



# The Brunswickian

CANADA'S OLDEST OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION

Published Weekly

University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, N.B.

Second Class Mail #8120

VOLUME 126, ISSUE 22

March 13, 1992

## "Bubble gum politicians" and CHSR

by Karen Burgess

The SU's recently released budget has caused a great deal of distress to members of CHSR, UNB's radio station.

In the budget, which passed its first reading at Wednesday's SU council meeting, \$27,000 was cut from CHSR's operating costs.

James van Raalte, SU Vice President of Finance, explains that the cut reflects the reduction of SU funded salaries at the station. At present, there are two paid positions, Station Manager and Program Manager, but it is the opinion of the SU Finance Committee that the students of UNB should not have to pay for both of these salaries. As a result, the

position of Program Manager will no longer be a SU funded salary position.

Van Raalte explains that the move is intended to encourage more "student empowerment" at the station as the budget includes an honoraria for a student programming manager who could, fill the mandate of Program Manager.

Members of CHSR, however, do not feel that this is a viable alternative.

Jeff Whipple, Station manager of CHSR, explains that the responsibilities of programming manager are too great for students to fulfill. He points out that the station operates 365 days a year with no allowances made for times of heavy academic stress as

is caused by exams and midterms.

Whipple adds that a study was done in 1986 which confirmed the position was better suited to a full-time paid employee.

Kathy Miller, membership representative for CHSR's Board of Directors feels that the "bubble-gum politicians" of the SU are asking too much of the station.

"Last year we were cut by \$8,000 and told to make up the difference in revenue." She says the students working at the station managed to over come this cut, but the latest budget reduction will mean "the difference between having the station or not."

Miller also expressed

concerns that van Raalte, who is also on CHSR's Board, is in serious conflict of interest and should resign.

Van Raalte points out that he removed himself from the budget process of the Board and therefore is not in conflict. He emphasizes that his only wish was to speak on behalf of the students of UNB who, he feels should not be responsible for paying the salaries of two paid positions, and that as a Board member will try to help CHSR find funding to maintain the position in its present condition.

Whipple explained that this would be impossible and that,

as it is, CHSR's staff is among the lowest paid in the country. He says that the station will take action on the budget cut, but what that action will be won't be determined until the Board's executive has had a chance to meet.

Miller and Whipple both expressed their concerns that the SU was "attacking the station." Miller compares the Union's actions to a "coup", saying that they wish to control CHSR. Van Raalte responded to this by saying: "Who could we take the power from? Students are supposed to be in power."

## Changes to Student Loan Program

by Karen Burgess

The new federal Budget contains an outline for a new financing arrangement for the Canada Student Loans Program.

The 3% tax on student loans which was introduced in 1989 and effective August 1991 will be eliminated and the present limit for loans, equal to \$105 per week of study, will be raised.

However, the news is not all positive. The government has decided to eliminate the six month interest subsidy previously granted to students.

In the past, students were given a six month interest free period after graduation. Effective in the 92/93 academic year, interest will be accrued from the date the student leaves school. The first payment on the loan will still be due six months after graduating.

A recent memo from the

National Office of the Canadian Federation of Students announces the elimination of the interest subsidy as a reflection of "the governments lack of sensitivity to the needs of students."

Tammy Yates, VP External of the student Union says the amount of interest accumulated in six months will probably out weigh the benefits of eliminating the 3% tax. Neither does Yates anticipate the loan limits increase to make an appreciable difference to students as the present limits which were established in 1983, are so low.

Yates appreciates that changes are being made but quotes CFS National Executive representative Sandeep Dhir, in his reaction to the move, to summarize her feelings about the initiative: "it's like giving socks to a homeless person."

## Unauthorized calls made from SU office

by Aime Phillips

October saw the beginning of unauthorized telephone calls being made from the Student Union office at odd hours of the night, the last of which was reportedly in January. The individual responsible was apprehended this past week.

Marlene O'Neill, Foundation Secretary, after establishing that the calls were made on the student

union telephone line, contacted the SUB office.

SUB Director, Kim Norris claims "We checked into it for the student union." Norris worked with the Associated Vice President Administration's office representative, Ann Bonnel, in resolving the difficulty.

Bonnel takes care of UNB's liaison with NBTel in dealing with all campus voice communications. When she became aware of the Student

Union's problem Security was contacted: "through Security and NBTel we were able to find the individual who was responsible."

Ric Peacock, director of security, confirmed that sporadic telephone calls were being made: "We determined who was responsible and the money is being reimbursed."

According to Peacock, the Fredericton City Police have not been contacted and no charges will be laid.



Jennifer Hale (#9) lead the UNB Red Bloomers to a fifth place finish nationally. See page 32 for details. Kevin G. Porter photo.

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