

# News

Editors: Janice McConnell and Mary Rogal-Black

## Newsbits

### Model United Nations held

by Pam Easton  
Brunswickan News

In this the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, commemorative events are being held around the world.

The North American Model United Nations (NAMUN) conference celebrated its 10th anniversary in Toronto from February 15 to 20th. Sponsored by the University of Toronto and Humber College, the conference was designed to be a simulation of the United Nations. Seven committees held sessions throughout the week. There was a daily newspaper produced, the Namun Diplomat. On the final day of the conference, a general assembly was held to vote on resolutions that were formulated during the week by committees.

Over 400 people attended the conference from more than 30 universities across North America. There were also delegations attending from Croatia, Cypress, Greece and Taiwan.

The UNB Political Science Students Association sent a delegation of nine people to represent the United States of America. The delegation returned with three honorable mentions for individual delegates: Aaron Fowler in the Sustainable Development Commission, Duncan Fulton in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee and Richard McDerby in the Security Council.

### SU compares health plans

Chris Alward is going comparison shopping for your health.

Alward, Student Union VP Student Services, is in charge of the student health plan. He is presently looking around for alternates to the SunLife plan presently in place, offered in conjunction with CFS-Services.

Citing problems in administering the Sun Life/CFS plan, Alward said that he will bring the results of his research on various health plans before council's March 15 meeting for debate.

Tentative figures suggest that switching to a different insurance company with a comparable health plan would result in a reduction in the fee. While students paid \$100 for their insurance this year, this fee could increase to \$110 next year. The fee for another company being considered by Alward would be \$90.

Alward cautions that cost is not the only factor to be considered, and is also considering the services offered by different plans.

### Candyman author to read at STU

Author Simone Poirier-Bures will read selections from her novel *Candyman* at St. Thomas University on March 13.

The reading will take place at 10:30 a.m. in Room G10 of Edmund Casey Hall. Poirier-Bures will also read at UNB at 3:30 p.m. in Room 4 of Annex C.

*Candyman* is a bittersweet first novel about growing up in postwar Halifax and the struggles of a poor Acadian couple to keep the family circle together.

But if *Candyman* is about the harsh realities of suffering and change, it is also a testament to human generosity and the enduring power of love. Surviving and thriving in adversity has been an Acadian tradition since the Great Deportation of 1755. Poirier-Bures invokes this tradition in this tale of a family that stays poor in prosperous times and yet, however much it may crack, never falls apart.

Poirier Bures was born and raised in Halifax in an Acadian family. She has published more than a dozen short stories and essays in Canadian and American journals and anthologies. She has master's degrees from the University of New Brunswick and Hollins College. She currently teaches writing in Radford, Virginia.

### Oops - ejaculatory control clarification

Due to the angle taken in the article "Making it last subject of psych lecture," which appeared in last week's issue of The Brunswickan, the following point may have been misconstrued.

The research did not look at attempts to "delay ejaculation in men who experience a sexual dysfunction known as rapid ejaculation" as described in the article. The study was described to potential male volunteers as a survey of sexual behaviour.

While the men who participated in this study reported a wide variety of sexual behaviour, no intentional attempt was made to identify anyone as having a 'sexual dysfunction.'

### Federal budget's new grant system means...

## Higher tuition and loans

By Gordon Loane  
Brunswickan News

Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin's budget spells bad news for students and universities over the next three years, according to William Milne of the UNB Economics Department.

Martin announced cuts in federal transfer payments to the provinces for programs that include post secondary education totalling \$2.5 billion in 1996-97 and \$4.5 billion in 1997-98.

"There is little doubt that tuition fees will rise substantially over the next three years as a result of this weeks' federal budget," said Milne.

"Students will need greater access to loans just to make ends meet," Milne predicts.

Proposals for income contingent student loans are currently being studied by Federal Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy.

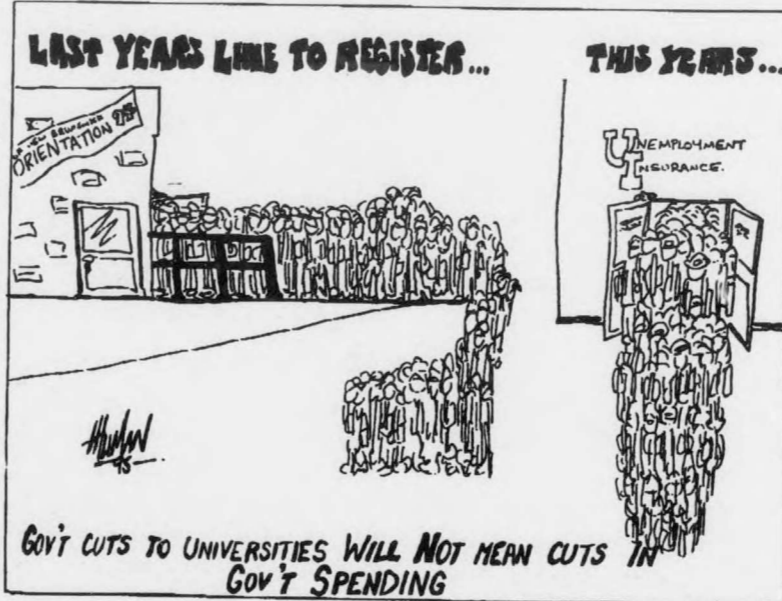
"If tuition fees rise substantially will university enrolment drop?" Milne asked.

