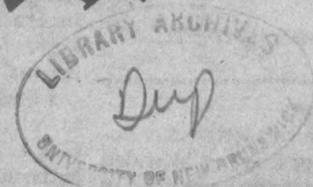


The Brunswickian



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Coach Suspended

By ERIC DRUMMIE

On Sunday afternoon the UNB Red Devils played the STU Tommies at the AUC. A notable difference to this game besides UNB's increased effort in their play was the fact that head coach Rick Nickelchok was not present. In his place was assistant and ex-player Mark Jeffery.

This sudden change of coaching responsibility allegedly resulted from threats of a player boycott of the game unless a coaching change was made for Sunday's contest against STU. This was announced on CHSR on Friday night by CHSR Sports Director Mike Power. On Saturday Jim Born, UNB Athlete Director, stated that "Mark Jeffery will act as head coach along with assistant coach Shane Parker for the UNB-St. Thomas game Sunday afternoon... The Athletic Department is doing an internal review of the head

coach's position and further information will come in the near future." Jim Born, on Wednesday, would not confirm that team Captains Renato Marino and Jamie Lehman met with him Friday morning and told him the players would boycott the game unless Jeffery was installed as coach.

On Monday Nickelchok met with the Physical Education Department's Assessment Committee. The committee is a jury of four individuals among the Faculty of Physical Education who essentially make all the coaching decisions regarding the hiring and firing of the coaching staffs for the 12 Varsity sports. Coach Nickelchok would reveal no particulars of the meeting except that any further statement concerning his coaching future at the school will come from them.

Technically, Nickelchok re-

mains as the head coach, pending the decision of the Assessment Committee, said Jim Born, on Sunday. "He's on staff at UNB, he's our hockey coach, and instructor in activity courses, and the director of the summer hockey school," he continued.

Nickelchok's original two-year contract with the school expired last year but he was given another one-year deal in the off-season, with a clause that called for an assessment of his position on January 15 and

again at the end of the hockey season. The Devils are but 1-10 on the season and 12-48-3 through Rick's two plus years as coach. Last year the team's final record was 3-22-1.

On Wednesday Jim Born would not comment on the situation or verify if Jeffery will take-over the club on an interim basis. Born stated he is waiting for the Physical Education and Athletic Departments to release official statements on the situation involving Rick Nickelchok and his position

with the UNB Red Devils.

With the weekend coming up the Assessment Committee will be pressed to announce their findings and make their proposals to the Physical Education and Athletic Departments before the Red Devils go to the Island to play the UPEI Panthers on Saturday and Sunday. If the Committee fails to do so, coach Nickelchok will remain suspended from duty as the head coach of the Red Devils.

Health Care in Crisis

By NATALIE FOLSTER

The Doctor Everett Chalmers Hospital is experiencing a serious financial crisis. Faced with the prospect of a 1.3 million dollar deficit for this fiscal year, the Hospital Board is grappling with the implementation of several emergency cost-cutting measures. The most drastic of these would be the closure of seventy-seven beds for three months in the new year and limiting operating room hours.

The Provincial Government has refused DECH's request for increased funding stating that money is not available and the hospital must keep within its budget this year.

Hospital officials are predicting grim consequences should the Board be forced to take these measures. The bed closures would result in the layoff of approximately fifty people in the nursing and administrative staff. Penny Short, acting Director of Nurs-

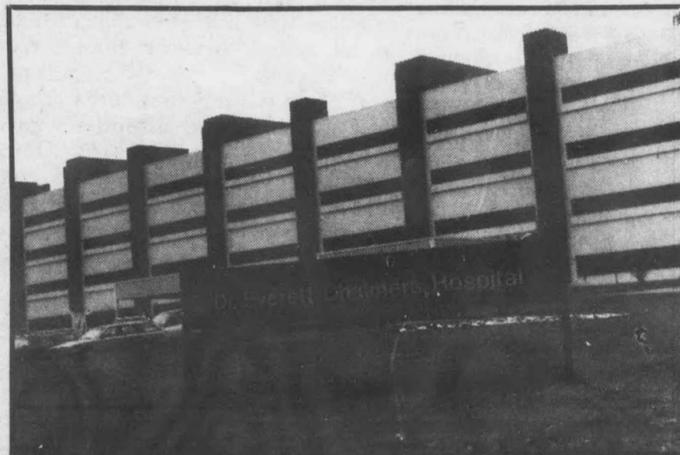


photo by Jayde Mockler

ing has stated that if nurses are let go, they won't be back. Recruiters from other hospitals throughout North America will snap them up. In addition she says DECH will acquire a bad reputation among new nurses and New Brunswick will be left with an even more acute shortage of nurses than that which it now experiences.

Dr. Garth Christie, Vice-President of the medical staff voices similar concerns. He

fears an exodus of the best surgeons and specialists from the region as doctors become frustrated with huge patient loads and long waiting lists for hospital beds and operating room time.

The quality healthcare can also be expected to suffer under the cutbacks. A smaller staff will have to cope with an already heavy demand for hospital services.



MESSENJAH, Canada's #1 Reggae Band will be appearing in the SUB Cafeteria tonight as part of a benefit concert.

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