

NEWS

Editor: Melynda Jarratt

NEWSLINE: 453-4973

DEADLINE: Noon Wednesday

High costs of birth control

By CHRISTOPHER NAKASH
Asst. News Editor

Birth control . . . to many, the word is a taboo, to others, it means a lot of money. Among the multitude of methods, the most common forms of contraception are condoms and birth control pills. The latter of the two tends to be quite expensive.

In an interview with the Brunswickan, executive director of Planned Parenthood Fredericton, Joy Dion, said that there were a lot of complaints from females on the UNB campus about the high main complaint is that the UNB health plan does not cover the costs of birth control pills, which range from \$12.15 to \$15.00 per month, depending on the type of pill. As this is a prescription drug, many students feel that the health plan should help cover the costs of birth control pills. The costs. However, the UNB Asst.

Morehouse, told the Brunswickan that the university's mutual life insurance policy covers the cost of all

prescription drugs after the first two dollars, with the exception of birth control pills. Some students feel cheated, because just up the hill at St. Thomas University, all students have a comprehensive Blue Cross medical plan that does cover the cost of birth control pills. The difference in the two plans, is that UNB's health plan cost \$18.24 per year (for a single Canadian

student) whereas St. Thomas' cost \$6.12 per month (which comes to \$73.44 per year.) If you include the one dollar charge for 12 months, and add it to the St. Thomas' health plan, then one would pay \$85.44 for full coverage and free birth control pills for one year.

There is a possible solution for UNB students on the pill.

Most unionized companies provide family medical support, so if your parents have accepted the fact that you are on the pill, their plan usually covers part of the cost of the pill.

There is some argument, that some females need the pill to regulate irregular menstruation cycles. This argument is

valid and holds much substance, but the University maintains that the health plan will not cover the costs of birth control pills, regardless of the reason.

In closing, it should be expressed that love is a two-way street and a shared experience, and as such, the guys should help chip in the high costs of contraception.

Student issues Forum

BY KAREN MAIR

An Open Forum on Student Issues was held at Edmund Casey Hall on Monday, January 27. The topic in question was higher education funding at the provincial and national level.

Guest speakers included New Brunswick Premier Richard Hatfield, Leader of the Opposition Mr. Frank McKenna, NDP Representative Mr. Tom Good, Director of Student Aid and the Director of Employment and

Development, Department of Labour.

The Forum on Student Issues was sponsored by St. Thomas Student Union and the Canadian Federation of Students in conjunction with its National Week of Action.

The forum was clearly presented as a "forum" - it was stipulated by Forum Chairman Tom Isaac at the onset that the invited guests should refrain from engaging in debate. STU Student union President Alice Carson opened the forum. Her opening remarks were in reference to

Student Aid, Employment for youth and bursaries. Carson also stressed the importance of funding recommendations as they are put forward by the Atlantic Association of Universities. The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission should, according to Carson, take the AAU's financial recommendations much more seriously.

Following Carson's remarks the various politicians spoke on the issue, primarily outlining the same ideas. NDP Representative Tom Good cited past years as being more considerate of student needs. Good said it would be best to go back to 'the way it was' and not continue in the way of financial restraints on higher education.

The topic of summer employment for students arose and it was suggested by a member of the audience that

approximately eighty five percent of the summer jobs for students went to conservative ridings. Hatfield refuted the statement and denied any knowledge. Good said that he would like to see change and that the patronage system should stop. As far as he was concerned "merit should decide who gets what jobs. Neither the Liberal or the Progressive Conservative Party will have the guts to fight against party pressure however."

On tuition increases Leader of the opposition said that it was "categorically wrong for students to be discriminated against due to finances. It is impossible to look to students to support the university. There should be more public and private funding. And Hatfield returned "It is impossible to put a ceiling on tuition increases."

CONTEST WINNERS

Mark McGorem and Duncan Fairbairn have won the Turkeys and Tributes Contest, and will receive prizes from Moosehead.



Gobble. Gobble
Gobble Gobble

Turkey's and Tributes's of the Week are chosen by Brunswickan News Staff in recognition of the *Marvelous* and the *Moronic* things people say or do.

This week's Turkey of the Week is awarded to Alberta Employment Minister Jack Orrman for his derogatory remarks about Atlantic Canadians. Citing Atlantic Canada as a region "where people don't bother to look for work," Orrman told reporters, "We don't want to have a legacy of social assistance as in some parts of the country where it's almost hereditary -- your father was on social assistance, your grandfather was, and you are." Keep talking like this Jack and you might find yourself on the unemployment rolls!

TRIBUTE OF THE WEEK

This week's tribute goes to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The Communist Party Secretary told Politburo members that "some comrades don't seem to understand that democracy is more than a slogan." He proposed that more than one candidate be allowed to stand in secret ballot elections. The Party would still pick the candidates. It's a small step in the right direction.

Alcohol off Campus

By ALISON LUKE
Brunswickan Staff

Alcohol consumption in residences and the corresponding regulations were the subject of a meeting held at Maggie Jean Chestnut residence last Wednesday.

Maggie Jean and Rosary Hall, off campus residences situated on Charlotte St., are under the blanket liquor license currently in effect in all on-campus residences. This license entails the use of campus police, licensed bartenders and alcohol obtained through bar services, whenever any social events are arranged. Due to the high cost incurred, whenever these services are used, both Maggie Jean and

Rosary's social activities have been severely curtailed.

The house funds, paid by these students, have been kept to a creditable minimum, and consequently, funding for events is assessed closely.

One of the points brought up during the meeting is that the residences are small houses and whenever socials are organized, there is a maximum of fifty people attending. With these few people present, and if money was plentiful enough to hire bar services for events, how many students would pay \$1.85 for one beer when they can drink in their own rooms. The organized occasion would

Continued on page 6