

Students face problems with gym contract

by Allan Carter

When two female UNB students decided to join Gold's Gym they did not expect to run into any problems with their contract - but they did.

Both students received a "scratch and win" card in the mail. Upon winning a \$150 value for a one year registration they went down to Gold's Gym.

When arriving and after talking to Howard Jay, a travelling promotional specialist who was hired for Gold's Gym's promotional campaign in Fredericton, the women asked if they could get a six month deal since neither of them could really afford the additional amount that they would have to pay for use of the gym in a full year membership.

Jay agreed to a 6 month deal and both parties signed the contract which states that the member agrees to a six month course at a cost of \$75.00.

But Scott Hill, owner of Gold's Gym in Fredericton disagreed with the deal that Jay struck with the new members.

The two new members were phoned and told that the contract was voided. The payment was returned to the women and Hill says he apologized.

The women feel the contract was voided because they had told other students about it immediately afterwards and since they too expressed interest in the deal, Hill decided to void their contract in order to prevent further deals.

"As far as we know it was possible," said Michelle, one of the students who signed the contract, "we didn't think that it was only special to us." As far as they were concerned "everything was signed, sealed and ready to go."

Hill disagrees. He says the contract was not approved by him because it is "a deal that is really ridiculous." He argues that the promotion was based on a year membership, not a six month one.

"Howard thought I might go for it," says Hill, but "I said, no, we can't do that."

With the steady stream of interested people applying for membership during the promotional period, Hill says that they had to deal with people as fast as they could. So Jay was signing contracts, but, after closing time, Hill would look over all the contracts and authorize them with his signature.

As far as Hill is concerned there was no contract, since he or none of his regular staff had authorized it.

However, the Better Business Bureau in Fredericton feels differently. They say that if that was the procedure used during their promotional period and Jay was signing contracts,

then the contract should have said "subject to approval" rather than "approved, accepted and witnessed" by both the member and a Gold's Gym representative which was where

Jay was signing his name.

Nevertheless, Hill feels both women did not gain from the whole incident, but neither did they lose, since the payment was refunded.



Working out the contract: Scott Hill, owner of Fredericton's Gold's Gym says he has to authorize all contracts and feels the deal struck with two students was really ridiculous.

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