

NEWS

Deadline: Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon. Newsdesk: 453-4983

Cuba vacation less than Paradise

by Allan Carter

The fate of about eighty-five UNB students who went to Cuba during the March break was undetermined when it was discovered that their tour company, Proto Tours - Action Holidays went bankrupt.

Apparently, on March 4, travel agencies were informed that "Proto Tours" has voluntarily surrendered their license for both their retail and wholesale licences to the Ontario Ministry. They are out of business.

Members of the Student Union made several phone calls on Monday to ensure that the students would be returning home. Among the group of students on the trip were Greg Lutes, president of the Student Union; Kim Wetlaufer, VP activities; Councillor Jim McGee and Governor Kevin Bourque.

Bourque said that they were not aware that Proto Tours went bankrupt when

they were in Cuba and all the students left Cuba and returned to Halifax on Wednesday as scheduled with no problems.

But Bourque stated that he is upset with the tour company and is hoping that a formal complaint will be made.

According to Bourque the company failed to fulfil its responsibilities. The company advertised many social activities as part of the tour package, however, Bourque said that the social coordinators did not organize any activities and that they generally "were lazy."

Proto Tours was registered with the Canadian Organization of Campus Activities and it was through this organization that Councillor McGee who sold tickets for the trip first learned about the company's tour packages.

McGee said that he and other students who sold tickets were attracted by the

list of activities which the company offered as part of the package and the package price was reasonable. Each student paid \$629. Students who sold over twenty tickets received a free trip.

The package included round trip airfare, seven nights accommodation at El Abra (standard cabanas with four beds - bunk style), breakfast and dinner daily, and many activities all organized by a full time activities director.

McGee noted that the activities director was on site, but adds that nothing was organized by the tour representatives for the students.

McGee stated that any events which the students did participate in were activities that the students organized on their own initiative. And while he enjoyed himself, he realizes that many did not, and states that the whole incident was "a learning

experience the hard way."

Although McGee has made attempts to get in touch with the tour company to express his dissatisfaction with the trip, no one from the company has returned his calls. But the Maritime sales representative informed McGee that Proto Tours has been purchased by another tour company.

McGee added that some things were "definitely misrepresented by both the company and the sale representative". However, he would not give out any details until the students decide whether or not they will take legal action against the company.

While the Canadian Organization of Campus Activities recognized Proto Tours as a legitimate organization, one travel agency informed *the Brunswickan* that Proto Tours had only been involved in international tour packages for

a few years and that they did not book clients with Proto Tours because of other more experienced tour companies.

There was some speculation on whether or not the students would be able to return home after the company went bankrupt. Apparently, Proto Tours was Ontario based and both Ontario and British Columbia have provincial legislation to protect clients in case of problems.

However, according to one travel agent, this legislation only covers Ontario and British Columbia residents unless people travelling from other provinces have the opportunity to purchase a special travel protection which covers emergency situations such as bankruptcy.

Many tour companies such as Sunquest offer this travel protection to their clients, however Proto Tours did not.

Library Grafitti

by Mark I. Minor

How would you feel if you sat down at a library carrel to study and noticed malicious graffiti which bore your name?

It seems that concerns have arisen lately about this problem at the Harriet Irving Library. Some students, including SU VP (External) Tammy Yates have experienced the distress of finding or being made aware of graffiti which is targeted at them.

Yates complained about the incident to Alan Burk at the Harriet Irving and to UNB Security. The carrel in question was removed from the library. According to Yates, most or all of the carrels have been cleaned over the spring break.

In a letter to Maureen Magee, Chair of the UNB Sexual Harassment Advisory Committee, Yates said "I regret that I waited until this type of negative behaviour was directed at me personally before I reacted."

She told the Bruns that she used to study at the library but the graffiti became so offensive to her that she no longer studies there.

Magee replied to Yates' letter by holding a meeting to address the matter. Those in attendance were Magee, Alan Burk of the Harriet Irving Library, Rick Peacock, Director of Security, and Assistant Dean of Students, Judith Potter.

Magee states in response to Tammy Yates' letter "this problem is being viewed seriously, and the utmost effort will be made to discourage such behaviour in the future."

