

NEWS

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

Newsbits

Lamrock: Bassett not "gagged"

Nahie Bassett, VP Finance and Administration, told *The Brunswickan* in an interview on Thursday, October 19th, she had "been advised not to talk to *The Brunswickan*." She declined to comment further on the matter.

Kelly Lamrock, SU President, contradicted her statement in an interview. "There is no 'gag order.' There never was," said Lamrock. "But I did advise her that she shouldn't feel the need to answer questions she didn't know. That she could defer questions to me. On a particular issue, I may have asked her to defer questions to me, but there is no standing order [against talking to the media.]"

SU to get SUB donor list

Some headway on SUB Expansion has occurred following a meeting between the Student Union Executives and UNB President Robin Armstrong. According to SU President Kelly Lamrock, the SUB Steering Committee, which met on Wednesday, October 25, will be provided with a list of those who donated to the SUB Expansion Campaign. In addition, explains Lamrock, there is some talk of letting the Student Union approach donors privately. Lamrock has told *The Brunswickan* the committee may decide to approach the businesses which have expressed interest in being tenants in the expanded SUB.

Acting director honoured

Sandra Byers, professor of Psychology and acting director of the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research, was honoured by the Centre recently for her role in creating the centre and providing it with direction. Among those in attendance were New Brunswick Lieutenant-Governor Margaret McCain and Senator Muriel McQueen Fergusson.

Dr. Byers served as acting director for the Centre from its inception in 1992 until July of this year. In an interview last fall, she said "Family violence interferes with women and their children achieving their potential and leading happy, fulfilling lives. Since family violence is not restricted to one societal group of attributable to one cause, it is important to understand that no one program will eliminate family violence."

Over 150 people are currently involved in the Centre's research projects, which include violence in dating relationships, family violence in immigrant communities in New Brunswick, the impact of family violence in the workplace, family violence in farm and rural communities, and the management and treatment of sex offenders.

NB Rights Commission online

The New Brunswick Human Rights Commission has gone online at <http://www.gov.nb.ca/acl/human/english/index.htm>.

Constantine Passaris, Professor of Economics at UNB and chairman of the NB Human Rights Commission, said: "I am proud of this new initiative which makes our commission the first human rights jurisdiction in Canada to provide its services on the electronic information highway. Our Internet site will serve as an important educational tool and will be of great assistance in the electronic posting and distribution of human rights information to New Brunswickers."

The commission can also be reached by electronic mail at humanright@gov.nb.ca. The information available includes answers to frequently asked questions about the Human Rights act and the commission, information on the Foundations for Fairness video series, information on racial discrimination and on sexual harassment in the workplace.

"New Brunswickers will be able to request educational information and publications as well as establish initial contact regarding complaints of discrimination through e-mail. This exciting initiative is in keeping with our strong commitment to serve New Brunswickers efficiently and effectively," Passaris said.

CHRC calls for proposals

The Cultural Human Resources Council (CHRC) invites training proposals for the 1996-97 year. CHRC purchases training for artists and cultural workers under its Training Initiative Program (TIP) providing access to skills upgrading for those who cannot find funding support through the Canada Employment Centres' regular programs, and facilitating quality training initiatives within the cultural sector. The deadline for receipt by CHRC of proposals is December 15.

TIP supports training for self-employed artists and cultural workers, in disciplines like literary arts and publishing, audio-visual and live performing arts, music and sound recording, visual arts and crafts, and heritage. Individuals and organizations may apply. For more information and applications, contact: Jean-Philippe Tabet, Director of Training, Cultural Human Resources Council

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Neill House Safe Walk goes co-ed

by Cynthia Kirkby
Co-News Editor

The Neill House Safe Walk program has been expanded, due to a new relationship with the Student Union. Co-ordinators Matt Trevors (Neill), Kathy Gillis (Dunn), and Traci Hachey (Tibbitts), approached the Student Union about funding for jackets, flashlights, umbrellas, and batteries, causing the SU to re-evaluate their involvement in the program.

"It's a great service, that needs to exist," said VP (University Affairs) Chantale Walker, whose portfolio oversees Campus Safety, and who was Campus Safety Coordinator in 1994-95.

"They average 6 to 10 calls a night, more on weekends."

"It was decided 2 years ago that Safe Walk would go co-ed," said Trevors. "But it didn't have full time co-ordinators, just the proctors." This year, the co-ed aspect of the program has been implemented. "There were 40 applicants from the girls' houses. They were all accepted after the screening process."

It is important that the program be co-ed, because, as Walker explained: "The majority of the callers are female. They should be more at ease with equal representation."

The Student Union has given the program a contract, saying that "as long as its free, co-ed, and runs from

dusk to dawn, we'll have a yearly allotment as we need it," said Trevors. "They appreciate the service and are helping with advertisement and promotions." The proposal to the Student Union was for \$1,450. Safe Walk also receives support from Neill's Dean, who, with the three involved residences, splits the cost of a bedroom and bedding for the girls on duty to use.

