no drastic increases."

Grant is confident that the owners will abide by their agreement to maintain fair fares.

This means students will now have to pay a minimum of three dollars per fare, plus 50 cents per additional person, regardless of which company is hired. And that

fare applies only to trips to and from academic institutions.

Furthermore, it will disadvantage students who live off campus who will have to pay full fare to go to get groceries at the mall.

"If they're going downtown it won't count, and it won't count when they're going to the bars," said Grant.

Student Union Vice-President External Hugh MacNeil said he is "encouraged" by the fact that the industry is trying to work out the problem by themselves.

But he points out the need for improved service with increased prices.

"Will the taxis get here quicker, will the cars be better, will the drivers be clean and will they be courteous?" he asked.

With even rates, Tony Cameron, Chairman of the Police Committee which formed the present taxi by-laws, feels that the companies will be able to compete on the basis of service quality.

MacNeil thinks that ridership may decrease because of price increase.

"The people that use the service do not have a lot of disposable in-



How many people does it take to fill a taxi? It doesn't matter. Now a fee of 50 cents per extra person applies to all fares. Photo by Kevin G. Porter.

come," he said in reference to students and seniors.

"They (the owners) have to find that balance between simply raising prices and keeping students using the taxis."

New campus UNICEF group raises money

by Cheryl McLean

The newly-formed UNICEF group on campus has raised over \$800 during the month of October.

The group, called the UNICEF Campus Ambassadors, did so with the sales of gourd-o-grams, pins, a pub crawl and through the traditional method of collecting donations.

UCAP-UNB President Katie Hovey said that International Student Advisor Kay Nandall got the idea going last year.

Since then, the non-profit, international organization has evolved rapidly and now consists

of approximately 10 dedicated volunteers.

Hovey said that the UNB group is the only of its kind in Atlantic Canada.

This year, Harrison House incorporated UNICEF into the Great Pumpkin Sacrifice and helped to raise another \$780 by gathering donations from the other houses.

The house now plans to make collecting for UNICEF part of the annual tradition.

Funds raised worldwide assist in improving health care, water supplies, education and nutrition programs in over 125 developing countries.

UNICEF also provides assistance for disaster relief.

Contrary to popular belief, it is not an organization that comes about only for Halloween. It should be noted that UNICEF is active year-round, selling cards and orchestrating seminars and conferences.

Established in 1946 by the United Nations General Assembly, the organization works toward providing a better future for needy children by dealing with malnutrition and diseases.

Anyone interested in joining UCAP is welcome and should watch for signs for meeting times.

SU circulates petition seeking alternate to Yaqzan

by Jonathan Stone

The Student Union is now circulating a petition demanding the university to appoint a second instructor for all of Professor Matin Yaqzan's courses.

Under the heading "Offering a Safe Environment", the petition states: "Whereas Professor Matin Yaqzan's opinion piece in the Brunswickan on November 5, 1993, titled 'Rape Past and Present' makes statements which violate the integrity of both women and men and creates a threatening and hostile environment for students on campus;

"We, the students of the University of New Brunswick, strongly encourage the university administra-

tion to discipline Professor Yaqzan under the UNB Sexual Harassment Policy.

"Furthermore, we demand the university administration to offer the same courses at the same time with a different instructor for students in Professor Yaqzan's classes who feel uncomfortable studying under him."

Petition organizer Tammy Yates said she has acquired a "couple of hundred" signatures so far.

As a follow-up, she has also organized an open forum on date rape, to be held on Wednesday, at 6:30pm in 105 of MacLaggan Hall.

The forum will be complete with a panel of experts on the subject of date rape. There will also be an open-mike for students' questions and comments.

Women-only forum to address rape-related issues

by Jonathan Stone

The UNB Women's Collective has organized a women-only forum to address and find solutions to the problem of rape.

According to Tristis Bhaired, the forum organizer, she has had the idea "mulling around" in her head since an incident in residence earlier this year where a young woman was charged with mischief after reporting a sexual assault. Bhaired said that last week's Opinion by Professor Matin Yaqzan caused her to finally react.

"After the opinion piece, I realized that I had to get this out," she said.

Bhaired explained that the forum's

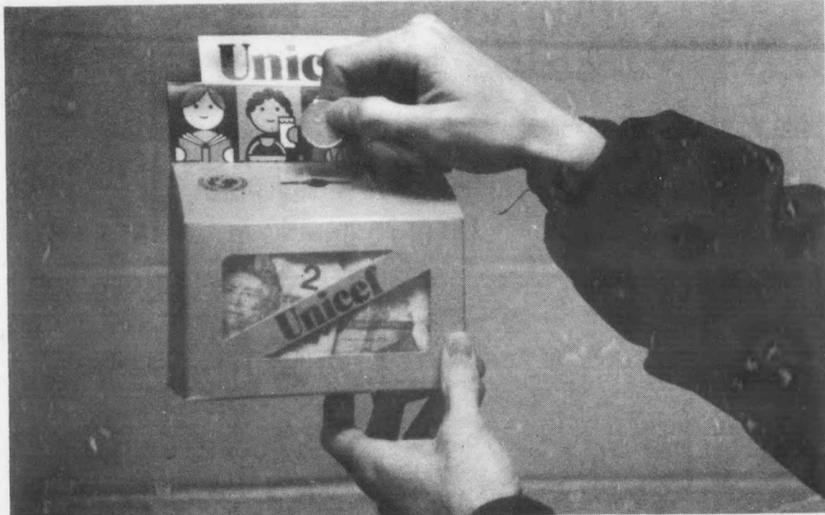
goal is to brainstorm for solutions regarding rape.

"We want to talk and we want to come up with solutions."

Posters for the event cite such reasons for the forum as: "Professors not only condone rape, but advocate it; Our police forces are taking action against women who report rape; Our universities are not taking any action; and, some of us do not trust the cops, but don't know who else to turn to."

For more solutions, Bhaired wants to look elsewhere, "We want to speak to women's groups on other campuses to see what they do."

The forum will be held on November 15 at 7:00pm in the Alumni Memorial Building Lounge.



Over \$1500 was collected by UNB students volunteering for UNICEF. Photo by Kevin G. Porter