The UNB regulation on conduct

found on page 2.11 of the 1991-1992 Undergraduate Calendar, states that "Students are liable for damage they cause intentionally or negligently to University property."

When consulted, Security Sergeant Calvin Stewart said that he wasn't sure whether a fine would be levied upon a student, in addition to the cost of the damages, if the student was caught carving or writing graffiti on any surfaces.

Sgt. Stewart was asked what measures were being taken to apprehend graffiti offenders. He declined comment because he said that any plans that security has would be rendered ineffective if publicized. He did say that if library staff found anyone writing or carving graffiti, they had instructions to contact security immediately. He also said that security officers have the freedom to patrol inside buildings during daylight hours.

According to Yates, graffiti of a sexual nature which is directed at a particular person is classified as sexual harassment. In addition to writing or carving graffiti, Sgt. Stewart said that certain students have complained about returning to their carrels and finding "notes" written on paper which are directed specifically at them. Stewart said that this type of incident was happening quite frequently.

The meeting held to address the problem resulted in some new measures being taken by the library to combat vandalism.

In addition to increased vigilance on the part of library staff, warning notices will be posted in each carrel to make potential vandals aware of the consequences of their actions.

Learning Disabilities Month

by Jeff Czopor

Learning Disabilities are evident in 10% of the New Brunswick population. Unfortunately, a good majority of those not hindered by such a problem are little informed about the underlying facts behind Learning Disability.

Proper education and awareness can often be quite useful in informing the general public, and this will hopefully be accomplished during this month when learning disabilities are especially recognized.

People with learning disabilities are not stupid, dumb, or unmotivated as is often believed and perhaps the name itself promotes the idea that people with Learning Disabilities are incapable of learning. On the contrary one must have average or above average intelligence to be classified as Learning Disabled.

It is most commonly viewed as a perceptual handicap whereas the processing of information in the mind is done differently from the "average person."

People with learning disability do not look different from anyone else and are therefore often deemed lazy, unmotivated, or irresponsible when the effects of the problem becomes more evident. However, the general population usually does not construe a problem (regarding disabilities) unless physical deformities or limitations are involved.

However, learning disabilities can often cause more pain, frustration, and anger than many physical hindrances do. Sometimes, the inability to read properly or articulate on paper what is articulated verbally can be detrimental to one's view of

self and his/her place in the world.

Heightening public awareness is perhaps the utmost priority of the Learning Disabled Association of Canada, a national organization. With a head office in Ottawa, the organization has 10,000 paid members and currently 8 chapters within the Learning Disability Association of New Brunswick. A chapter here in Fredericton offers support groups for parents with children with learning disabilities, a support/encouragement group for adults with learning disabilities, and sessions for

parents who have children with Tension Deficient Hyper Activity Disorder.

This week offered a video on Learning Disability and a special presentation with various speakers to fully recognize the efforts to further extend education on learning disability.

The hard-core issue behind learning disabilities, like any physical ailment, is early detection. With early detection, children can be offered alternatives to be integrated into the educational community. However, the educational community must be willing to acknowledge the

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Count Women In

by Karen Burgess

New Brunswick women's groups and individuals concerned about women's issues are being invited to join in Rally '92 at 11:00 am on March 19th in Fredericton.

In a letter from Elaine Murray coordinator of Rally '92, she describes the rally as being an opportunity to communicate to the government a message from the province's women.

She writes "Our message: in time of restraint, women and children count. "Our Rally call: 'Count women in!'"

The agenda for the event is to rally at the Legislature, to attend Question Period and to invite premier McKenna and members of all political parties to attend a luncheon at the Monseigneur Boyd Family Centre.

At the luncheon, representatives from groups in attendance will be asked to

address the rally to explain their group's mandates and areas of concern.

One of those who will be in attendance at the event is UNB SU Vice-President External Tammy Yates. She will be taking a break from her campaigning for the SU elections to attend the rally which she feels will be very worth while.

Yates is hopeful that the premier will attend the rally, as he has been fairly inaccessible to the VP in the past. Murray's invitation to the rally stresses that "in particular this year, we want to acknowledge the dedication, intellect, vigor and spirit of New Brunswick women, which has energized and enriched this province socially, culturally and economically, from its very beginning."

For more information on the rally call 459-8074