

NEWS

SU rejects Weinman appeal

by Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

The UNB Student Council has rejected a second appeal launched by Arts and Senate candidate Nathan Weinman.

In a closed-door session, council decided that despite a letter received from Weinman, no grounds existed for his appeal.

Weinman had requested that outsiders be appointed to hear his second appeal, but council felt it could handle the matter on its own, said Law Representative Paul McLean.

The Arts and Senate candidate had successfully appealed an earlier decision to expel him from the October 12 and 13 bi-election by Chief Returning Officer Graeme Smith.

Smith ruled that Weinman failed to remove his campaign posters on time.

But a committee set up to hear the appeal ruled the CRO could only impose a fine, not expel Weinman from the election.

During the committee's investigation, it was brought to their attention that Weinman received a campaign contribution from the provincial NDP.

Weinman, who serves as President of

the NB Young New Democrats, revealed the contribution consisted of free use of a computer, fax machine and photocopier.

The Appeal Committee ruled that Weinman violated Council bi-law seven, section 41 which states that no candidate shall receive any campaign sponsorship from any corporation or from any individual unconnected with the university.

Further, the Appeal Committee found that Weinman contravened another election bi-law which states that no person shall run for any position as a representative of any political party registered or otherwise with any political or electoral affiliation.

For his part, Weinman said he did not run in the SU election as the representative of any political party.

"The provincial NDP did not even know that I was running in the election," said Weinman. "There is absolutely no way that I was formally endorsed by them."

"Surely, there are other members of the Student Council who have some sort of political affiliation," he continued.

As for the free use of a computer, fax machine and photocopier, Weinman admitted he used the facilities available

to him at the provincial NDP office.

"I did not seek special permission to use these facilities as they are regularly available to me as President of the Young New Democrats," he said.

"I used my own paper to print my campaign posters," he said.

"I don't see how my actions are anything out of the ordinary," he continued.

Weinman likened the situation to Pat FitzPatrick using the computer and photocopier in the SU office to run for his position as VP University Services or for a seat on the university's Board of Governors.

"If someone on *The Brunswickan* staff decided to run in the election, could they not use the computer and printer at the newspaper to create campaign posters?" he asked.

"I ran for election hoping to contribute something. I did not set out with the goal of cheating," said Weinman, a fourth-year psychology major who hopes to attend law school next year.

Weinman is even less impressed with the way in which he has received word of Council's decision on his appeal.

By early this week he had still not received a written copy of the decision nor direct phone call from any official of the Student Union.



Julien Delisle advocates provincial legislation to protect privacy in a speech at Saint Thomas University this week. Photo By Bones

Privacy on the Information Highway?

by Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

New Brunswick should enact legislation to protect individual privacy in the face of possible intrusions by both government and business says an official with the Privacy Commission of Canada.

"This is particularly important because of the unprecedented growth in the development of the Information Highway and the implications on private rights," said Julien Delisle in a speech at Saint Thomas University this week marking United Nations Day.

Quebec is alone among the provinces in providing privacy protection in both the public and private sector. Three other provinces set ground rules that provide for privacy in the government sector only.

New Brunswick has yet to act. "The Fathers of Confederation or even perhaps the drafters of the 1982 Constitution could not have foreseen the day when biotechnology would allow some companies to administer a drug test before individuals could be hired," Delisle said.

"Nor could they ever have foreseen the day when genetic testing would allow companies to test prospective employees for diseases like heart disease, cancer, mental illness or other diseases," he said.

"Can you imagine what effect both of these new developments could have on individuals and their fitness for a job?" Delisle asked.

The Information Highway, for example, has the potential to literally spread gossip around the world.

"It is not hard to imagine what the implications are," Delisle said.

"The Information Highway could soon make it quite easy to keep records of phone calls and other transactions like what newspapers and magazines one reads," he implied.

"Can you imagine the potential for witch hunts?" Delisle exclaimed.

"Will the reading and viewing habits of employees and potential employees be investigated by employers and what does this imply for individual privacy," Delisle asked.

"And what of the Information Highway in the future?" "Will companies and governments have access to a large data file which could provide intimate details of your life," he said.

"Perhaps George Orwell was right when he wrote the book '1984' earlier this century," Delisle said. "Should we be chilled by the possibilities of state control and by implication the power of the private sector in the computer age?"

Fortunately for most Canadians, this country was among the signatories in 1948 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

Article 12 states that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Canada's 1982 Constitution Act does not contain wording which explicitly provides for privacy protection according to Delisle.

