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Student Resource Centre: a success

by Joe FitzPatrick **Co-News Editor**

This summer, the UNB Student Union initiated three new student centres, all of which are located in Room 114 of the Student Union Building.

The three centres: the Student Resource Centre, the Employment Opportunities Bureau, and the Student Advocacy Bureau have been directed by the same three individuals who received funding to start them over the summer. "We had an amazing summer staff,"

President Lamrock has said several times.

Tareq Islam, a fifth-year student in Civil Engineering, has always been strongly involved in community service, and social activism. His culinary skills are renowned among the Student Union Summer staff, because he catered the staff party. He has also run a catering service.

Hired to re-work the Peer Support



Nick Rodrigue

photo by Mike Dean Centre pioneered by Dana Debly, Islam has done so beyond most people's expectations.

"There are many things we could still do better," Islam is quick to say. "I



Tareq Islam, (top left) and several of the SRC volunteers photo by Mike Dean

shopping centre" where students can be referred to other services.

"The best thing about the SRC is that there is a student sitting at the desk facing the door. When you walk in, you see a student, like you. It's very unintimidating, very comfortable," says Islam.

"We are more than an information centre," he continues, "we will go through the steps with the student. If they need to see a Peer Mentor, we will call the Peer Mentor and arrange a meeting. If they need counselling, we will call Counselling Services and help the student set up an appointment."

"I have enough volunteers to staff the Centre all day," said Islam, proudly. In fact, with 27 volunteers, there is actually lifficulty in each one getting more than a few hours at a time.

Should a student need legal help, Ian Johnstone, student advocate, is the person to whom they are referred. Johnstone, a second-year Law student at UNB spent five ears on the Metro Toronto police force.

For several years, the Student Union has paid a lawyer to do legal consultations with students at a reduced rate. Since the Advocacy Bureau has been introduced, not a single student has been referred to the lawyer.



"It really hasn't been necessary," says Johnstone. "So much of what they need to know is general legal advice."

Johnstone, a mature-student with a wife and two young children, is renowed in the Student Union for his sharp wit and outspoken nature, however, he is actually quite personable, and is very easy to approach.

"There is one thing I want to impress upon students," says Johnstone, "If you are sick, don't write your exams."

With the Advocacy Bureau, the planning had to be done on the go. No sooner was Johnstone hired then he was placed as an alternate on the Students Standings and Promotions Committee, which handles academic appeals of students.

Over the summer, in addition to the SS&P cases, he handled student cases ranging from landlord problems to human rights cases. During the year, the Bureau will be running Academic Awareness campaigns

To assist him with the increase of cases since the beginning of the year, five assistant advocates have been appointed. The third and equally important bureau which works out of Room 114 is the Employment Opportunities centre is doing for you.



Bureau and the Volunteer Bureau. The largest single initiative of the Bureau was Career Week.

The Bureau was created to form a bridge between the university and the workplace. The Coordinator, Nick Rodrigue, has extensive experience in the area of student-business relations. Rodrigue is finishing off his Business degree at UNB.

The Bureau offers resume seminars, help in job searches, and an expanded job posting board. In addition, for students who can't find work, there is always the Volunteer Board. Currently, Jeff Thibodeau and Rod Nadeau aid in the operations of the Bureau.

"Most students don't realize that employers are looking for job-related experience. Even if they can't find a job, students can learn marketable skills through volunteering."

"Students should be already starting to look for summer jobs," says Rodrigue.



Students wishing to avail themselves

of the Advocacy are asked to leave a

voice mail message at 447-3068.

Students are encouraged to drop by

Room 114 and find out what each

lan Johnstone photo by Neil Duxbury

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