



Canada's Oldest Official Student Publication
 University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, N.B.

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The twenty-five dollar question

by Gordon Loane

Student Union and university officials will meet next week to hammer out finances and plans in the wake of a student referendum that overwhelmingly approved a new health plan earlier this term.

What's at stake could amount to about \$250,000 dollars of tuition money. At least three options appear to be under consideration.

When students approved of a new \$100 CFS student health plan in October, it appeared all systems were go. But students on the UNB Saint John campus have yet to approve a similar \$100 dollar plan.

"Just when they intend to do so or by what method is still up in the air," said Pat Fitzpatrick, Vice President University Affairs with the Student Union on the Fredericton campus.

"They could simply pass the health plan at a student council meeting or hold a referendum. We're still not sure," he continued.

What all this leads to is option number one. If students in Saint John do not pass the CFS health plan, the university could choose to disapprove, the referendum at Fredericton will have been futile and the proposed health plan would be dead.

Increasingly though, the Student Union has been getting hints from the university that option one is not being considered.

"We have nothing firm," said Fitzpatrick, "But it does appear that Fredericton may be able to go it alone without Saint John."

In other words, Fredericton undergraduates would have their own separate plan at a cost of \$100 and UNBSJ undergraduates would continue with the university operated plan.

But at what cost to UNBSJ students is another matter. "Obviously the cost of a university sponsored health plan at UNBSJ would shoot up. They wouldn't have the number of students if we drop out," said Fitzpatrick.

Which all leads to option number two - a separate \$100 per-year CFS health plan.

But what about the cost of a university sponsored health plan (currently \$25) included in tuition fees this year? Will the university consider granting a \$25 rebate on tuition fees next year because of the change in health plan?

University tuition fees are frozen next year by provincial government decree, so the rebate option is possible.

The amount in question is about \$250,000 in tuition fees for undergraduates at both Fredericton and Saint John (including graduate students) if one multiplies the number



It's White Ribbon Week - See story, page 3. Photo by Michael David Smith

of students by the \$25 cost rebate.

Student Union President James van Raalte for one does not intend to fight for the tuition fee rebate. "We could lobby hard saying students need the reduction in tuition, but we do have a tuition freeze next year," he said in a recent *Gleaner* interview.

For van Raalte the real question is: "What is the university going to do to cover its revenue shortfall which is expected to be between \$2.5 to \$3 million?"

For Student Union Vice-President Fitzpatrick, who admits he's sitting on the fence, the rebate is an issue.

"Council has not taken a stand on the matter and not discussed it," he admits. Since council has not voted on the issue, van Raalte may appear to some to be taking a stand on his own. But Fitzpatrick says he is quite

confident that van Raalte can sway the student council to his way of thinking.

Which leads to option three - the university keeps the \$25 cost of the current health plan, uses the money to defray other costs and pockets \$250,000 in the process. And all without increasing tuition fees or breaking the spirit of next years tuition freeze imposed on UNB and all of the province's other universities by the McKenna government.

Fitzpatrick said if option number three is chosen he has a few suggestions about where the university can spend the money.

"We would like to set up a Peer Help Centre in conjunction with the university, splitting the cost 50-50. That would cost the university somewhere around \$5-6000" he said. The centre would provide a centralized location for all kinds of

services including a phone centre. "We'll be pushing for that," he said.

Future funding for the Student Placement Centre is also in question now that a federal government commitment has expired. "That's another one," Fitzpatrick commented.

"It comes right down to it in our meeting with UNB officials next Tuesday, and if we're faced with a choice between a \$25 rebate or university approval for the new student health plan, I'll take the health plan," he said, "The \$100 health plan costs more but it's better and refundable."

Obviously, students agreed when they accepted the new health plan by a vote of 984 to 331 in the October referendum.

The 20% turnout rate was considered high for a fall Student Union by-election.

Will there be a Pub after X-mas?

by Jonathan Stone

Finding out the reason for the financial problems with the Pub in the Sub depends on who you talk to.

If you talk to the Director of Bar Services, Roy Brostowski, it's because the price of draft is cheaper at other pubs, causing students to go elsewhere. "There's no loyalty to a place. There's loyalty to a price," he said.

But sources close to Bar Services said that the Pub is faced with too many restrictions imposed by the university administration, making it difficult to make any headway. The Pub was created as an alternative to the Social Club; it was the first bar on campus to offer draft beer.

Recently, the university recently lowered the price of bottled beer,

causing draft sales to drop. The Pub makes a better profit margin off draft sales than it does off bottled beer sales.

And although the Pub is a public bar (anyone over 19 can go) the university would not allow it to advertise off campus. (The Social Club, independent of the university, is a private club, it requires memberships under its liquor license. There are no restrictions on advertising for the CHSC.) The source feels that the reason for this may be because the university is in a catch-22 situation because it promotes alcohol awareness, yet it owns a bar.

Brostowski blames the troubles on competing establishments that offer cheap draft prices. "It's not a question of mismanagement, it's a question of low volume. I think the

place itself is a gorgeous place. I think students like it. But students definitely do go where the price is right," he said.

"We've tried Mug Night, we've tried special evenings, and we've -See Pub, page 8

Student charged for sexual assault

Brunswickan staff

Paul Joseph Walker, 18, of Neill House, plead not guilty on Monday to a charge of sexual assault.

He was charged by Fredericton City Police in connection with an incident involving a female which occurred in residence on October 15.

The preliminary hearing is set for January 26.