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End Of The News Bits

Outgoing councillors dismissed...

By Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

A report prepared for the UNB Student Union shows eight councillors missed six or more meetings during the academic year, constituting grounds for automatic dismissal unless compelling reasons are given.

Arts reps Michelle Hicks and Tricia Sheppard, Business rep Mike Wallace, Education reps Suzanne McLean and Todd Muscroft, Engineering rep Daryl Armstrong, Nursing rep Bernie Boucher and Student-at-Large Trevor Brown were all implicated in the report, released on the last day of their terms.

Councillor Trevor Brown acknowledged that he hasn't attended enough meetings this year but suggested the matter could have been handled in a different manner.

"I think this method shows a lack of compassion and class," said Brown before leaving the meeting.

SU President Paul Estabrooks, without citing reasons, moved a motion to reinstate councillors Armstrong, Sheppard, Brown and Wallace.

After little debate, Estabrooks' motion was carried.

Then, VPs FitzPatrick and Alward asked council to reinstate Boucher and Muscroft.

"Boucher has duties at the Children's Hospital and Muscroft spent first term practice teaching out of Fredericton," said FitzPatrick.

Council unanimously voted to reinstate both with two abstentions. Councillors MacLean and Hicks were not reinstated and will be notified.

Engineers experiment with kids...

By Amber McCully
Brunswickan News

Granted, the title sounds horrific, but according to David Flook, a Student Council rep from Engineering, there's no need for dismay.

The posters seen scattered around Head Hall were advertising an annual trip made by volunteers to visit children at St. Dunstan's School.

From March 13 to March 30, about a dozen UNB students demonstrated some common experiments at the school during pre-arranged time periods.

Flook said that their purpose was to "show a wide range of things" and "open imaginations."

According to Flook, last year was the first time that such a thing has been done. The program, designed primarily to put an end to the science/engineering stereotype, went well, Flook said.

Pub woes continue...

By Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

Losses continue to mount at the UNB SU owned and operated pub "The Cellar." Financial figures released at Council this week show "The Cellar" had an operating deficit of \$493.51 in February.

The total operating deficit this year now stands at \$26,199.60 with March and April results still to come.

SU President Paul Estabrooks is still confident that the pub has turned the corner.

"March sales were higher than anticipated and food sales in the pub have increased," he told Student Council this week.

"Our base of clients is continuing to broaden," he asserted.

Estabrooks said the pub will not need any more money from the SU to continue operations this school year.

In its 1995-96 fiscal year which begins May 1st, Council has approved a \$14,000 budget for the pub to cover certain overhead expenses during the Summer.

Still no disability policy...

Brunswickan News

The Fredericton Senate has again tabled adoption of a Disability Policy that was ratified by Saint John in 1993. A proposed change to the calendar statement on medical handicaps was sent back to be reviewed by lawyers after concerns were raised as to the wording of the policy.

Phil Wright, a UNB professor, was one of those who felt that the wording of the policy was too harsh. He suggested that the terminology be made more friendly.

The new clause, proposed by the Senate Committee on Student Standings and Promotions, reads as follows:

"The student is required to provide to the University recommendations from relevant professionals as to what considerations are necessary to achieve course and examination completion. The University will, at its discretion, react to such recommendations only if its resources permit."

In a letter requesting the reconsideration of the policy, Grace Getty of the Senate Student Services Committee, encouraged the adoption of the statement "The University of New Brunswick is committed to equitable treatment of students with disabilities."

Still no word on tuition hikes...

By Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

UNB's Board of Governors will set tuition and residence fees for next fall at a meeting scheduled next Thursday, April 13th according to James O'Sullivan, Vice-President Finance and Administration.

"Until that time I'm not in a position to make any announcement," said O'Sullivan.

O'Sullivan has already indicated that tuition will rise at UNB next fall. But by how much is still an administration secret.

O'Sullivan also refused to be pinned down when asked whether residence fees would rise.

Student leaders recognized...

Brunswickan News

Graduating campus leaders were recognized for their contributions to campus life last night at the annual Student Union banquet.

Receiving Gold Activity Awards were David Erb, Doug Saunders, Andrew van Wart, Lisa Lane and Paul Estabrooks.

