

# NEWS

Many students take the opt-out option:

## SU to hand out over \$150,000 in health plan refund cheques

by Mary Rogal-Black  
Brunswickan News

More than 1500 UNB students have opted out of a new student-managed health plan before last Friday's deadline.

"There were more than we expected," said Chris Alward, VP Student Services.

He said the average number of opt-outs for similar plans at other universities is 25 per cent

Only students with other health

insurance plans were able to opt out of the student plan, which is coordinated by the Canadian Federation of Students and underwritten by SunLife of Toronto.

This marks the first year the Student Union has managed the health plan. Firm final figures are not yet available but the Student Union and the CFS spent this week crunching numbers to find out exactly what the high volume of opt-outs will mean.

The premium for the new plan is

\$100 per student, primarily due to the inclusion of birth control, which was not provided in the previous plan offered by the UNB administration.

The old plan cost students approximately \$30 and was hidden within tuition fees. In fact, tuition was not reduced accordingly when the new plan was implemented.

Any student who did opt out of the health plan should be able to collect their refund cheque from the Student Union in November.

## ...STU students want to opt-out too

by René Ross  
Brunswickan News

In the wake of the opt-out deadline for the new UNB health plan, some STU students want to have the same choice with their health plan.

Last week, when fourth-year student Katie Stone, who has coverage under a parent's plan, went looking for her money back, she was turned away empty-handed by the administration.

"I don't think it's fair," she said, "If students at UNB can have an opt-out clause, why can't we?" she asked.

At STU, even if a student is covered by another policy, they still have to pay a mandatory \$74 health care fee as part of tuition. No refunds are available.

"Tuition fees are low enough already," said Larry Durling, finance administrator at STU. "If we imple-

ment a supplementary plan, that would mean a lower tuition and we have to keep the schools finances in mind."

Durling explained that the schools premiums would be much higher if STU had the opt-out clause.

"We have to take all costs into consideration," he said.

But Durling did not rule out the possibility of a refund in future years.

"We will be looking into the supplementary fees and the opt-out clause for next year but nothing is definite at this point," he said.

The fact that they can't get their money back has upset students who are already covered under their parents' or spouse's plan.

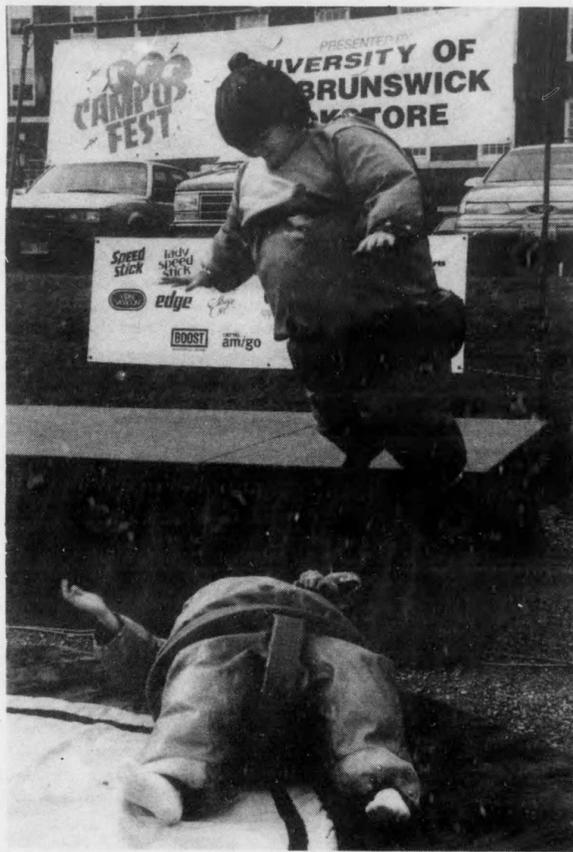
Stone wonders what will become of the money that she paid to the school. She is reluctant to pay for other students health care out of her own pocket.

"Seventy-four dollars may not sound like much to some people, but when you are going to university every little bit helps," she commented, "I could really use that money."

The benefits of the STU health plan are similar to those of UNB's. Both plans are underwritten by SunLife and include coverage of prescription drugs, paramedical services, tutorial benefits, birth control, dental, and medical supply coverage.

The UNB plan, however, is supplementary. Students had until September 30 to opt-out and receive a refund of \$100 if they are covered elsewhere.

After an ironic blunder last week, an anonymous STU student should have nothing to complain about. This individual successfully opted-out of UNB's health plan and will be receiving a check for \$100 in November.



Campus Fest sumo champ Mark Morgan (in air) attempts the Jiggly Jackhammer on Marc Landry. Photo by Kevin G. Porter

## Grad Class project idea short-listed to three choices

by Gordon Loane  
Brunswickan News

It has been a tradition at UNB since 1990 that each graduating class raise money and donate it to a special project aimed at enhancing facilities on campus.

The Grad Class of 1995 will be no exception. A survey of about 100 students who attended the first Grad Class meeting this week has narrowed down the list from six to three projects.

While the three projects are known to the Grad Class Executive, President Dave Erb says he can't release details until UNB's Physical Plant Department completes a cost analysis on their feasibility.

"We expect to have the costs in our hands in the next week and then details will be forthcoming," said Erb. "Then, we'll begin to narrow

down the projects until one is chosen by the Grad Class members."

The Grad Class Project is expected to cost about \$10,000.

UNB's Dean of Students Tom Austin, at the invitation of the Grad Class Executive, offered an option of physical accessibility on campus by renovation of a residence room, providing an outer electric door to a university building or by providing ramps and a chair lift for greater access to the Old Arts Building.

"These are just some suggestions within the category," said Austin.

A second project suggested by Austin would provide visual and hearing equipment for UNB Libraries.

"Perhaps we could look at large screen capability for some of their computers, together with the large

-See Grad Project, page 4.

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

## Nursing faculty newsletter launched

by Cheryl McLean  
Brunswickan News

The first issue of the *UNB Nursing Faculty Newsletter* has hit the newsstands.

Linda Duffett-Legere proposed her idea of the publication to the Nursing Society last summer.

"So many people are doing great stuff and not getting recognized," said Duffett-Legere, explaining what gave her the idea.

Duffett-Legere said the paper will later be re-named by students.

The newsletter will be printed bi-

monthly and each edition will have a different theme. Domestic violence will be addressed in the November/December issue.

"The goal of the newsletter is to create some hope for students, and to get them thinking," Duffett-Legere said.

The publication will highlight the nursing faculty on campus, as well as covering research, achievements, promotions, awards and grant money. It will also focus on nurses across Canada that are leading in their field.

As well, announcements of birth-

days, anniversaries and the like will be included.

The newsletter will promote non-profit organizations, such as Planned Parenthood, to get student nurses involved.

Although it is yet unknown how much this project will cost, both the Nursing Society, the faculty and Dean of Nursing Penny Ericson will help in funding.

With approximately 235 students and 45 faculty members, the circulation of the first publication will be approximately 300 copies.

What began as a four-page newsletter has already grown to eight pages.

The first edition is being created by founders Duffett-Legere and Gina Reed-Levesque, but they still need help.

Any interested nursing students should contact Duffett-Legere at 459-5091.

### Correction:

In last week's article titled "Council Briefs", the first line of paragraph two should read: Council has ratified details of a \$14,000 deal reached earlier with NB Tel.