

SRC, Help Centre to be joined

By Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

UNB Student Union officials are planning to merge the all-volunteer Student Resources Centre and the all-paid Help Centre as early as this summer. The facilities are located in separate offices on the main floor of the Student Union Building.

Preliminary steps in that direction have already been taken, according to UNB SU Vice President (Student Services) Trish Davidson, who is seeking re-election in a matter of weeks.

The preliminary budgets for the 1996-97 fiscal year have already been completed for both centers, according to Davidson.

"We have allowed for some kind of an amalgamation not coming in at any more of an expense and perhaps a little less," Davidson said.

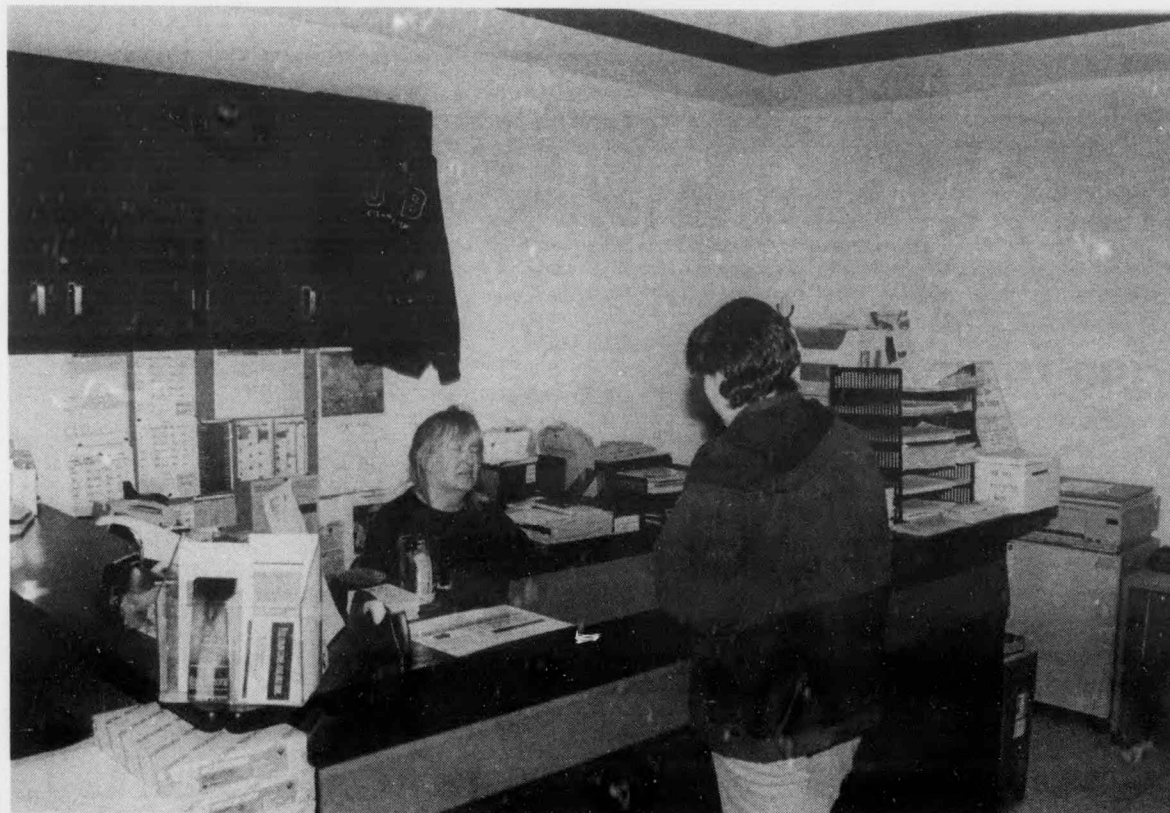
The merger move had been sparked by more than just a chance to save a little cash, according to Davidson. "The Student Help Centre is quickly becoming not as useful as it used to be."

"It used to be that the Help Centre was one of the places on campus where you could come to do things that needed to be done that you could not do anywhere else," she said.

Items like a colour copier and computer terminals are now readily available elsewhere on campus.

"We used to have a terminal there from the student loan people, but you can now get that on-line. So there is no need for that to be there anymore either," she said.

"The Help Centre used to have job postings but now we have an employment



New ideas might mean big changes to the Help Centre

photo: Warren Watson

opportunities bureau operating out of the Student Resources Centre."

"It is also more practical for the Resource Centre to give direction to students who want to find out about things on campus," Davidson claims.

"The one advantage to the current Help Centre is that it still serves as a focal point for ticket selling for events," she said.

"Various clubs and societies like Orientation, SmartPacc and Grad Class still sell items there and it's still a place where students can get cheap photo copies."

But the merger is being done and will

go forward in the next few months because the Student Union wants a more streamlined, efficient operation, according to Davidson.

The merger will still create one full time job during the day for a Co-ordinator or Manager. Several students will be employed part-time during the evenings and weekends.

Whether the merger will effect the long time paid Manager of the Help Centre is still up in the air and Davidson is not speculating.

But Davidson is making no secret

of the fact that she is not happy with the way the current Help Centre is being operated. "The Help Centre does not make money, it never has," she said.

"The same person has run the Help Centre for a long time but there are no new initiatives to make it a revenue generating operation."

"I don't really feel like it should be losing as much money as it is. It is in one of the most commercially valuable places in the SUB," she concluded.

Fulton continued from Page 3

light..." Davidson concluded.

The first reading of the 1996-97 budget may be handed down either next week (March 19) or the week after (March 26), according to Fulton. This would push the date for final approval to April 2 or 9. In either case, one reading of the budget will occur on April 2, the day ballots will be counted for the General Election.

Last year, the first reading of the budget occurred on March 1. The final version was approved on March 29. Deadline, last year, for all organizations who were receiving money from the Student Union, including clubs, societies and media organizations was mid-February.

This year, the deadline for submission of 1996-97 preliminary budgets for

inspection by Fulton and the SU Finance Committee was February 5.

Nearly six weeks later, budget consultations, mandated by the Financial

policy, are set to be held on Saturday and early next week. At time of press, formal notice of these consultations had not been communicated to clubs and societies.

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The Brunswickan est imprimé avec flair par Acadie Press a Caraquet. The paper is impeccably delivered by Mark Bray. He has a license, really. Subscription rates are \$27 per year. Second class mail is in effect -#8120

National advertising rates are available from Campus Plus at (416) 362-6468.

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