

News

No refund of current charges CFS Health Plan approved for 94

by Gordon Loane

UNB administration officials have given the go-ahead to a significantly expanded health plan for undergraduates on the Fredericton campus.

The future of the CFS Health Plan had been in some doubt despite an overwhelmingly favourable referendum result in October.

UNB Student Union officials needed approval from the administration and received it shortly before Christmas.

Student Union Vice-President Pat Fitzpatrick is not concealing his delight, despite a \$75 increase in cost for every student. The new health plan will cost \$100 while the current plan costs \$25.

Fitzpatrick believes the benefits far outweigh the costs. He has already taken steps to get the health plan implemented "We signed a contract with Sun Life and have sent in the first \$1000 payment," he said.

The plan will be administered by the UNB Student Union as opposed to the plan currently in place which is run by the administration and included in tuition fees.

The health plan will carry an 80% insurance benefit for prescription drugs and oral contraceptives.

Students will receive a health card which can be presented to any pharmacist. Students will pay just 20% of the cost of a prescription with presentation of the health card. Vision care is also included.

The plan will cover one visit to an optometrist every two years. That cost is currently \$55 per visit. The cost of a pair of prescription lenses will cost eighty dollars less with presentation of the health card.

The plan will carry costs for physiotherapy and massage to a \$250 per year limit. Speech/ language therapy, psychological services, certain emergency services and an accidental dental benefit are also included.

A full list of health plan benefits will be available to each student in the fall.

"A most important feature of the new health plan is that the \$100 cost

is refundable to those who might be included on some other health plan," said Pat Fitzpatrick. "For instance, many students are already covered under a parents health plan. A full refund can be provided for a student who doesn't really need our plan," said Fitzpatrick.

The approval of the CFS Health Plan does come at an additional price. Fitzpatrick said the administration will not be rebating the \$25 fee for their plan next year.

The decision means that next year, the administration gets to pocket a \$25 cost saving from a non-existent health plan.

"Just where this extra money will be diverted is still up in the air but the administration has made no commitments yet," Fitzpatrick said.

To that end Fitzpatrick is meeting this week with Dean of Students Tom Austin to discuss funding for student services.

"As you know they're under cost pressure and we're concerned about the future of certain student services, Fitzpatrick said. "We'd like to see as much as possible go towards student services," he continued.

If Fitzpatrick gets his wish or even part of it, student services should receive a boost. If a CFS health plan is approved on the Saint John campus later this term the administration will have some \$250,000 in cost reductions from the tuition fee component come September 1994.

"Our first priority is to secure funding for current student services like the Placement and Job centre," said Fitzpatrick. "We'd also like to get funding for a new peer helping centre."

In addition, the Student Union would like to address certain safety issues on campus like extra lighting and emergency blue phones at various campus locations.

"I'm sending UNB Comptroller John O'Brien and Vice-President Finance and Administration James O'Sullivan a proposal this week," Fitzpatrick continued. "We'll see what happens."

With \$250,000 available and no health plan fee rebate, Fitzpatrick might get his wish.

NB student loans delayed

by Gordon Loane

Students are experiencing delays of up to a week as a new system to fully process New Brunswick provincial government loans takes effect.

The provincial government handed exclusive lending rights to the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and Caisse Populaire effective January 1st. The decision was taken shortly before Christmas.

As a result, at least one lender is struggling to keep up. "In most cases loans are being processed within 72 hours of their arrival at our processing center," said Rob MacLeod, a spokesperson for CIBC in Burlington, Ontario.

"It takes up to 24 hours for the application to arrive from the UNB Business Office via courier to our Burlington office," MacLeod said.

But there have been exceptions. Student loan officer Debbie Aker at the Queen Street Branch of CIBC in Fredericton said weather conditions last week forced a 48 hour delay in courier service.

UNB's Assistant Comptroller Hartley Morehouse agreed. He said delays are currently beyond the original CIBC estimate of 48 to 72 hours. "But I can't really say why" he said.

Morehouse said some students have not received their form from the provincial Student Aid Office but there are less of them in this position than most years at this time.