Safe Walk's boundary is a 20 minute walk radius, extending from the corner of York and Montgomery to the bottom of University Avenue at Charlotte Street. It is open seven days a week, from dusk to dawn, and can be reached at 453-4830.

Delegation reports on South African democracy at Ludlow

by Phillip Ventzek
Brunswickan News

Six members of South Africa's freely-elected government paid a visit to UNB's Ludlow Hall. The four black and two white parliamentarians spoke before a small crowd of Law students and faculty. The speakers boasted of the democratic achievements of their unified, multi-racial government, told of the government's plans for the future, and even had something to say about Canada's unity problem.

George G. Mokgoro, Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Legislature in Western Cape, spoke of the "interim constitution" that was implemented after four years of negotiation between the African National Conference and the then-all white South African government. Referring to the international diplomatic and economic sanctions that plagued South Africa until free elections, Mokgoro spoke for the newly open South Africa. "We are very happy that we have now been accepted in the international community," he said. "We are very happy that we can now contribute to the international community."

This group of four men and two women came to New Brunswick to study its democratic institutions, while other South African delegations are doing the same in other Canadian provinces. Mokgoro disclosed that in the South African government of today, cabinet discipline is strict. "Inside the cabinet, people are free to disagree," ensured Mokgoro. But outside the cabinet meetings, all members are expected to tow the line.

Speaker for the Provincial Legislature of Western Cape, Willem Doman, beamed with pride when he bragged of South Africa's "very strong first-world component—our infrastructure, roads and so forth." But Doman said South Africa also has "a third-world component: seventeen million people 'living on the bread line.' And as if decades of bad press had not reached every Canadian, Doman told of South Africa's "terrible history of human rights." The bright spot for South Africa, according to Doman, is that things are

changing for the better. "We are a government of national unity," he announced. "A shared government of the old forces and the new forces... we are working together and making progress."

As proof Doman cited the South African government's determination to "write a final constitution." Doman insisted, "We want to complete this process next year."

Already a "truth commission has been established by law," Doman continued. This commission was established in response to the public's wish to "find out what happened to their families" during "the struggle" for political change in South Africa. Doman said individuals who played a role in "atrocities" can come forward, without risk of prosecution, to tell of what they did. Doman admitted that public revelations about one's participation in atrocities is "very risky," but persevered in claiming the truth commission is of worth. "It's part of the process of reconciliation."

Deputy Speaker for the Provincial Legislature of Western Cape, C. Ramotsamai, saw linguistic similarity between Canada and South Africa. "There is a Zulu-speaking region that wants to go the Quebec style," she explained. "But the country is trying to repress that because we have eleven languages... and everyone will want the same thing." Nevertheless the South African government appears not adverse to making concessions. In reference to legislative procedure, Ramotsamai said, "There will be a document that will incorporate all eleven official languages in the Parliament."

Secretary of the Provincial Legislature for Northern Cape, G. Mashope, revealed that, at one point, South Africa had thirteen educational systems "separated by ethnic differences." The South African government wants "to bring it all under one system," said Mashope. "But it is going to take a long time."

Doman decried how "people usually vote on their ethnicity and language. We should get away from that and vote on merit and policy." Ramotsamai appeared to differ. A member of the

ANC party, Ramotsamai was proud to reveal forty percent of the party's candidates in the last election were women. "Maybe Canada could learn something from South Africa," shouted a female member of the audience.

The panel of South African parliamentarians also included the Secretary of the Provincial Legislature in Western Cape and the Chairperson of the Provincial Legislature in Northern Cape.

Cards...

The Council made several motions to solve the problem. First, the Executive was directed to provide lists, receipts, and written explanations for expenses. The VP Finance was directed to provide Council with a schedule of interest payments.

The cards, issued in June 1995, are subject to tight controls according to the VP Finance. "We each signed an agreement," Bassett told *The Brunswickan*. The agreement, also presented to Council, details four "rules and regulations" regarding the cards. The first aspect is security: "credit cards will be stored in the safe in the General Office. Cards must be signed out on a case-by-case basis." This element was the subject of a motion made by Anoushka Courage (At-Large) which directed the VP Finance & Administration to present to Council this list by the next meeting.

The second item concerns "coding expenses." The agreement stipulates that "this ['coding'] must be completed within four (4) working days of receipt [of the statements.]" The third is an enforcement mechanism which allows for expenses not fully compiled to "be deducted from the individual's next UNB Student Union pay cheque."

The fourth section of the agreement, arguably the most interesting to Council, was the provision dealing with personal items. "Personal items will not be charged to the UNB Student Union Master Card unless in the case of an emergency. Failure to comply with this will result in the termination of all card privileges."