

Bassett's Budget Fix

by Joe FitzPatrick
Co-News Editor

Nahie Bassett, VP Finance and Administration, was "pleased" with the coverage in last week's *Brunswickan*. "I feel strongly that students have a right to know what's going on." She wants to assure the students that the budget problems will be ironed out. She intends to reallocate money from items which are "under-budget" to those with over-expenditures. "Until this is done, the Operating Reports will always look bad," commented Bassett.

Bassett, who ran on a platform of greater fiscal responsibility and accountability, has been fighting an uphill battle with the Budget since returning to Fredericton in September. The numerous errors in the 1995-96 document, and large overages have added to the usual pressures to move funds into new areas of priority has been wearing hard on her.

"Sometimes I feel everybody thinks I'm stupid," said Bassett, "just because I don't have all the answers right away doesn't make this true. When I see problems I work hard and try to fix them."

Bassett explained that the budget over-expenditures do not endanger the financial position of the Union. It will remain solvent, and there is little risk of fiscal difficulties. However, in order to cover the over-expenditures, the Union will have to absorb money which

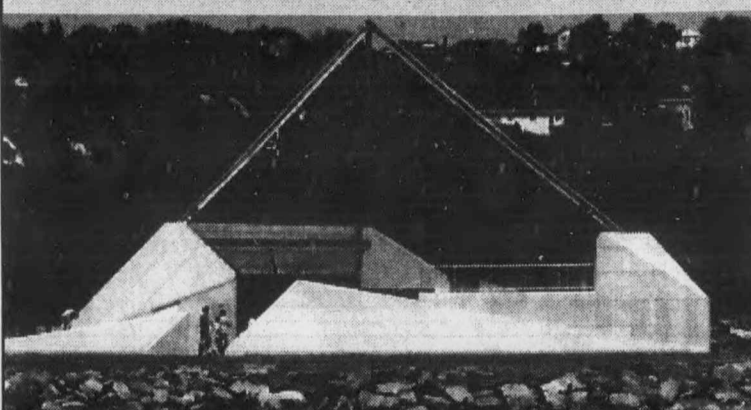
could have been used to offer more and better services.

Take the CFS Services fees for example, some \$10,000, was to have been reallocated, but could go towards these expenses. In addition, *The Brunswickan* has learned that Student Publications will be substantially under budget, nearly \$9,000. The biggest savings was realized on the publication of the *Consumer's Guide to UNB*, close to \$5,000 under the estimate of last year's budget. The remaining money will have to come from under-expenditures. However, further numbers from the Registrar have shown that enrollment is not down as sharply as previously thought. Enrollment stands at 6,978, meaning the student union is short only \$6,300 rather than \$13,500 as was previously reported.

Typically, by year-end, there are \$15,000-20,000 in under-expenditures, mostly from Clubs and Societies. In addition, there is last year's operating surplus, which, according to the Draft Audit, would be nearly \$17,500.

Asked whether her absence over the summer is affecting her performance she said, "Certainly there is a lot of catching up to do, but I don't feel I'm doing anything wrong." This may be so, but Bassett, who is the only member of the Executive with no experience on Student Council, and who didn't work for the Union over the summer, has the least experience in student politics.

Monument dedicated



The World Peace pavillion

photo by Cora McNamara

by Behzad Kiani
for *The Brunswickan*

With all the negative news being reported these days, The University of New Brunswick Association for Baha'i studies wanted to share something positive with the readers of *The Brunswickan*. While this historic event took place over the summer, many people probably missed it altogether because it was, after all, "good news."

On a warm Saturday morning in July, spectators from across Canada and the eastern United States gathered on the Dartmouth waterfront to celebrate the completion and dedication of the city's World Peace Pavilion. This project is the brainchild of Metro Youth for Global Unity, a group established by a handful of Baha'i Youth in 1989, but now encompassing all faiths and cultures, with the oneness of humanity and the diversity of the human family

as their focus.

Kelly Ryan, CBC reporter, acted as MC and expressed her awe at the spiritual power and dignity of the completed pavillion. A time of devotion was shared as members of various religious communities gave readings or prayers significant to their faith: Shari Vogler, Shambala community; Ravi Dogra, Hindu; Dr. Mark Ludman, Jewish; Benjamin Trueman, Christian; Dr. Jamal Fadhali, Muslim; and Michelle LaPage of the Baha'i community.

Greetings and congratulations were presented on behalf of government at many levels by Dartmouth Mayor Claire McCloskey, MP Ron MacDonald, and Nova Scotia Premier John Savage, who expressed his delight in seeing the fulfillment of a dream which had "put something on the map which is a constant reminder of the importance of Peace."

Smashing Pumpkins at UNB

by Cynthia Kirkby
Co-News Editor

For the twenty-third time in the history of UNB, Harrison House will sacrifice a 400 pound pumpkin on Halloween night. The Great Pumpkin Sacrifice has been a popular annual event since 1973, when it began with two individuals, Earl Parrish and Marc Milner, finding themselves on the roof

of Harrison House on Halloween night. Since then it has evolved into a ritual involving the blessing of the pumpkin, white sheet-clad pumpkin bearers, and three wise men.

Last year's ceremony had an estimated 700 students in attendance, said Loyal Guardian of the Great Pumpkin Sacrifice, Steve Anderson. He predicted that this year, because "it's in the middle of the week, and

there are lots of midterms, I can see it decreasing a little bit, to 500 or 600." He added that, although the ceremony will proceed regardless of the weather, this can affect attendance as well.

The pumpkin, grown and donated by Howard Dill of Windsor, Nova Scotia, will weigh in at around 400 pounds this year. In the sacrifice's 23 year history, last year's was the heaviest pumpkin, weighing in at 511

pounds "with no goop in the middle."

Anderson explained that the ritual is performed to bring a "bountiful academic harvest to those within Harrison House and the university community." The ceremony will begin at 11:30 with the blessing of the pumpkin by the Bishop, Dave Brien. At time of press, the three University Scholars who will deliver speeches are "up for debate," he said.

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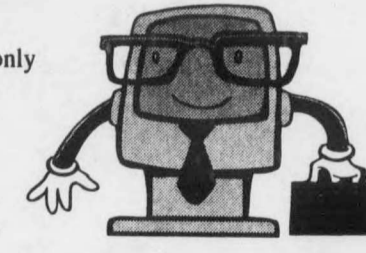
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