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Taxi fares increase 30%

Student Union negotiates with taxi companies

by Gail Anthony

The marketplace may now determine city taxi rates if a new bylaw receives council's approval. The idea of installing meters in the capital taxi cabs is no longer a problem facing students.

Kevin Bourque, Student Union President, says the Student Union is presently negotiating with various taxi company to acquire student rates.

"The students have won a major victory. The Student Union has worked all summer and have spent many hours dealing with this problem. The bottom line is we want the best prices for the student. It is a major victory for the students because no one else fought it," he says.

According to Bourque the Student Union began protesting the installation of meters by presenting a brief to city council stating it was unfair to citizens of a disadvantaged economic group

aiming at the needs of students, as well as senior citizens, and welfare recipients.

He explains taxi fares increased 30 per cent this summer and student and senior citizen discounts were eliminated.

"Like I said before, we are trying to get the best prices for students. We are presently trying to bargain a discount with a company. I think most of the taxi companies are underestimating the student market," Bourque notes.

He says the Student Union pursued every possible route in dealing with this problem. They are now willing to offer a program to endorse a taxi company who agrees to offer student discounts.

"It's a whole new ball game with the free market. If you can get a really good discount for students we will endorse that company. We are trying really hard to get this deal struck," Bourque notes.

He says the Student Union may help with the advertising

of the company. There is also the possibility of placing a taxi stand in front of the Student Union Building.

Bourque says he is reasonably confident one taxi company will be willing to offer student discounts and break into the market.

"I think we should endorse a company if they are going to offer students a good discount. We have the interest of the

students as our main priority," he states.

Bourque explains no taxi company has agreed at this point to offer the discount but says they have made contact with some of the companies.

"All we can do is keep dealing and negotiating. The process is moving as quickly as possible. I'm not sure when we will find a company that is willing to offer the student

discount. It may be the end of the week, it might not be until next week, or sometime in the future. I hope it happens, and we will keep working until it does," Bourque notes.

He does not anticipate any more problems with taxis in the near future.

"To this point we've been friendly. All we want is the student discount," Bourque concludes.



Waiting for a customer - Since the elimination of student discounts this summer, Student Union president Kevin Bourque thinks most of the taxi companies are underestimating the student market.
Photo by Randy Goodleaf

Executives and councillors resign from Student Union

by Karen Burgess

Since the completion of last year's election, the ranks of the Student Union's personnel have decreased considerably due to the resignation of several of its executives and officers.

Among the positions now vacant are those of Vice President External, Vice President Activities, several councillors, and the executive of the Grad Class.

Although the remaining Student Union executive members have been strained with the added responsibilities left with them by the recent resignations, they recognize the validity of each member's reason for leaving.

Richard Renaud, former VP Activities was forced to resign when he was needed by members of his family in a time of illness. In the case of the VP External, Kate Rogers, her resignation was necessitated by a personal illness.

Kevin Bourque, President of the Student Union, says that while Roger's illness was in no manner life threatening, "she was in a situation where her job would have been seriously affected due to her health, so she decided it would be best to step down and let someone else with better health and enthusiasm take her place."

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AIDS - "We have to deal with it"

by Gail Anthony

Grace Getty, coordinator of the AIDS program at UNB, says AIDS remain a problem for the student publication.

"Aids is in the population base and we have to deal with it," she says.

Getty explains Canadian statistics on AIDS would suggest between the UNB and STU campus there may be at least ten people HIV infected.

"In the AIDS program we try to deliver an education that will help change peoples' behavior. The bottom line is people know about AIDS...but they are not

changing their behavior," she notes.

"The bottom line is we find it difficult to talk about sex," Getty adds.

Last Wednesday evening the Student Union agreed to carry the burden of the cost for 3500 condom wallets for distribution purposes.

Getty says that Student Union's support is a good start.

"It is a useful thing to show student support...It was encouraging that the student union was willing to participate in the program," Getty states.

She explains the program is merely trying to encourage

those sexually active to protect themselves.

According to Getty one of the most important things is offering information focusing on protecting the individual from pregnancy, HIV, and other sexually transmitted diseases.

The program is also concentrating on safer alternatives to intercourse.

Getty explains it is difficult to change cultural ideas concerning what is socially acceptable and what is not but says things are changing.

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