

NEWS

Newsbits

FitzPatrick faux-pas

Warnings and disclaimers should precede comments made by Pat FitzPatrick in this week's issue of Maclean's magazine.

"This is my opinion and not the opinion of the Student Union!" declared a distraught FitzPatrick.

The VP University Affairs said that when he called Premier Bennett 'the Antichrist,' he didn't mean for it to be taken too seriously.

"Frankly, it was a bit out of context," FitzPatrick said Tuesday in a tense interview with *The Brunswickan*.

"Tongue-in-cheek comments appear a little more biting in writing than they do in conversation."

You can dress 'em up, but you can't send 'em to Maclean's...

Student Directory to be released

The 1994-1995 student directory is completed and should hit the stands Monday morning.

The directory includes the names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of all full-time undergraduate students at UNB.

Seven thousand copies of the directory have been printed, and will be distributed around the campus to the Help Centre, cafeterias, residences and faculty buildings.

Comet co-discoverer to give lecture

Eugene Shoemaker will speak at UNB on November 14 and 15 for this fall's Bryan Priestman Lectures. Shoemaker is a renowned geologist who discovered the Periodic Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 with his wife Carolyn and Canadian David Levy in early 1993.

The talk on Monday, November 14 is aimed for a general audience. It is entitled Large-Body Impacts Are a Cause for Mass Extinctions, and will be held at 8:00 p.m. in MacLaggan Hall Auditorium.

A more technical lecture will be given on Tuesday, on the subject, The Crash of Periodic Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 on Jupiter, and will take place at 3:00 p.m. in Loring Bailey Hall, Room 146.

Both lectures are open to the public.

Growing pains in forestry

by Mary Rogal-Black
Brunswickan News

Third-year forestry student Glen Guitard isn't happy with recent changes in his department, and he's demanding action.

Forestry's curriculum changed to problem-based learning this year, a system which structures the learning process around real-world problems.

"I believe PBL is the way to go for the future," Guitard said. "But it's the way they're implementing it now that can cause some problems."

Assistant Dean Dave Daugherty concedes that there have been complaints from students.

"There was a change in the basic structure in courses where problem-based learning has been used for the first time," he said.

Guitard felt strongly enough about the effects of these changes to take his concerns to the registrar. This resulted in immediate action.

Last Thursday, a meeting was held between forestry student representatives, Registrar Bernadine Dennison, about 40 students, and Daugherty.

Beth Eagles, a fourth-year forestry student who agrees with Guitard, joined him in voicing her concerns.

"There's a lot of personal problems," said Eagles. "For a faculty that used to be really close-knit, the unity among students is decreasing.

People are experiencing a lot of stress. Some of the problems are even resulting in relationship break-ups."

Difficulties are concentrated among some third- and fourth-year students, who have been in the old system for a number of years and have a lot of adjusting to do.

"They (forestry administration) took the theory of problem-based learning and they went both feet in, without modifying the structure so that it suits the needs of all students," asserted Guitard.

Now students are asking for a number of changes to help ease the transition. Foremost among them is more attention from professors.

"I'd like to see more faculty guidance offered. It's pretty much 'sink or swim' in the faculty right now. I'd like to see the faculty help us get our confidence back," said one forestry student, who wished to remain anonymous.

Ian Methven, Dean of Forestry, said that the increased enrolment has caught the department by surprise.

"It has made it difficult for our staff and faculty in the context of this learning process," he conceded.

However, Methven said that some problems are to be expected with any change.

"It's a learning process for everybody. We can't make change without going through a bit of turmoil. Going to problem-based learning represents a very signifi-

cant culture-shift," he said.

Methven, who has been studying PBL for the past three years, said that his department is continually adjusting and adapting the program.

"It is a difficult balancing act," he asserted.

Of the student's suggestions, Methven said that at least one will be implemented within the next week or so. Stress and time management courses will be offered to help those students who are having difficulties.

Daugherty said that his department had hoped that the upper-level students would be able to handle the transition.

"Students were stuck in the mode of traditional learning structures," said Daugherty. "That first step couldn't get taken. We hoped the students would find the switch themselves. The switch didn't come on, so we helped them find it."

Daugherty feels that the progressive system of problem-based learning is the only way for the forestry faculty to go.

"I'm absolutely positive that the students will look back on it and see that our graduates have an edge over the grads of other schools," he said.

As yet, UNB's Faculty of Forestry is the only of its kind in Canada to have implemented the problem-based learning system. It exists in some faculties at other universities, like Chemical Engineering at McMaster University in Hamilton.

STU to re-examine CHSR funding

by Jonathan Stone
Brunswickan News

The Saint Thomas Student Union is tuning into 97.9 FM a little closer these days.

They are concerned that about \$10,000 provided by STU students to the campus radio station, CHSR, might be better spent on other projects. Now, CHSR's programming, volunteer-base and audience numbers are under scrutiny.

"I don't know if Saint Thomas students are willing to pay for it," said Shawn Rouse, STU's VP Administration. "That's a nice chunk of change we can use somewhere else."

Rouse has requested the operating budget, the station's programming schedule and all minutes of the station's Board of Directors meetings since March 1994. This information will be distributed at an upcoming meeting of the STU Student Union.

The review may lead to a spring referendum at STU, asking those students to decide whether or not they want to decrease or eliminate the current five-dollar media fee they pay to CHSR.

Rouse said STU's emergency student loan fund, the clubs and societies budget and awareness campaigns could all use an extra finan-

cial boost.

In comparison, UNB students currently pay a \$10 fee to CHSR, which represents about \$70,000 of the total operating budget.

"STU is a valuable part of the university community. It would be a shame to lose them," said Jeff Whipple, CHSR's station manager.

Rouse believes there are at most five volunteers at CHSR who are students at STU. He feels that there are many others on the airwaves who are not students at all, and he questions the station's choices in programming.

But Whipple said the programming is decided by the membership, and that new ideas are always welcomed.

"We're going to talk over the next little while. I think a lot of it is misperceptions of what we do here," he said.

"The people who are doing it (programming) are students. They make the decisions as to what they want. Those who don't feel the programming is adequate are welcome to come up and volunteer," he added.

Whipple said that there are between 20 and 30 volunteers from STU. He said about 20 to 30 per cent of volunteers are non-students, but that most of them have been stu-

dents in the past.

He said the operating budget is spent on upgrading and servicing technical equipment, paying satellite and news- and sports-gathering fees. Long-distance telephone interview charges and music royalty payments are yet additional expenses.

Although there are no concrete statistics on CHSR's listenership, Whipple said the station has an idea as to what kinds of programs are popular from the number of phone requests and fundraising support.

Currently, Whipple said the station offers about 25 hours per week of cultural programming not offered on any other frequency in the city. There are programs in Arabic, Cantonese, French, Mandarin, Maliseet and Spanish. As well, there are broadcasts in English for the African, Caribbean and East Indian communities.

"It's still very valuable to have that kind of programming out there for those communities," Whipple said.

Despite the outcome of the review, Rouse believes that STU will continue to support CHSR in some manner.

"I'm sure whatever happens, it won't be a total cut," he said.



This over-worked, well-dressed student demonstrates a proven method of stress relief as he obliterates a 1970's-model adding machine. Photo by Marc Landry