

# NEWS

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## Student aid funding: when is a cut not a cut?

GORDON LOANE

THE BRUNSWICKAN

The New Brunswick government plans to spend two percent less in 1997-98 on Student Aid, according to budget estimates tabled in the legislature in December.

The cut will amount to \$382,700 in program dollars for student aid.

But the provincial Director of Student Aid, Don Chevarie, points out the reduction in real dollars is not a program cut in reality nor a reduction in service.

Chevarie said the provincial student aid budget is an open ended type of budget.

"If I get so many applications and so many students qualify for assistance, I have to pay, whether I am over budget or not."

"Some years the requests are larger than our budget and we have to go searching for extra dollars," he elaborated. "In recent years the amount of money allocated to students has been less than our budget indicated."

"It was a cushion in our budget that was there and this year a decision was made to eliminate it."

Chevarie said the bottom line is it was a budgetary adjustment that will not affect what students are getting in assistance.

Meanwhile, New Brunswick Student Alliance President Shawn Rouse told *The Brunswickan* he has spoken to Chevarie and sought clarification when he noticed what amounts to a cut in real dollars for Student Aid in 1997-98.

"If they have extra Student Aid dollars left over in recent years it begs a question," said Rouse.

"There are a lot of students out there who are asking for money and need more money to get through," Rouse emphasized.

"If this money is available to lend why isn't he [Chevarie, Director of Student Aid] lending it?"

## NBSA: provincial cuts could mean tuition hikes

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The recent provincial budget, tabled in the legislature in December, is not good news for university students, says the President of the New Brunswick Student Alliance.

"The two to three per cent cut in provincial operating grants to universities will result in the same kind of tuition hikes we saw in September," said Shawn Rouse.

At both UNB and St. Thomas the tuition increase was \$230, at Université de Moncton \$138 and at Mount Allison \$625.

With the news that St. Thomas will likely raise tuition fees by about the same amount as last September, Rouse's prediction seems to be accurate.

"First, I'd ask the St. Thomas administration why they made money last year and why they made over \$400,000 in tuition fee increases while their operating grant cut was only \$122,000," Rouse commented.

"My initial reaction not only to STU but to all the other universities in the province except U de M which lost money in 1995-96 is this—why are they hiking tuition beyond what it costs to recoup the funds lost through funding transfer cuts?"

"This is having an effect on accessibility and they know it," said Rouse referring to top administration officials at Mount Allison, UNB and St. Thomas.

He points out that with a two to three per cent cut in provincial transfer payments to universities in both 1997-98 and 1998-99 in addition to a similar cut this year tuition fee increases at UNB could total well over \$900 in just these three years.

"The net effect is that students from lower and middle income groups aren't coming to school anymore because of high debt loads and high tuition."

Rouse is also very disappointed that there are no specific provisions in the new provincial budget to assist students

when the new harmonized sales tax takes effect April 1.

"In September, students signed over



NBSA President Shawn Rouse

10,000 post cards to both the provincial and federal finance ministers telling them that they could not handle a rise in their cost of living under the HST without a rebate.

"It was very disappointing to see Provincial Finance Minister Edmond Blanchard still ignore it," Rouse said.

## Accused makes brief court appearance

K BROOKLAND

THE BRUNSWICKAN

Security was relaxed as Jason Barth Young, accused of the November 15 murder of Fredericton taxi driver Douglas Allen MacIsaac, made his fourth provincial court appearance on December 17.

In Young's three previous court appearances, observers underwent security scanning and had their belongings searched.