"It raises the whole question of accessibility and whether universities will be places just for the elite."

"The result for universities could be catastrophic" Milne continued.

"Universities may consolidate programs, hire more part-time teaching staff and question the whole system of tenure for full time professors," he said.

Milne also expects tough negotiations between the federal government and the provinces and tough fights between the provinces as a new system of block grants is adopted for equalization and programs like health, post secondary



Cartoon by B. Hillman

education and welfare.

"A further result will be a tough fight with the province for higher education's share of the new block grants," said Milne.

Another effect might be rationalization of programs at New Brunswick's four universities, according to Milne. He predicts the provincial government may not have the funds to support the current system.

"A major rationalization may take place between Saint Thomas and UNB," said Milne, citing just one example of what could happen. "Will the provincial government continue to support two Arts faculties that are side by side?"

The McKenna government currently provides support for both the UNB Fredericton and Saint John campuses, Saint Thomas, Mount Allison and several campuses at the Université de

Moncton.

Milne notes that the federal budget contains little information on student summer employment programs.

There are also budget cuts to the Social Services and Humanities Research Council and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, two federal agencies that provide substantial funding for research at universities.

Details on the cuts should be available soon.

Despite cuts in transfer payments Milne does not question the federal governments' overall need to get its fiscal house in order.

"In fact, the Federal Finance Minister should have cut the overall federal deficit even more than he did in this week's Budget," Milne concluded.

## Discipline code revised

By Greg Moore  
Brunswickan News

A draft revision to the Internal Residence Discipline code has been prepared by the Dean of Residence James Skidmore.

Outlined in documents obtained by the Brunswickan, the changes reflect what is apparently current practice, according to Steven Strople, Commissioner of Student Discipline.

"[They are] totally unacceptable," according to Student Union VP University Affairs, Pat FitzPatrick, referring to the guidelines. He cited a closed process, the lack of right to representation, and an ineffective appeal process as creating an "obvious lack of impartiality" in the process.

"You have a right to appeal; that's iron-clad," FitzPatrick said, going on to describe the public proceeding as a "hallmark of Canadian and natural justice."

According to the proposals, the Dean has the option to "call together an ad hoc Residence Disciplinary Committee," made up of three Dons and two Proctors. The Dean would appoint these members, act as Convenor, rule on all matters of procedure, and will reserve the right to come to his own decision and levy punishment regardless of the findings of the committee. Although a provision for reasonable notice is included, "an inquiry may be held im-

mediately at the Dean's discretion."

According to Dean Skidmore, the communal living atmosphere of the residence community necessitates expedient, decisive action in matters of discipline in order to ensure a safe, comfortable home for students.

"It is not a democracy," the Dean said.

While FitzPatrick recognizes the different setting and landlord-tenant obligations of university residence, he maintains that the potential for students accused of infractions to be treated unfairly is apparent in the guidelines. All of the decision-makers involved, he explained,

are dependent on the university for their jobs.

Skidmore maintains that discipline is not handled by peers partly in order to protect the accused. In practice, he explained, punishments wielded by peers are much more severe than those enacted by administrators.

FitzPatrick believes that student-run discipline works. He cited the example of academic appeal committees on this campus and across the country. It has been shown, he said, that the decisions reached by students are generally the same as those reached by faculty.

### Drunkenness no excuse, says Scott

Brunswickan News

"It only makes sense that people are to be held responsible for their own actions," said local MP Andy Scott in reaction to Justice Minister Allan Rock's announcement today that extreme intoxication cannot be used as a defence for general intent crimes of violence.

"There's a standard core of conduct we expect from our society and committing a violent crime because of intoxication isn't part of that standard. In essence, the Minister's legislation dictates that people who voluntarily get so intoxicated that they lose conscious control or awareness of their behaviour, and who cause harm to others, violate the standard of reasonable care generally recognized in Canadian society."

"The proposed amendments to the Criminal Code not only speak to the overall issue of violence in our society, but particularly address the importance of protecting women and children from abuse. I think most people find the level of violence against women and children shocking and will be pleased that the government is taking action in this area," said Scott.