

Limited accessibility at UNB



Going down? Although there is an elevator in the SUB, access to it isn't easy.

Photo by Randy Goodleaf

Sir Max Aitken Pool is now three tones of blue

(UNB-PRI) When the Sir Max Aitken Pool opened for the fall following a three-week shutdown visitors were greeted by a "splash" of colour. Exclamations of delight, surprise and the occasional "It's different!" witnessed the fact change had occurred.

Since its creation in 1967, the colour of the walls in the Aitken pool has been a light green. Today, there are three tones of blue combining to create a mosaic masterpiece of acoustical tile. Jeff Burkard, aquatic coordinator, gives credit to Mark Farnsworth, the maintenance foreman-painter at physical plant, for the creative work.

"I suggested the three tones of blue and Mark came up with the rest," he says. "Painting the acoustical tile to capture the mosaic look of the pool deck was very creative."

Although the change in colour is most apparent and has been the topic of discussion on the pool deck, a less obvious but most welcome part of the facelift, for Mr. Burkard and Everette Grattan, the pool technician, is the new filtration system.

The old system was a sand and gravel unit. A 1983 study by the engineering department revealed that the filter tanks were corroding. The study estimated holes would appear within 10 years and the tanks would have to be replaced. To minimize the workload on the tanks, several temporary measures were taken. A portable vacuum was purchased to clean out dirt as quickly as possible. Circulation pipes were redesigned so that skimmers would operate 24 hours a day. And the bathing cap rule continued to be enforced to keep

hair and contaminants out of the water.

The new filtration system is a high-rate sand unit, Mr. Burkard says. Unlike the old steel tank system, it's made of fibreglass and is able to filter the 260,000-gallon pool water completely in just four hours. Pools across Canada are just beginning to realize the benefit of this new standard in water filtration, he adds.

"The new unit came just in time. The sand and gravel filters had begun to spring leaks." The efficiency of the new filters results in fewer chemicals being used to balance the water. Another big change for users: they can now throw away their bathing caps.

Pool users appear to appreciate the facelift. Attendance, says Mr. Burkard, has increased this fall in many of the swims.

by Kathleen Johnston-Tracy

Limited accessibility for the physically challenged at UNB seems to be a common problem. It is ironic that the Student Union building, which was built for the students, by the students has no wheelchair accessible bathrooms, few phones with volume control for the hearing impaired, and two floors which are totally inaccessible.

The two floors which are inaccessible house the radio station, CHSR and the Student Unions for both Saint Thomas and UNB, which means that those who require the use of a wheelchair and students with young children in strollers cannot even get access to the photocopyers and the help center, as well as being cut off from their own Student Union.

There is an elevator in the building, to which keys can be

signed out on either a short term or a long term loan, for those in need of this service. But guests who enter on the lower floor that need the use of the elevator, must somehow figure out a way to reach the first floor without the elevator to sign out the key. This can become a real challenge to those people in wheelchairs or with babies in strollers.

Jim McGee, VP activities of the UNB SU, is very concerned with the problem and wishes to bring it to the forefront.

He states that learning disabilities are also a great concern. He feels that the university should have a full time co-ordinator for disabled students.

He admits a need to make buildings more accessible, although many of the older buildings pose a problem. He thinks that this should not be used as an excuse and that the problem should not be ignored.

Roach selected for BOG seat

by Murray Carew

Shelly Roach has been selected by the Selections Committee in conjunction with the Graduate Student Association to be appointed to the Board of Governors seat.

Roach has been at UNB for 6 years and is now in her second year of law.

She sat on the UNB Scholarship Committee and took an

administrative role in the production of Campus Courtroom and many other activities with the Student Union.

The Committee received 12 applicants for the position. Two students who applied for the position were Burton Empey and Arthur Doyle who were disqualified during the SU by-elections when they ran for the position.



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tutorials

Continued from page 3

Students in regular Arts 1000 tutorials have differing opinions. One student finds the elite sections degrading to everyone else and feels if the top students are going to be recognized for their high school marks, there should be a different course to differentiate them completely from the regular

courses.

Jon Lazar an Undergraduate Arts representative, does not agree with the sections. He claims the level of education between high school and university is totally different.

Lazar argues that bursaries and scholarships provide students from high school with

recognition, and placing the better students together may be putting too much pressure on them.

At any rate, Dean Kent is waiting to compare the end-of-year results before deciding whether the enriched sections will continue and what changes will be made.

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