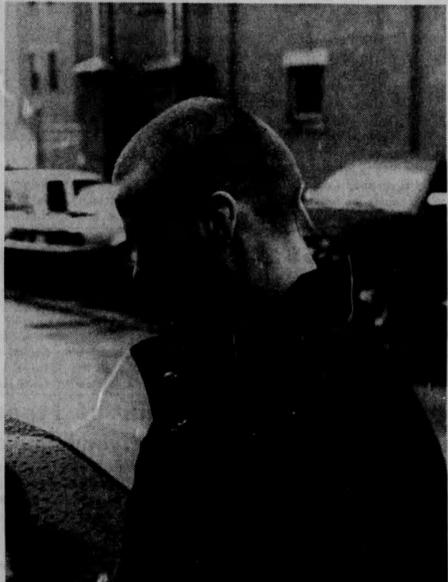
Provincial Court Judge Patricia Cumming, assigned to hear the Young case, was on holiday and Judge Paul Lordon, former partner of Frank McKenna, appeared in her stead.

The purpose of this appearance was to set a date for a preliminary inquiry. Young's new defense attorneys are Gary Miller and his associate, Kim Jensen. Miller brought it to the court's attention that he received the 21 two-hour video taped statements that were taken by Fredericton police a month ago. He did point out, however, that the written statements were not included in the disclosure package from the Crown. Miller felt that one month was adequate time for the Crown to prepare the written statements.

Lordon concurred with Miller and ordered Crown Prosecutor Hilary Drain to provide defense counsel with the written statements as the new material becomes available and to do it as soon as possible.

Lordon anticipates the preliminary inquiry will require three days but to ensure there will be enough time he set aside five days. The preliminary begins February 17 at 9:30 a.m.

At Young's last appearance on December 2, Manu Patel, the attorney assigned by Legal Aid to defend Young, stepped down as defense counsel. Patel cited a heavy work load and plans for a



Jason Young, accused in the November killer of a Fredericton cab driver, on his way into court.

month-long vacation as reasons for his departure from the case. Miller and Jensen replaced him on that date.

The purpose of the December 2 appearance was to determine whether or not Young would be sent for a 30 day psychiatric assessment. Young, after a two week delay, was finally seen by a medical practitioner, Dr. George M.

Thornhill.

Miller's approach to the case varies somewhat from Patel's. Miller stated he was not looking for an order for assessment but asked for a two week delay in order to familiarize himself with the case.

Young is still being held at the Saint John Correctional Centre.

## Memorial category in Maclean's questioned

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Why is Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland included in the Comprehensive category in the annual *Maclean's* ranking of universities and not in the Medical/Doctoral category?

This is a question many in the UNB community have been asking, since Memorial has both a medical school and several doctoral programs.

Maclean's Assistant Managing Editor

Ann Dowsett-Johnston told *The Brunswickan* that a very considered decision was taken back in 1992 when the rankings were first separated into three categories (Medical/Doctoral, Comprehensive and Primarily Undergraduate).

"At that time Memorial made an argument that although it had a regional medical school, it operated in every other way like a comprehensive university," said Dowsett-Johnston.

Memorial did not participate in the

Maclean's survey in 1994 and 1995, but returned in 1996 and was again included in the Comprehensive category.

Despite having a medical school, Maclean's Education Editor Victor Dwyer said Memorial does not have heavily concentrated offerings of PhD programs as, for example, schools like Dalhousie and McGill.

Dalhousie and McGill are included in the Medical/Doctoral category because they have both medical schools and a comprehensive offering of PhD programs.

## UNB to hire Multimedia and Education prof

Two of New Brunswick's largest companies are each contributing \$300,000 to help establish a UNB professorship in Multimedia and technology-assisted education.

The McCain Foods Limited and NB Tel donation will assist the Arts and Education faculty to make better use of technology, especially in educating children.

The professor, who will begin work next September, will be active in both the Arts and Education faculties.

"The professorship will ensure that future generations of instructional software designers and teachers are trained properly to use educational technologies effectively," said UNB President Dr. Elizabeth Parr-Johnston.

"The professorship will also play a critical role in the more immediate future by providing professional development opportunities for the current generation of teachers who need assistance in adapting to the use of these new learning approaches," she said.

The person hired will also assist the Education faculty develop better courseware to be used at the university and in public schools and help the faculty come to grips with the implication of using various technologies in public schools.

