

NEWS

NEWSLINE: 453-4973
DEADLINE: Noon Wednesday

Military cancels bus service to campus

by RICK GAIGNEUR
BRUNSWICKAN STAFF

For several years, the Federal Government, through the Department of National Defence, has provided many services to university students whose parents serve, or have served, with the Canadian military. These benefits include the full payment of dependent students' first year tuition costs, financial assistance in the form of bursaries in all years after the first, and free transportation from the military base to nearby universities. However, this summer it was announced that many of these programs will soon come to an end.

The first victim of the cut-backs was the free bus service which conveyed students from Oromocto to the UNB campus. The bus has been carrying between forty and fifty students to UNB and STU since approximately 1978. The announcement that the run would be cancelled was made by the Deputy Base Commander of CFB Gagetown, Colonel Ashton, late in August. Asked to comment on the matter, Col. Ashton stated that the decision to cancel this year's bus was made at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa by the Director General of the Dependent's Education Program, Mr. Frank Bussieres.

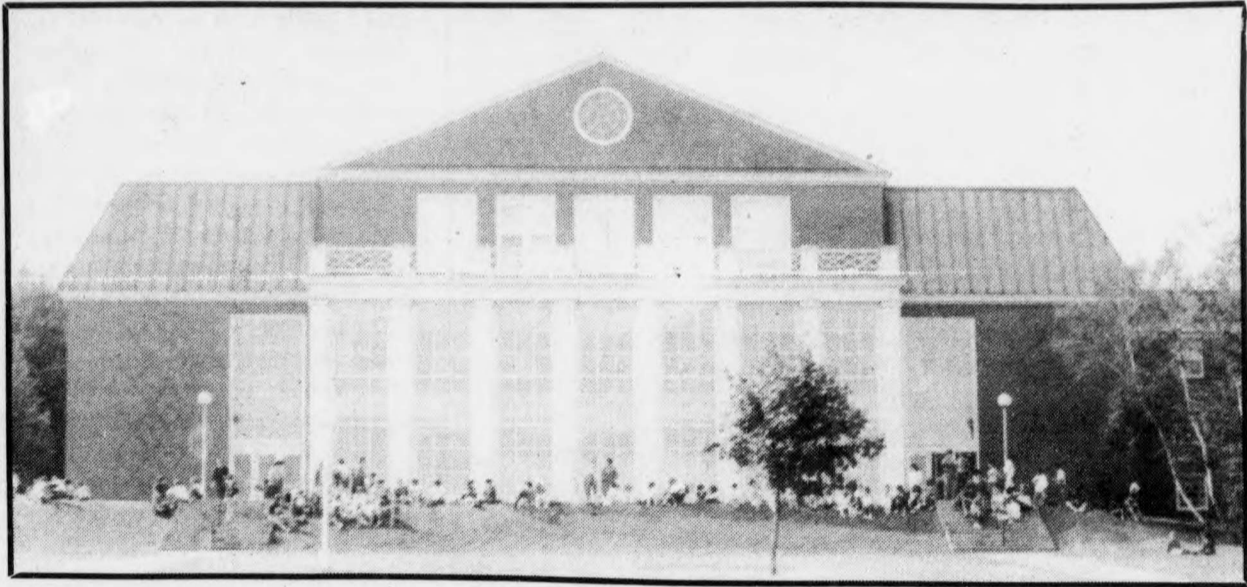
Colonel Ashton states that the bus was provided primarily for first year students, who have been regarded as equivalent to grade 13 students in Ontario. Since the province of Ontario provides busing for grade 13 students there, it has been felt that first year university students in other provinces

should receive free busing. However, this summer, Ottawa decided that first year university students are no longer equivalent to grade 13 students. This effectively makes the bus run illegal. Says Colonel Ashton "I was as unhappy at having to terminate the service as anybody who was benefiting from it would have been ... but it is felt that no military personnel or their dependents should be entitled to anything that is not available to the common taxpayer."

Contacted on the subject, Mr. Robert Howie, Progressive-Conservative member of Parliament for York-Sunbury, said that he has received complaints on the cancellation of the bus service and has been in contact with Defence Minister Eric Neilson requesting a return of the run. "If it was running last year, I see no reason why it shouldn't be running this year too."

Currently a commercial bus service from Oromocto to Fredericton is being operated by Trius Taxi Ltd. At the time of the bus run cancellation, they offered inexpensive student rates to Oromocto users. By the first week of September, the cost of these student passes had nearly doubled from the advertised price. Officials of Trius Taxi refused comment on both the cost change and the cancellation of the military service (which they assisted with in the past few years by occasionally providing buses.)

With Ontario considering phasing out grade thirteen, there exists the possibility of many more student aid programs coming under the axe. In correspondence this sum-



mer, the Department of National Defence announced the elimination, to come into effect gradually over the next few years, of the Canadian Army Welfare Fund, which provides

annual financial assistance to the children of veterans. Col. Ashton also indicated that the practice of paying the first year costs of dependent students could soon end. One student

effected "the government can bail out all the banks and big businesses, but they can't afford to help out the students of this country."

S.U. Academic Commission — an overview

by CHRISTIAN L.
BRUNSWICKAN STAFF

Have you ever wondered what the Student Union's Academic Commission has achieved in its first year of existence? According to Michael Bennett, VP Academic, they have helped students appeal marks, helped students interpret the judicial jargon of the regulations and initiated the publication of a course and teacher evaluation guide and a lecture series.

They are trying to get special guest lectures to 'show their stuff' to the student population. Ideally, there will be lecturers about every two months

bringing students controversial subjects ranging from abortion to North American politics. Mr. Bennett explains that the idea to have guest lecturers came as a result of students expressing a desire to hear those persons that their professors were mentioning in various courses. The lecturers should not only interest the students enrolled in these courses but the general population as well. If the success of the lectures from the psychic investigators is any indication, this project should be popular.

Bennett's other emphasis is in improving the course and teacher evaluation by having the evaluation in every course, printing the evaluation in a booklet which every student would have before registration, and using computers to do the

totals. In the prototype evaluation that was done last spring, there were 47 questions which Mr. Bennett feels is too much. He would like it to be shortened to 20 questions, 10 questions that deal with the course and 10 questions that deal with the professor. Mr. Bennett commented that the evaluation serves as an instrument of student opinion which could be helpful in choosing courses. This evaluation was started because some of the 9 questions in the university's evaluation were repetitive and furthermore, the administration would not make the results public. The Academic Commission plans on having this course and teacher evaluation prior to the Christmas examinations and available again before final exams in the spring.

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NEWS ITEM: The Rev. Jerry Falwell opposes divestment.



Moosehead rep Derrick Stanford presents a cheque for \$1,000. to members of Neill House. Neill House won last years Inter Residence Competition 'Ready for the Hunt'