"The UNB Business Office had received just over 1900 Student Aid authorisations from the provincial government by January 5th," Morehouse continued. "That's certainly ahead of the situation in years gone by," he said.

But MacLeod said "everyone is on

the learning curve" as the bank takes over most of the student loan business in New Brunswick.

"In most cases we credit a student account with their loan money within 72 hours of the arrival of the application in Burlington," he said.

In addition to the drop box at the UNB Business office applications can be dropped off at any CIBC Branch. "They get to us in 24 hours," MacLeod said.

"Students can also mail us their application once it's received through the Business office. It usually takes two or three days for the mail to reach us," he said.

For those in drastic need of money, the UNB Financial Aid office has been able to provide emergency assistance.

A spokesperson at the financial aid office said they've helped about six students in drastic need this week.

Student Union scraps Yearbook

Brunswickan staff

UNB Student Council has scrapped two publications as a major cost cutting move to begin the new year.

But the decision to scrap the student directory and the 1993-94 version of the UNB yearbook may have more to do with a lack of personnel to produce them.

The resolution to scrap the yearbook and to save \$20,000 sparked the most debate at Wednesday's council meeting. Some councillors expressed the desire to hand

the yearbook project to this year's graduating class.

But it may be too late in the year for that to happen.

"Unless someone is willing to come forward and spend the time necessary to produce a yearbook we won't change our mind," said Student Union President Jamie van Raalte. "But if someone does approach us we might give it a second look," he said.

SU Vice-president Activities and Promotions Chantal Albert said two students approached her earlier this year but neither wanted to take on

the responsibilities of editor.

Vice-president External Pat Fitzpatrick asked council to make a decision because he's getting calls from parents and studios questioning deadlines.

In the end council decided almost unanimously to cancel this year's version of "Up the Hill." Nearly 1000 yearbooks are usually published each year.

As well, the student directory will not be published saving council some \$3700. Councillors felt it's too late in the school year to begin producing a directory now.

Future of Bar Services uncertain

by Gordon Loane

The future of Bar Services Manager Ellen Hawkins and 10 part-time student employees hang in the balance as university officials decide whether to revamp or cut bar services for events in the SUB.

A decision is expected in the next few weeks; again the problem is financial.

"The operation is breaking even on a week to week basis but we are not covering our overhead costs which include the salary of

our full time manager," said Roy Brostowski, UNB's Director of Housing and Food Services.

"Obviously, some steps have to be taken and a review is underway," he said.

Currently the bar manager handles all paperwork for liquor services provided to events catered by Beaver Foods Limited.

In addition the manager handles the administrative details and carries out the operation for liquor related events in the SUB.

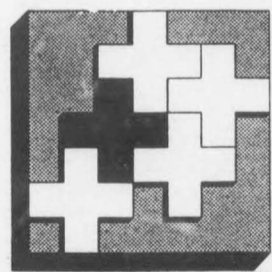
The administrative details for liquor services provided with meals at

the university faculty club are handled through this office as well.

If Bar Services are curtailed or drastically cutback it would be the second such move at UNB in as many years.

Large operating losses last year forced the university to lay off at least two full time employees and cut several part-time student positions.

Service was eliminated throughout the university community except for liquor related events confined to the SUB.



The National Student
Health Network
Le Réseau National
d'Assurance-Santé

Campus Crime Stoppers

Sometime during the weekend of the 3rd to the 6th of December 1993, someone removed a Digital Multimeter valued at \$270 from the Power Lab Room H-2 in Head Hall. The meter was chained to a table and was removed by

pulling out the screw attaching the chain to the table. Model # 470, series # 308580.

Sometime overnight on December 20 or 21, 1993, persons unknown removed the microwave oven valued at \$700 from the vending machine area in the lower southeast stairwell of the SUB. The oven is the property of Boyd's Vending Co. and is described

as follows: Litton commercial microwave oven, brown in colour, serial # 060688.

Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$2000 for information leading to the arrest of the person(s) responsible for these crimes. If you have information about these crimes or any other crimes please call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222(TIPS)8477.