

Fee increases: They have all been pretty busy this week and could not talk to us.



Poor public relations

The recent unannounced increase in UNB fees was hardly a way for the university to make friends.

In fact, it cannot help but hurt the university's reputation, because it is inexcusable that no apparent attempt was made to give students prior notice of the hike.

The sums involved last week were clearly sufficient to warrant spending the few cents it would have taken to send each student a form-letter containing advance

warning. In many cases, the increase was equal to the cost of a week's room and board, an important matter for students on tight budgets.

What is far worse, however, is that last week's action is not the only recent case of unannounced increases in charges.

For example, co-eds in residence have twice in just two years found their actual residence fees higher than those given in the calendar. Last year, the unexpected increase in charges for each student in a double room was \$50; this year, it was \$25.

Surely the students deserve

better treatment than that.

But, there is something even more pragmatic for the university to consider:

The students affect greatly what the general public thinks about UNB, because for many outsiders, the student is the university.

If the student (and prospective graduate) feels the university is unjust, so will the public.

In other words, it is in the interest of good public relations for UNB to treat its students fairly.

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