Silver Awards were presented to Chantal Albert, Erica Gomez, Heidi Hawkins, Paul McLean, Renee Peters, and Mike Wallace.

Jenny Armour, Deryl Armstrong, Tim Blom, Bruce Denis, David Flook, David Hobana, Alastair Johnstone, Boon Lee, Christine Lohr, Jeff McConaghy, Douglas McLean, Janet Morrison, Vish Nandlall, Micheal O'Pray, Jane Perng, Shawn Pleunis, Stephen Sargeant and Beth Wallace.

Bursaries are in...

Brunswickan News

Pick 'em up at the Business Office. 'nuff said.

VP Academic candidates speak

By Mary Rogal-Black
Brunswickan News

Lou Visentin covered some ground this week in dispelling the 'cloud' that hung



Lou Visentin

over his candidacy for the position of VP Academic.

Following a prepared talk for an audience of approximately one hundred

members of the university community, Visentin turned to the issue of bad press he has received during his term as VP Academic at Mount Allison University.

Visentin cited polarity at Mount A, and said that he stepped into a campus in which people were already divided.

"I'm at an institution which has a long history of conflict," said Visentin.

Several members of the audience questioned Visentin in an effort to achieve some understanding of his role in the conflicts at Mount Allison, and Visentin responded by suggesting that the environment at UNB would be different.

"UNB is a model of collegiality," said Visentin. "Frankly, that's why I wanted to work here."

VP University Affairs Pat FitzPatrick sits on the hiring committee for the VP Academic. While FitzPatrick had some concerns about the candidate, he said he was impressed with Visentin.

"I found his presentation to the student groups to be honest, forthcoming and certainly not without promise," said FitzPatrick.

A decision on the appointment is expected shortly.

By Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

Ed Biden told an audience of faculty and students that he envisions the role of VP Academic as one in which he could build



Ed Biden

a healthy environment for consensus.

At the same time, Biden said that he would not shy away from decision making.

"I intend to look you in the eye and put

it in a proper context," he emphasized.

Biden indicated that he would begin a review of 1995's five-year strategic plan almost immediately if selected, "to give us a sense of where we are, where we are going, and how each department and faculty member fits into the strategic plan."

He also stressed the importance of consulting all members of the constituency, including staff, faculty, funding sources, and students.

"Students have a well thought out agenda to put on the table," he said, "and it's important to listen to them."

When questioned about improving the quality of teaching at UNB, Biden said that many of the senior faculty value teaching and take on large, introductory classes.

Biden has been at UNB since 1987, coming from a position in the administration of Children's Hospital in San Diego, California. He has been director of UNB's Biomedical Engineering Research Institute for the past five years.

During that time, he has raised about \$1 million in external funding for the institute from external sources and funding programs.

"I have had to bring money through the door to meet the payroll," he said.

Evictions justified says Skidmore

By Greg Moore
Brunswickan News

According to Dean of Residence James Skidmore, three students evicted from Neville House last week could not be trusted to go on living in residence.

The three residents were asked to leave the residence community last week and barred from entering residence property.

Michael Deagle, one of the three who faced eviction and fines after receiving a warning for attempting to throw a friend out of the residence window and subsequently smashing beer bottles, said last week that they were "sort of set up and watched more heavily," and that the charges against them were "just an excuse to get rid of us."

The three had been required to submit a 'performance bond' which stipulated that they must not engage in "violent, aggressive, or disruptive behaviour."

"We don't ask anything of them that isn't expected of everyone," Skidmore said, noting that the rules are part of the contract that residents

enter into when they join the residence community and that the performance bond is just an "incredibly clear warning."

According to Dean Skidmore, the three had been drinking and decided to dangle a fellow resident out of a second floor window. This episode, which resulted in one student being slightly injured, led to the drafting of the performance bond.

The object of the bond is, Skidmore says, "to give them a second chance to prove that they want to be part of the residence community."

He explained that a number of similar arrangements have been made with other residents and this is the only one that has been broken.