## Downey named to Order of Canada

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James Downey, President of the University of Waterloo and President of UNB (1980-1990) has been named an Officer of the Order of Canada.

The Order of Canada is the country's highest civilian honour.

Also named an Officer of the Order was New Brunswick industrialist James K. Irving. Aboriginal healer Sarah Anala of Saint John was appointed a Member of the Order.

## City Transit fares to go up

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Students and the general public will pay more to use the bus beginning this month.

Fredericton City Transit has hiked cash fares from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per trip. A ten ride card goes from \$8.50 to \$10.00 while a 20 card ride increased from \$16.00 to \$19.00. A monthly unlimited ride student pass remains unchanged at \$27.50.

The increases announced in the recent City Council Budget are the first in ten years, according to Transit Manager Ron Steeves.

"Transit fares in Fredericton are still cheaper than in Saint John, Moncton and other cities," Steeves points out.

Rising costs and other budgetary considerations all played a part in the decision to hike transit fares effective

January 1st.

Fredericton City Council was forced to raise taxes and cut expenses after the provincial government decided to cut its grant to the City. Even a grant announced last year for UNB's Harriet



Library will be paid out of city coffers over a longer period of time.

Students requiring bus passes can purchase them on campus in two locations—the Paper Trail in the Student Union Building or at the Information Help Centre in the front foyer of the Sir James Dunn Building at St. Thomas.

## Bequest for J. Herbert Smith Chair largest in UNB's history

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UNB has received the largest bequest of its 211-year history.

The late J. Herbert Smith has contributed \$4.4 million to endow in perpetuity the Chair that bears his name.

The J. Herbert Smith/ACOA Chair in Technology Management and Entrepreneurship was originally set up in the Faculty of Engineering in 1988, with assistance provided by Dr. Smith and other contributors.

The Chair provides training in business management skills for engineers with an interest in technology and entrepreneurship.

More than 325 students have enrolled in at least one TME course. The program so far has about 80 graduates.

Dr. Smith graduated from UNB in 1932 and went on to have a distinguished career with General Electric Canada.

In 1957, he became the Company's first Canadian Chief Executive Officer, a position he held until his retirement in 1972.

Some of the other moneys Dr. Smith has donated to UNB in the last several years were used to create a state-of-the-art interactive classroom, known as the J. Herbert Smith Seminar Room.

Current GEC Chairman and CEO Robert Gillespie announced last month that his company will donate some \$45,000 to help supply that room with necessary equipment.

The classroom is expected to be a vital part of the TME program as attempts are made to offer more courses through distance education.

## Council Watch

### Executive gives progress reports; CHSR defends itself

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SU VP Services Trish Davidson presented a written update of the 1996-97 SU Action Plan as it pertained to her portfolio. It contained a mixed bag of items completed, on-going or to be completed beginning this month.

The Student Resource Centre is planning to produce an A-Z publicity pamphlet this term to better inform students on the services being offered.

The Paper Trail underwent a number of changes in September and Davidson told Council that sales, while slower in the beginning, have picked up in October and November compared to the year previous. Overheads and the bindery service were particularly popular services. New services to be offered in January will include videos.

The Health Plan, while operating generally better, developed at least one hitch, a problem that Davidson said originated in the UNB Comptroller's office. Apparently Nursing students in Moncton found themselves not on the list of the Health Plan. According to Davidson, the Comptroller's office failed to provide a list of Moncton students to Blue Cross, the Health Service insurer.

Davidson expects to see solid progress in the new year now that two coordinators are on the job preparing the yearbook.

She reported on the success of the 1996-97 Beaverbook, but was a little less enthusiastic about the Student Directory, describing it as rocky this year but up on the web.

Davidson also told Council that the Employment Opportunities/Volunteer Bureau will be initiating workshops for job seeking skills this term.

A call for applicants for the UNB Scholarship will be underway this month. Further information is available from the SU office. The deadline for applications is the end of January.

