Paint for golden egg costs $50,000

Our student government has voted to loan $50,000 to Campus Services Limited - the student-owned travel and promotions company incorporated this summer - and did so immediately after being told that it's not known how much has been spent on the corporation.

We should make it clear in this editorial that we are not opposed to such a company. Indeed, it seems at this moment that CSL will serve to raise the standard of entertainment on campus and broaden the number of low-cost travel opportunities to students. If this is the case, then we back such a venture all the way.

And The Brunswickan feels that if students -- and their elected representatives -- were given the same information they would back the idea.

But it was apparent at this week's meeting that some councillors were in the dark about CSL. After some vague references to not knowing what the SRC has invested so far, the government executive and the company's directors put the figure at about $13,000. This was approved during the summer by the executive in the absence of the rest of council to cover the costs of incorporation, to pay federal fees on such a company and to begin such activities as the Roy Clark concert. We won't know the accurate figure until CSL presents its fiscal year-end report to the SRC.

No one will comment on how much of a loss we sustained on the Roy Clark fiasco but one spokesperson says "it's not small but I don't know how big it is."

It was obvious that at least some members didn't have confidence in their knowledge of CSL. Eric Semple put forth a motion which was seconded by Alan Patrick, that the motion to approve the $50,000 sinking fund at short-term interest rates be tabled until next week, when members could get some background on the question.

This was voted down and the loan approved. Other council members obviously want to see the venture succeed and are willing to bend to the executive's and company's tactics that a delay in the loan approval will spell disaster for the venture. This was evident by Steve Berube's promise that the CSL will be "the goose that lays the golden egg" and assistant comptroller Brian Pryde's advice that it should be considered "not as an expenditure but as an investment."

CSL has exponents which say it may yet declare profits – they push the one successful pub so far and mention the $7,000 booked in package tours arranged through the travel division of the corporation.

The Brunswickan wants to back the venture if everything is as the exponents say it is but wants more accountability by the corporation to the SRC. We realize that competition puts constraints on how much financial detail can be published but at least councillors should insist on quarterly reports on financial state of the firm – something they're not doing.

Finally, and most importantly, the lesson to be learned from this is that the traditional lack of control over executive spending during the summer break must end. The Brunswickan insists that councillors adopt a policy which limits the expenditure possible during their absence. This is not to unduely restrain the executive so that valuable business opportunities are missed but so that the executive will be aware of their spending constraints and make its expenditures carefully.



What do you mean , Jim?! Do you really think it needs more?!

In search of the Roe Parking Space

A car enters the parking lot. It moves slowly, with hunter instincts. It spots its game and moves in for the kill. As it approaches the empty parking space burning tires are heard, a blur shoots across in front of the hunter and comes to a screeching, lurching stop. Aced out again.

Sound familiar?it probably is an every day event for the many of you who drive to class each day. It is in fact, a familiar scene to almost anyone who for the last few years been a driving student.

The greater majority of the students live off campus. Those who have spent fifteen or more minutes prowling the students' parking lots, know the frustrations that often arise. One person was heard to have said that for the first time in years he would not have to make an eight-thirty class. He discovered instead he had to be on campus at that time anyway to get a convenient and safe harbor for his huge boat.

There is, as in years gone past, a change obviously needed. Hopefully someday we will see a change. For the present it seems the only effective measure students who insist on driving can take is to hope. Or is it?

For those within walking distance, why not walk? I'm sure some of you have heard of this means of transportation which predates the wheel. Besides helping to alleviate the parking problem it is an effective method of combating the "fifty year old Swede" syndrome.

Students who do not live near the university may find carpools more convenient. "Old Hat" you might say, "The idea has never worked." Well why has it not? People that's why. Ask yourself if you really want to do something about the problem. Give it a thought. The idea does have certain obvious merits and may just save you a few gas dollars.

Who knows, someday you might just get totally fed up and sell that gas-guzzler. If this be the case, when your putting the money in the bank don't forget to get a bag of quarters. After all, there is Fredericton Transit.

Until changes are made in the parking facilities the changes must be made by the students. Yes there is that dirty word change again. Change - good for the collective but seldom necessary for the individual. However, with co-operation there will be a change in our congested parking lots, but it's up to you.

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