The events that led to final eviction took place on the weekend of March 25th. According to Dean Skidmore, the three were "sort of rowdy that week-end" and "displayed disrespect" toward the proctor on the floor to the extent that the proctor was forced to spend the night at a hotel for fear of his safety.

Drinking and smashing beer bottles

in their room, one of the residents was cut in the face and needed stitches.

"I don't believe that they were just throwing bottles into a garbage can," said Skidmore.

Regardless, Skidmore said that the actions of the three residents were "violent, aggressive, and disruptive" and that they were in violation of the performance bond.

Of the proctor's response to the disturbance, Skidmore expressed a desire to dispel allegations that proctor Shawn Hickey was acting as a "loose cannon."

"Shawn is a very good proctor," he said, adding that he "exercises very sound judgment."

The three were told Monday that they had two hours to move out and that the university would pay for three nights at a hotel while they searched for new accommodation. Skidmore said that this was necessary to protect the other residents.

Apparently stung by conjectures that he is an authoritarian who enjoys throwing students out of residence,

Skidmore said that he felt badly for the evicted students.

"But we have to protect the whole community," he said.

Skidmore added that he had frequent contact with one of the three who was a member of the house committee and that he "is a nice guy."

"These people just have no concept of how to live in a community," he said. "Think of the other people that live there."

The three had complained that they had insufficient funds for food and transportation last week, since the refund cheques were not issued until Friday. Skidmore said the situation was regrettable but the cheques were issued as quickly as possible. The Business Office normally only issues cheques on Fridays.

Skidmore indicated that he would "look into that to see if we could write them a hundred dollar cheque right away," in future cases.

"I don't want people not to eat," he said. "We didn't time it," Skidmore explained further, "they did."

Native studies class reacts to racism

By Mary Rogal-Black
Brunswickan News

"Go to work and pay taxes!!!" This message was printed across the bottom of a poster in Marshall D'Avery Hall, announcing a meeting of the Student Heritage Council.

When lecturer David Perley saw the graffiti, he took the poster to his native studies class.

The students in Perley's class decided to react, and today the results of three weeks of work come alive with RACE Day.

RACE is an acronym developed by the class. It stands for Respect Aboriginal Cultures Everywhere.

Perley said he and his students have organized RACE Day as a class project to address the perception that First Nations people are "parasites".

Santo DiPietro is enrolled in the Bridging Year program this year, and is planning to attend the Education program next year.

"As a class, we were moved to respond to the misconceptions that the racist graffiti detailed," DiPietro explained.

Phyllis Wood said she has encountered racism in the community. Wood recounted a conversation she had with a woman in the hospital.

"I don't think she knew I was a native. She said she didn't think it was fair that Indians get their education paid for," said Wood, a Bridging Year student who plans to take Office Management next year.

"I said white people came and took the



Mary Rogal-Black photo

David Perley's Native Studies class plans RACE day, set to kick off today at 9:00. Left to right are students Mary Jane Ward, Ina Green, and Kimball Augustine.

land away."

Wood went on to point out that given the chance, First Nations people would rather get out and get an education than be on welfare.

The students hope to present an alternative view to racist myths through their project.

Plans for RACE day include a series of speakers who will give talks on subjects including Spirituality, Hunting and Fishing Rights, and Land Claims and Self-Government.

"It will be an informal day filled with sharing and celebration," said DiPietro.

"There will be a presentation on the contributions that First Nations people have provided Maritime Society," he added.

Some members of the class have been working on research projects, looking at some of the misconceptions about native people. Greg Gruben, one of the class participants, studied the issue of unemployment and welfare among First Nations people.

"We face the same problems as other Canadians," said Gruben. "On top of that we deal with prejudice, racism."

"The system is saying, 'we'll keep

you dependent,'" added Perley.

The day will begin at 9:00 a.m. with an opening ceremony featuring The Muskrat Singers, and close in the afternoon with a feast in the cafeteria at Marshall D'Avery Hall.

Donations to help fund RACE Day have been received from the Oromocto First Nations, Kingsclear First Nations, and from the UNB Student Union.

This will be the first RACE Day, but Perley said he hopes it will not be the last.

"I'd like to see these issues addressed on an ongoing basis," he said. "I feel there are too many misconceptions that need to be addressed."