Davidson also said she will be undertaking further discussions on an on-going basis concerning parking problems on campus. She also said the Alcohol Education Program SMART-PACC is so far having a very successful year.

SU VP External Anthony Knight reported on recent meetings with officials of UNB's Graduate Student Association. A memorandum of understanding on common goals will be released this month and presented to the UNB Administration.

Knight told Council that Student Unions in Quebec plan to launch a

court challenge of a recent government decision aimed at charging more tuition to Canadian students from outside Quebec.

He also related concerns of plans at Mount Allison to cut their engineering and education programs. The Mount A Senate in recent weeks voted to retain both programs.

Knight said the New Brunswick Student Alliance plans to take advantage of a provincial government rebate program by purchasing a new computer.

SUVP Finance and Administration Monique Scholten said letters to all organizations seeking funding from the SU in 1997-98 are now out. The deadline for budget submissions is fast approaching.

Scholten is vowing major changes in the end of the year SU Awards Banquet, to make it "a little less self-serving."

The SU Audit for the year ending April 30, 1996 should be available early this month, according to Scholten. She also told Council of on-going discussions aimed at increasing the revenues of the SU other than student fees.

SUVP University Affairs Anoushka Courage reported that Winter Carnival is a go for January 22 to 29th. More details should be announced soon, perhaps as early as this week.

SU President Joie Hellmeister presented a well organized written report on her activities—everything from efforts to promote the SU to Frish Week Involvement to residence meetings to day-to-day administration of the SU.

A major preoccupation of Hellmeister will be committee meetings aimed at finalizing a time line and critical path for the SUB Expansion project. More meetings are planned this term.

Hellmeister told Council that Financial Aid Awareness Week will take place on the UNB Campus beginning January 20th.

Organizers are still needed to produce an information booklet, solicit donations from local businesses and set up various information booths around campus. CHSR-FM Station Manager Tony Sekulich and Program Manager Tristis Bhaird made a detailed presentation to Council.

Sekulich presented an overview of the station's operations, its history and operation structure. He briefly reviewed the requirement of CHSR-FM's operating license granted by the CRTC.

Bhaird commented further on the station's programming, handing out a program schedule to all councilors. She

further discussed the station's alternative music format and noted its specialty programming.

She then commented on the differences between commercial radio, state radio (e.g. CBC) and campus/community radio programming.

While much of the music played on campus/community radio may seem unfamiliar, Bhaird said what is offered at CHSR-FM is the best of a huge amount of music not heard elsewhere.

CHSR-FM offers block programming so that student volunteers will participate and the listener will hear different types of music, Bhaird told Council.

Both Sekulich and Bhaird acknowledged that program guides need to be produced on a monthly basis so students and community listeners will know what CHSR-FM has to offer.

Plans are also in the works to increase the amount of live sports broadcasting, according to Sekulich.

Responding to a question from Council, Sekulich noted that the station needs to do more to increase its revenues. A movie night and other activities associated with the yearly funding drive are under consideration.

Councilors also noted that the station is difficult to pick up in some areas of the city and in New Maryland. The station has been operating on a 50-watt FM transmitter since 1981.

SU VP External Anthony Knight asked what was being done to address continuing philosophical differences over various issues between the membership, the volunteer station executive and the Board of Directors which holds the stations broadcasting license.

Both Sekulich and long time station volunteer Paul Gorman, a member of the station's Board of Directors, assured Councilors there seems to be a will to resolve these problems.

Gorman said he is confident that the Board, station members and the SU can work to sort things out.

There are currently 62 volunteer station members, of which ten are non-student community members. There are forty UNB student volunteers and twelve St. Thomas student volunteers at the station.

Following the presentation, Council unanimously adopted a motion calling for a round table discussion among the stakeholders aimed at addressing a number of outstanding issues at CHSR-FM. A deadline of January 31, 1997 was imposed for the discussions to get underway.