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200% parking fee increase

by Allan Carter

Last May the UNB's Board of Governors approved a 200% parking fee increase, bringing the \$10 fee up to \$30.

In addition, fines for traffic and parking violations have also increased, some doubling in cost.

According to Richard Peacock, UNB's director of Security, a task force was set up last term to evaluate parking concerns.

This task force consisted of two UNB students who owned cars. One of these students was a 1990 UNB graduate who was chosen by the Student Representative Council and lived off-campus. The other student lived on-campus.

The remaining members of the

task force consisted of professors, members of the university administration, the UNB Physical Plant, and the Harriet Irving Library.

Peacock claims that the general reason for the increase in fees is that due to the new recommendations by the task force, the university thought an increase in fees would help offset the costs of these recommendations.

The recommendations consists of a new gravel parking lot just south of Pacey Drive, behind the Harriet Irving Library. Also the parking lot at Lady Beaverbrook and on Windsor Street will be expanded. Part of a lot at Head Hall will be paved and \$2,000 will be spent on the installation of new bike stands.

The cost of the project in total will be about \$100,000.

Kevin Bourque, Student Union president, is not happy with the fact that students have to pay more. He is hoping that if prices must increase, then there will be a "beef up" in security. He hopes students "get what they pay for, besides the new additions."

Peacock admits there have been problems with reckless driving, particularly taxis, but that it should be no major worry.

"[Taxi] companies can't afford it," says Peacock. Since it would only be "bad PR," one company has already asked security to report to them any of their cabs driving recklessly

or disobeying traffic laws.

Peacock says this year there will also be more stringent enforcement as far as towing is concerned. In addition, an additional security officer has been hired, and fines have been increased to discourage motorists from ignoring regulations.

Peacock realizes that some people are not happy with the parking fee increase, but at the same time he does not think people are really aware of all the costs that are involved in a parking lot.

He says that snow removal, painting the lines, lighting and sign enforcement are "all kinds

of variables that people don't really look at."

In fact, UNB is still low compared to other universities' parking fees. A study by last year's task force showed that out of 25 universities, 24 of them had parking rates much higher than UNB's \$30 parking fee.

Whether or not drivers are happy with the new fee, Peacock does have one suggestion to drivers. Plan your day - so instead of spending 10 minutes driving around looking for a parking place close by to your destination, go to a place at a reasonable distance and use the extra 5 minutes to walk.

New \$25.00 appeal fee

by Allan Carter

Though the increase in parking fees might have some drivers grumbling the new appeal board policy also has caused some concern.

Last year, Richard Peacock, director of security had 133 appeals before him from drivers who received a fine for violating parking or traffic regulations.

But out of the 133 appeals only two of them insisted on having their appeal heard by the Appeal Board. The Appeal Board is made up of two persons appointed by the UNB President and one person appointed by the UNB Student Union President.

In past years people

appealing could appeal to the board with little difficulty, but this year is different.

Now if anyone wishes to appeal to the board the appellant must first pay his/her fine and then pay an additional \$25.00 to have his/her appeal heard by the board. If the appellant wins his/her appeal all monies are returned.

Kevin Bourque, Student Union president, has not yet investigated the matter thoroughly, but feels it is unfair. He says it is "not very incentive to try to vindicate yourself."

Jim MacGee, VP University Affairs and the executive member of the Student Union who would appoint someone to

this board, can see the logic behind the idea if it would discourage people that were only taking up needless time.

But he questions if the appeal fee is necessary if only two appellants presented their cases before the board last year.

Peacock is surprised that only two people did use the option, since it was always there, but feels the \$25.00 charge is a fair one.

He says such appeals are "time consuming" and if a person really thinks he/she is right - pay the \$25.00 fee and if the appellant is right he/she gets the \$25.00 back.

He believes it is a positive measure if looked at realistically.



photo by David Smith

- \$803, 342 university surplus
- Two SU executives resign

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Warning or a fine?

Parking or traffic violations will cost violators \$10.00 or \$20.00 this year.

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