

NEWS

News Editors: Cynthia Kirkby and Joe FitzPatrick Deadline: Wednesday Noon

Newsbits

STU students busted for dope

Four STU students have been charged with a total of eight counts of trafficking in controlled substances from their residence rooms at Harrington Hall. Fredericton City Police drug squad reports that the arrests came following sales to an undercover officer.

Police say the undercover operation came as a result of a tip to Crime Stoppers over a month ago.

The individuals will not be named until after their court appearance on April 29. Two of the men, aged 18 and 19, were from the Halifax county area. One, 22-year old is from Orleans, Ontario. The fourth student, 19, is from Fredericton area.

If convicted, the students could have a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Learning with NetLearn

By New Brunswickers for New Brunswickers is the philosophy behind a new Internet site designed to improve access to the province's educational resources. Called NetLearn/Reseau du Savoir, this fully bilingual site is a forum for all types of learning, both formal and informal.

"NetLearn is set up to provide three kinds of service," explained Mohamed El-Bayoumi, who co-ordinates the site from UNB. "It serves as a bulletin board for information, a venue for discussion groups and will eventually be a location from which New Brunswickers can take courses." The site is located at <http://www.unb.ca/web/netlearn/>.

"The idea really started brewing around two years ago," explains El-Bayoumi. "A group of adult educators and librarians, spearheaded by Liz Burge of UNB's department of adult and vocational education, were concerned that information about courses and educational resources was not being delivered to New Brunswickers in a timely or easily accessible way."

A concrete scholarship

Irina Kondratova has been awarded the 1995-96 Bremner Scholarship in Concrete Materials by the University of New Brunswick.

Valued at \$1,000, the annual scholarship assists outstanding students who are pursuing civil engineering graduate studies in the area of concrete materials at either campus.

"To receive this scholarship was a great honour for me," says Kondratova, who is working toward her master's degree in Fredericton. "The topic of my research is deterioration of concrete due to the corrosion of reinforcement." She is investigating different methods of corrosion prevention, including the use of new advanced types of epoxy-coated reinforcing bars, high-performance concrete, galvanized steel bars, and corrosion inhibitors to prevent reinforcement corrosion.

Kondratova, who emigrated to Canada from the Ukraine with her family in 1991, also holds a graduate scholarship from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

The Bremner Scholarship in Concrete Materials was set up by the Committee for the Organization of International Conferences on Concrete. It honours the contributions of Theodore Bremner, a UNB professor who has been widely recognized as an expert on concrete.

Report Card on Women

A Report Card on the Status of Women in New Brunswick was released by the Advisory Council on the Status of Women to mark International Women's Day, which was last Friday.

"Everyone has a stake in women reaching equality soon and women are poised for equality. But women's share of income and power is still low and progress is not steady in all areas. Our society and our economy would face fewer problems if women and men were equal," said Brenda Sansom, the Chairperson of the Council. "There is much that we can do to improve the situation."

The Report Card shows that 47% of women in New Brunswick have a high school diploma, trade or non-university certificate or university degree, compared to 45% of men. Women's labour force participation rate continues to increase, reaching a high of 67% for women with children at home.

Other facts released include that the average income of women with any income, including pensions, earnings, etc., is \$15,300, 59% of men's average total income; and that women who worked full-time all year in New Brunswick earned 64% of what men earned, a 2-percentage point increase since 1971. In full-time managerial and administrative occupations, women earned 56% of what men earned; in service occupations, 53%; in the provincial civil service, 87%.

The 5 most common occupations of women in New Brunswick are secretary, bookkeeper, nurse, elementary teacher, and sales clerk; of men: truck driver, sales clerk, sales and advertising manager, motor vehicle mechanic, and armed forces.

The Report Card also notes that 1,073 women and 990 children stayed in transition houses last year. Of all sexual assault reports received by N.B. police between 1990 and 1994, 36% resulted in charges, compared to 44% in Canada. Bathurst laid charges in 60% of cases, Fredericton, 48%, Tracadie, 9%, and Edmundston, 14%.