"Amendments that proposed privacy protection failed along with 1992 Constitution changes as everyone knows," Delisle continued.

"The courts have been left to fill the gap for now."

At the Federal level, Parliament created the office of the Privacy Commissioner in 1983 as a part of Access to Information Legislation.

In 1988, Parliament passed the Federal Privacy Act. The Act provides restrictions on the use of private information supplied to the federal government.

But Delisle sees a clear need for new legislation at the provincial level that will affect both government and the private sector.

Among other things Delisle says the legislation should specify what personal details can be obtained and what it can be used for. "No other disclosures should be made without individual consent," Delisle suggests.

"Above all, the legislation would be a recognition that government has a role to play in protecting individual privacy," he concluded.

Tuition Freeze Advocates Theriault getting lots of calls

Brunswickan News

Students across the province will be making an important call this week — a call to the office of Advanced Education Minister Camille Theriault asking the government to take action soon on the issue of tuition fees.

"We're hoping to log over 1000 calls this week from students who want the tuition freeze to continue," said Federation Chair Kelly Lamrock. "Students will be lining up on campus to tell the government that we should freeze funds, not freeze students out of the system."

The provinces two year cap on tuition fees runs out next year. Mr. Lamrock says that if the government lets the issue drop, students would be in for a nasty shock next September.

"There's no doubt that university and college administrations will simply make up for lost time by charging the exorbitant amounts for tuition they've wanted to charge the last couple of years. With student poverty on the rise and federal budget cuts being threatened, now is the time for the McKenna Government to show leadership to protect students from educational price gouging."

Mr. Lamrock says that students aren't just making demands, they're offering alternatives.

Breakfast TV at UNB!

ASN's early morning show, Breakfast Television, will air live from UNB on November 22 as part of a special focus on UNB. It is part of a week-long search to find the Atlantic University with the greatest school spirit.

On-air personality Scott Boyd will shoot his segment of the show, which airs daily from 7:00 to 9:00 am, from McConnell Hall on November 22. The residence community is in the process of coordinating strong participation from residence students. For more information, contact Lynn Hruczkowski at 453-4800.

"The tuition freeze isn't an idle demand. It is the position of students across New Brunswick, after reviewing their school budgets, that universities can make it through next year without raising fees. We've further pointed out areas, like administrative expenses and athletic budgets, where money can be saved."

Mr. Lamrock notes that the Federation has called for a plan of opening up uni-

versity governing structures, making budgets public, and holding a roundtable of administrators, students, faculty, government and the public to review how schools spend tax dollars. "Before we make students or taxpayers pay more, let's have a look at how current funds are being spent", concluded Mr. Lamrock.

Vive le difference Festival set for January

By Janice McConnell
Brunswickan News

The Festival of Cultural Diversity will be a week of celebration of cultures. The festival will promote awareness of culture, including Native and European cultures. It is slated to take place from January 23 to 28. The object of the festival is to bring "education through entertainment," according to Tareq Islam, Festival Coordinator.

"Culture has a lot to do with religious values," Islam explained. "The workshops offered by the Festival will help dismiss cultural conflicts through education."

Workshops and seminars, will be offered on subjects like racism and women's cultural issues. Information booths will set up in the Blue Room and documentary and international feature films will be shown. Daigle Theater of Fredericton will give a dramatic presentation from an original writing on the theme of multiculturalism and there will be an evening of story-telling and folklore.

"Fredericton has diverse cultural

communities and the Festival is an opportunity for everyone to get to know all of them," said Islam. In all, over 50 countries will have their cultures represented.

The Festival will be opened with a Native "Purification Ritual", similar to how the Victoria Commonwealth Games were opened last summer. All events and workshops are open to the public. Everything will be free, except for the Exotic Food Festival where vendors will sell cultural specialties.

The project was started over the summer by the Student Union and has involved the cultural organizations on campus as well as the multicultural organizations from Fredericton, Moncton, and Saint John. Fund raising has collected \$7,000, 70% of the \$10,000 needed, from federal and provincial ministries of multiculturalism and other community groups, such as the Alumni Associates. The remaining \$3,000 will be paid by the Student Union.

An open invitation is extended to anyone that wants to sell food at the Exotic Food Festival.

Correction

In a news story which appeared on page one of last week's Brunswickan, concerning opt-outs for the student health plan: the averaged percentage of opt-outs for comparable programs at other universities is 25-30 per cent, not 20 per cent as originally reported.