

AUC renovations

by Mark Savoie
Brunswickan News

The Aitken University Centre is getting a facelift.

First opened in 1976, the building is the recipient of a \$1.1-million Infrastructure Grant awarded by the federal, provincial, and municipal governments. All of this money is earmarked specifically for the Aitken Centre.

"The building is almost twenty years old," explained retiring Associate Vice-President-Administration Eric Garland. "We put in an application back in February to the Infrastructure Program. At that time we put in for projects that totalled a million and a half dollars, and we were fortunate enough to receive \$1.1 million."

Two of the more major purchases being made for the Aitken Centre are a new compressor for ice making, and a new cooling tower. Repairs to the roof have already been completed. The other changes are mostly cosmetic in nature; including the replacement of the stacking chairs in the top row and corners with permanent arena seats, the replacement of the wooden boards with ones of steel and plastic composition.

The plexiglass above these boards is also being replaced, with the glass at the ends and in the corners being raised from five to eight feet in height. A substantial amount of painting will be done in the building as well.

Hockey fans may be excited to learn that the 'standing room only' area situated around the rink at ice level will be eliminated.

In its place will be two rows of seating, thus allowing spectators to sit beside the ice during games. This addition will have the added bonus of increasing the Aitken Centre's seating capacity.

"The seating capacity will be somewhere in the order of 3,700," commented Garland. "It's been in the order of 3,500 for an ice activity. For a non-ice activity we can put over 2,000 seats on the floor, so its in the order of six or seven thousand, depending on how big the stage is."

Accommodation for wheelchair occupants will also be made in the refurbished Aitken Centre, although exactly how this is to be done has not yet been decided. Among the other cosmetic changes to the building are an increase in the number of ticket booths and a new sound system.

"The problem has been," says Garland, "right from the beginning, is that we'd like to do much more than we have the money for, so we've had to establish priorities and we've done it on a project basis so that at the present time we're committed to most of the things I've already mentioned."

Still, Garland is excited about the building's refurbishments. "It's like having a new building in a way—for another ten, fifteen, twenty years—unless there's a major change in the function of the building."

Confused about courses?

Need help choosing your courses? Need to know which professor to pick for your section of Math 1003? Confused about some of the terms and regulations you've encountered? When you register on Thursday, be sure to pick up your copy of *The Guide*, your Student Union's academic handbook by students, for students. It includes the "Consumer's Guide to UNB," with comments and data compiled from student opinion surveys distributed last year, and a complete help section outlining some of the rules and regulations governing academics.

Information in the "Consumer's Guide" comes from a survey form administered by the UNB Student Union. Unfortunately, not all of the courses offered are included in the *Guide*, as participation in the evaluations by professors is voluntary. All undergraduate faculties (excluding law) are represented, numbering 275 courses in total. It contains information like the grades students expected from a course, the hours students spent on a course per week, the effectiveness of the instructor and whether or not students would recommend the course to others. Students were also given the opportunity to offer any additional comments or suggestions, and these have been summarized for the "Consumer's Guide".

"Tackling the System" is the title of the academic help section of the *Guide*. It includes, among other things, information about adding and dropping courses, important dates, how to calculate your GPA, academic offenses (and how to avoid staying out of trouble), and the appeals process.

One of the more important but often intangible aspects of the project is its impact on the quality of teaching. The

publication of the results of the opinion surveys makes instructors more accountable to you, the consumer of teaching services at UNB. The Student Union survey forms also provide valuable and much needed feedback to instructors, which is currently lacking in the system of evaluation the University has in place. This information is passed on to instructors so that they can improve their courses and their presentation, bettering the experience for everyone. When the time comes to fill out a form, take advantage of the opportunity to voice your opinion and remember, you do have a say about the quality of the education you receive at UNB.

If you'd like to get involved with the *Guide*, contact Shona Bertrand, Editor, at 453-4955. Any questions, comments or suggestions can be forwarded to Room 126 in the SUB, or e-mail them to guide@unb.ca.

Walk safely with SafeWalk

The Neill House Safe Walk (established in 1991) offers free escorts to students anywhere on or within walking distance of campus. Volunteers will escort you safely to the library, your home, car, or wherever else you might need to go. The Safe Walk is available 7 days a week from dusk until dawn. To obtain an escort, call Campus Security at 453-4830. They will call you back with the name of your escort. Your escort will arrive

wearing a bright green Neill House Escort jacket and will be carrying an ID tag.

Recently, the Neill House Safe Walk has undergone a few changes.

Volunteers must pass a formal screening process which includes: a written application, an interview by a committee, an academic check (to guarantee they are registered students), and a criminal records check. As well, volun-

teers will now participate in a training session with presentations from Campus Police, Campus Security, Fredericton Police, and the Fredericton Rape Crisis Centre.

Finally, co-ed escort teams will also be available.

If you have any comments or suggestions, call Campus Security (453-4830), Neill House (457-3190), or the UNB Student Union (453-4955).

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