Absences to be rarer, next year

By Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

Both candidates running for President, to date, of the UNB Student Union in upcoming elections say all executive members will be required to maintain and set regular office hours under their administration.

Both Jeff Melanson and Jeff Clark are critical of current SU Acting Vice President (Finance and Administration) Duncan Fulton for not setting and maintaining regular daily and weekly office hours.

Several student groups have also complained to *The Brunswickan* that Fulton is difficult to reach or unreachable when financial problems arise.

Fulton is being paid a regular bi-weekly honouraria similar to all other SU VPs who are maintaining a regular presence around the Student Union office.

Jeff Clark, who serves as acting VP (External) in the current Lamrock administration and wants to succeed Lamrock, told *The Brunswickan* this week that he has repeatedly raised the matter at SU Executive meetings since January.

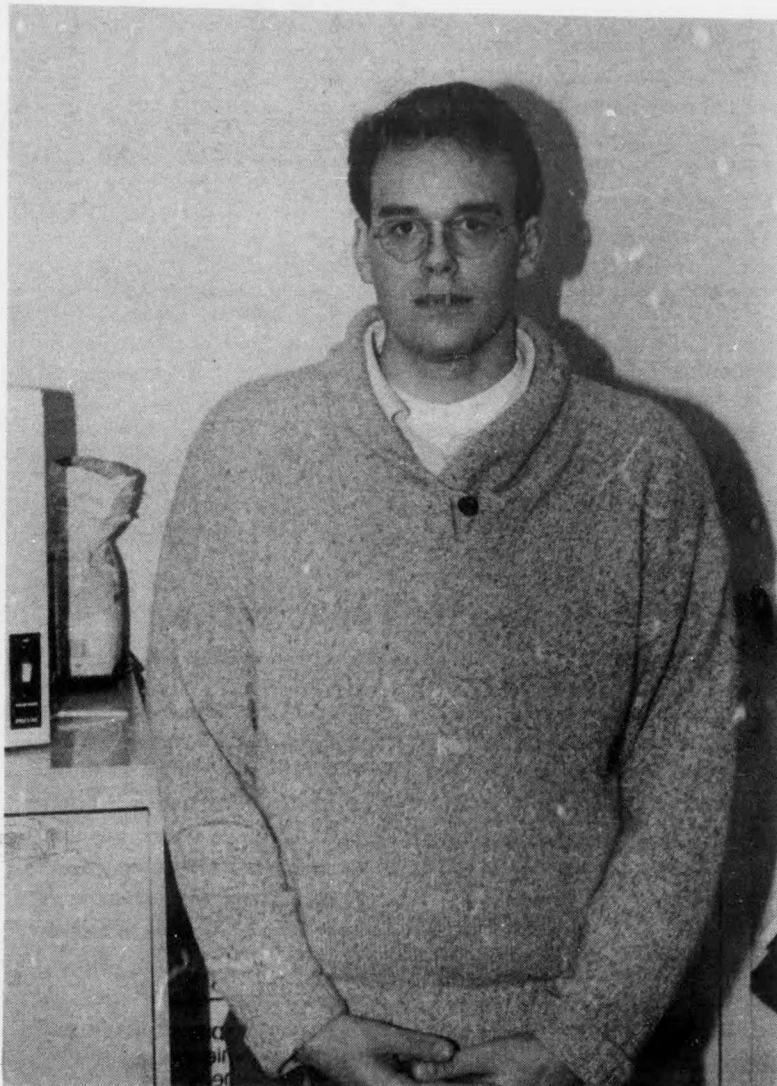
Clark claims all other executive members have raised similar concerns to Fulton directly.

"I have told him many times to come in every day for at least a few hours which is not an unreasonable amount of time," Clark said. "Fulton is doing a good job with the Budgets but he has not been around the office."

