

# The Brunswickian



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## SMT wants a 5% increase in passenger fares

by Allan Carter

Mark Lockwood, VP External of the UNB Student Union will be attending a meeting next week to protest SMT's (Eastern) proposal to the NT Motor Carrier Board to increase all passenger fares to 5% - a maximum increase of \$1 each way.

This has been the third application submitted to the board concerning increasing fares during 1989 and 1990.

On June 1, 1989 SMT asked that all fares be increased by 18% and to reduce student discount equally over a three year period.

But the board did point out that this still means students in NB "face an increase in fares which is larger than other bus riders."

The board felt that by spreading the reduction of student discounts over a three year period the impact on students would be "more gradual."

On November 7, 1989, SMT asked that there be an immediate increase in all fares of 5% and requested a further 5% increase to be effective in June.

But the board was dissatisfied with "the allocations between 'line-run' (passenger/parcel) and charter that were made by the company."

For instance all for the cost associated with the move of the Head office from Saint John to Moncton were allocated to the 'line-run' operators and none to charter."

The board felt that "one could fairly attribute 25% of these costs to the other side of the business."

This and another adjustment, said the board, would "result in a reduction in the revenue requirement for 1990 'line-run' operations of approximately \$100,000."

Because of this, the board would only approve a 3.5% increase in fares which was effective immediately and told the company that if the 5% increase that they wanted to be effective for June was necessary in 1990 they could reapply.

That is what SMT decided to do.

Aubrey Morrell, operations manager for SMT says that he has "no idea" about the problems with cost being allocated to 'line-run' operations when the board felt the the cost could be allocated to charter and says these factors will be dealt with at the meeting on Thursday.

He believes, at this time, that SMT has "satisfied the needs of the board."

Morrell says that basically their current proposal is for an increase of \$1 in each fare. Although they are asking for 5%, SMT does not want the increase to go over a dollar on larger fares.

Morrell says that "SMT's intention is to keep fares in line, but (they) must recover increase costs."

Due to the Persian Gulf Crisis, he feels most passenger prices in various transportation services have gone up and points out that SMT "runs on the same diesel fuel that they do."

Lockwood is concerned about a previous hearing where a decision was made to cut student discounts, but not many students were in attendance.

Thus he will attend next week's meeting to represent the UNB Student Union.

He is trying to get a petition ready for next week and says that any students interested in protesting the proposed hike can write letters and give them to Lockwood so he can submit them to the board.

Concerning the Gulf Crisis, Lockwood realizes that the cost of fuel has risen, but feels that, because of this, many people find it economically feasible to use buses.

To argue this point he makes reference to the recent increase in ridership for the Fredericton city transit.

Lockwood feels if SMT did more marketing - a few more ads, better scheduling - then they might be able to "capture some markets."

Continued on page 7

See also chart on page 8

No one way fare will have an increase over one dollar - Morrell



Bus on the move: Mark Lockwood, VP activities, feels if SMT did more advertising and had better scheduling then they might capture some other markets.

Photo by Randy Goodleaf

## Two UNB students are charged with setting fires in residences

by Allan Carter

Two UNB residence students who were caught setting fires in their houses have been charged by Fredericton City Police with setting false alarms.

On October 2, two separate incidents of fire setting occurred in both Aitken and Harrison Houses. Apparently two male students set fire to posters taped to doors.

The fires set off the fire alarms and according to Fredericton chief Herbie Hawkins, the fire department has no way of knowing if it is a false alarm until they arrive. Therefore they must respond to every alarm.

In an article earlier this week in *The Daily Gleaner*, Hawkins claims that the fire department has responded to 40 false alarms at UNB since January, not including the months of July and August.

**The fire department has responded to 40 false alarms at UNB since January.**

According to Mary Lou Stirling, dean of residence, the two young men are not living in residence anymore.

Stirling says that anyone who lights fires in residences are

endangering the safety and lives of fellow residents and must be asked to leave.

The two students will appear in court in early January. Their names will not be released until they appear in court.

The charge of setting off a false alarm can either be an indictable or a summary offense. In *The Daily Gleaner*, Fredericton Police Department Detective Mamie Murray said she is recommending the summary offense charge to the Crown Prosecutor's Office.

Under the summary offense, if the two are convicted, they face a maximum fine of \$2000 or a maximum prison term of six months or both.

### Contents:

Blood 'n Thunder ...	p 11	Entertainment .....	p 13	Spectrum .....	p 26
Classifieds .....	p 34	Feature .....	p 18	Sports .....	p 27
Distractions .....	p 21	News .....	p 3	Upcomin' .....	p 33
Editorial .....	p 4	Opinion .....	p 5	Viewpoint .....	p 20