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The Brunswickan, in its 128th year of publication, is Canada's oldest official student publication. The Brunswickan is generally published every Friday during the school year by Brunswickan Publishing Inc. with a circulation of 10,000. Membership is open to all University of New Brunswick Fredericton students, but all members of the university community are encouraged to contribute.

The opinions contained in this newspaper are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Brunswickan.

The Brunswickan, while being an open forum for the viewpoints and opinions of all UNB students, may refuse any submission that is judged to be racist, sexist, libellous, or containing attacks of a strictly personal nature. The Brunswickan reserves the right to edit for brevity. Letters generally shouldn't exceed 300 words in length and must contain your signature, student number and phone number, or it will not be printed.

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The Brunswickan is printed with flair by Acadie Press in Caraquet. The paper is impeccably delivered by Securall, they carry guns.

Subscription rates are \$25 per year. Second class mail is in effect -#8120

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If you're already covered.....

New healthcare plan has opt-out clause

by Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

UNB students have until the end of September to claim a full \$100 rebate from the new health plan administered for the first time this year by the Student Union.

But while every student paid the \$100 health plan fee with their registration only those who are eligible can receive a rebate.

"Only those students who are covered under a separate family or individual plan and can furnish proof will be eligible," said Chris Alward, Vice-President Student Services of the UNB Student Union.

Rebate claims will be processed beginning September 12th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Friday in room 114 of the SUB (the former Bellboy Dry Cleaning location).

"Students must fill out the rebate form and provide a photo copy of a private insurance plan card," said Alward. "The private insurance card must have the name of the insured person and a policy plan number. For example, a Blue Cross card will be the most typical card we will receive."

Provincial Medicare cards will not be accepted as only private healthcare coverage can make a student eligible for the rebate.

"All forms when processed will be sent to the insurance company and most rebates should take about six weeks," Alward continued. "When the rebates arrive we will be distributing them all at the same time."

The rebates should be received by the Student union around mid-November, and Alward promises that the location where cheques can be picked up will be well-advertized.

"In addition students who have dependants and wish to add them to the plan have until September 30th to do so," said Alward. "The additional fee for this service will be \$120 which will cover a student and dependants for a year." Students who opt to do this

should come to room 114 and fill in the necessary forms.

The new student health plan covers prescription drugs including oral contraceptives, vision care, dental accident benefits, paramedical services, medical equipment and ambulance services.

The prescription drug service will be the most frequently used by most students. "A Pay Direct Card will be issued to each student by mid November," Alward explained. "Again, the time and location where the cards will be distributed will be well advertised."

"A student who needs a prescription will present the pay-direct card at

a pharmacy and pay twenty percent of the total price of the prescription. The health plan covers the other 80% of the total cost", he said. "The advantage of this system is that students will be spared the huge up front cost of a prescription."

For students who need a prescription or other health plan service before the Pay Direct Card arrives, claim forms are available from the Student Union office.

"The form must be filled in and mailed directly to Sun Life Insurance at the address provided. It takes about six weeks for the claim to be processed," Alward said. "Students will be reim-

bursed 80% of the claim since 20% is paid by the individual."

Alward is also advising students who wish to make claims throughout the year for dental accident benefits or medical equipment to contact Sun Life Insurance before applying. Sun Life has an easy toll free phone number for all claims questions at 1-800-361-2128.

"Students who have any questions about the health plan are welcome to contact me or Barb Kirk at the Student Union office 453-4955," said Alward. "Information on the coverage provided in the health plan will be available in a pamphlet at registration or at the Student Union office after that."



SU tries to make campus life safer

by Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

UNB students will be conducting a Safety Audit on campus later this month.

The audit is designed to identify those areas that are unsafe or that could present a potential hazard. Groups of students will be going through all UNB buildings the weeks of September 18th and 25th to look at lighting, accessibility and signage.

"They will be focusing on those areas that create feelings of uneasiness and apprehension," said Chantale Walker, Campus Safety Co-ordinator for the UNB Student Union. "Every student visits campus at night to attend classes, go to the computer lab, the library or to attend meetings or social functions."

"We want everyone to feel safe on campus," she said.

The safety audit is based on material received from the Metro Action Committee on Public Violence Against Women and Children.

Volunteers are still needed to conduct the survey. Survey results will be presented to UNB administration officials later this fall.

"We realise that not all changes that are identified can be fixed right away, but the audit helps to identify what is needed," said Walker. A similar audit on a smaller scale was conducted on campus last year and met with some suc-

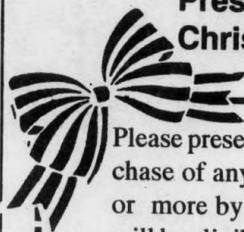
cess, she commented. Last year the audit identified problem areas in the Harriet Irving Library and the Student Union Building and some have already been fixed. "The red phones in the SUB were clearly identified as emergency phones," said Walker. "And the vending machines located outside the SUB cafeteria were placed closer to the wall to prevent hiding spaces."

The audit will also be conducted out doors along pathways and near parking lots especially. "We are looking for poor lighting or in some cases no lighting and for areas where under brush could be cut away near outdoor paths," Walker said.

"To be fair, UNB administrators have been co-operative but more needs to be done," she said. "Accessibility is still a major concern but its slowly starting to improve. For example curbs have been cut down in the past year to help those that are physically challenged."

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