Clark claims Fulton's lack of presence is creating a strain on the full-time paid office staff. "The office staff should not have to worry about whether executive members are going to be there or not nor should students seeking help," he continued. "If I'm elected President there will be set office hours and they will be followed or Vice Presidents won't be getting their pay cheques," Clark vows.

Clark's opponent in the student election, Jeff Melanson, is less than happy with the Fulton situation, too, and has been quietly watching from the sidelines in his capacity as Chair of the SU Council this year.

"If we are going to be accountable to students we have to have established office hours and that has not happened," Melanson told *The Brunswickan* this week.



Fulton's inaccessibility concerns the SU executives, leading to campaign promises for reform
file photo

Melanson vows there will be regular office hours established and maintained in any administration he leads. "I believe in team work and I would let any executive member in this situation know that there is no 'I' in team," he said.

"So if every one else is going to put 99 percent into it and another team member only wants to give 40 percent, then that member should seriously reconsider whether they should be a member of that team."

"We cannot be an effective team if there is a weak link in the chain," Melanson continued.

Meanwhile, SU VP (Student Services), Trish Davidson, who is also seeking re-election in the coming weeks has defended Fulton up to a point.

"When Nahie Bassett quit in December as VP (Finance and Administration),

Duncan said he would be willing to do some touch-ups on the budget and then said later he would be willing to do the budget for the 1996-97 year," said Davidson.

"I think he had some sort of understanding especially with Kelly Lamrock, [SU President] that what he would mainly be responsible for was the budget, fix the budget, do a good budget for next year and that would be the end of his responsibilities."

"As far as not being in the office, I know he has gotten the work done because he has brought it to the executive," Davidson said. "He is doing the budget and in that respect he is doing a great job."

"However, there is a part of me that says he is getting paid the same amount as I am and he is never in the office, so in that

continued on page 4

Elections continued from Page 1

President Kelly Lamrock asked Council to focus on the Union, and not point the finger at each other. "First, let's cut the speeches on who's to blame," he chastised Council. "Having a full Council is more important."

Walker pointed out that the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), David Gourley, might resign if the election period were extended.

"To be honest," Lamrock responded. "I'm sick of people who decide to resign because they no longer want to do their job and then blame some problem of the Union for their resignation."

Duncan Fulton, who served as deputy returning officer in the Fall by-election in first term, spoke in favour of the extension. "I've talked to several people today who were surprised that nominations closed on Monday," he claimed. "If there are people out there willing to run, we should make every

effort to allow them to."

"And if the CRO wants to resign because he doesn't like it, or because it conflicts with a test, that's too bad," Fulton continued. "We need a CRO who's dedicated to the task."

Lamrock agreed, and pleaded for reason. "Let's use some common sense, people," he said. "We can empower the executive to choose a CRO if he resigns."

Towards the end of the meeting, Walker, who had left to talk with Gourley, reported that he did not intend to resign as CRO.

Questions also arose regarding the campaign period, which started on Monday. Candidates who had already started campaigning would have to remove their material or be fined.

"The bylaws are quite clear," contends Fulton. "There is to be no campaigning during the nomination period."

"Again people, let's use some common sense," pleaded Lamrock. "It shouldn't be hard to figure out an amnesty period - how about 48 hours? I realize that it's terribly inconvenient for several people."

Jeff Melanson, candidate for president, brought up the issue of damaged campaign materials. "I put up 175 posters already," he claimed. "I couldn't really afford the \$20 for those, I doubt I can afford another \$20."

Lamrock again pleaded for reason, "Come on folks, we can empower the CRO to make reparations to those unduly prejudiced by the change."

Davidson added to the debate by stating, "You know we're going to look like real *dipsbits* for doing this."

Bertrand responded, "We'll look like bigger *dipsbits* if we go on with only 12 councilors."

This exchange was followed by applause.