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The Brunswickan

CANADA'S OLDEST OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION

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Brunswickan faces $14,000 shortfall

by Karen Burgess

It has recently come to light that *The Brunswickan*, the official newspaper of the University of New Brunswick, has overspent on its operating and printing costs for the 1992 Spring term..

Allan Carter, Managing Editor of *The Brunswickan*, says that the $14,000 deficit is a result of several factors, most significantly, a misunderstanding over the format of the budget given to the Bruns by the Student Union.

Carter explains that $7,000 of the deficit is attributed to increased printing costs of the weekly publication of *The Brunswickan* which the paper was unable to cover in advertising revenue. The remaining amount, he explains was due to the fact that in the budget received by *The Brunswickan*, the individual line items remained the same as those proposed by the Bruns last March. The final total did not reflect the total of those line items, but the lump sum contribution of the Student Union.

Carter continues: "As well, they didn't catch it upstairs (at the office of the Foundation for Students) because they too were going on the same premise as I was, that everything would add up to $25,000."

He feels that in order for this problem to be rectified, representatives from the SU will have to better clarify where the budget has been cut from year to year, and not just provide the bottom line contribution.

In addition, he feels that the staff of the Foundation for Students, who are paid employees of the SU and who oversee the spending and income of the Bruns, should also be made aware of the techniques used by the SU in the preparation of budgets.

Carter concludes that an examination of *The Brunswickan's* purchase orders will show that no money was spent on unnecessary or superfluous materials. He emphasizes that had he seen the discrepancy (between the sum of the line items and the SU's bottom line) at the beginning of the year, an immediate plea for more funds would have been made to the SU, as the allotment "was not enough to cover the costs of this paper."

James van Raalte, SU Vice President of Finance explains that the budget from the SU is allotted as a lump sum because "the finance committee doesn't know how to run a paper." He feels that the paper's priorities can only be set by the editorial board as a whole and that the distribution of funds to department of the paper should be an internal process.

Carter points out that this prioritizing is done at the time of *The Brunswickan's* submission of a budget proposal to the SU last spring.

van Raalte says it is important to recognize that while there may be a communication problem between the paper and the SU, there is also a problem with the current system dealing with *The Brunswickan's* finances.

He says: "Allan is supposed to be the first safeguard (against the creation of a deficit situation), Marlene (Secretary for the Foundation for Students) is supposed to be the second safeguard, and I am supposed to be the third and we all failed. That's pretty bad."

This sentiment was also reflected in statements made by SU President Greg Lutes at the Council Meeting on Wednesday evening. He says the deficit is mainly a result of "systemic" problems.

The allotment made "was not enough to cover the costs of this paper."
- Carter

Steve Williams, Board of Governors' representative to the SU, placed the blame fully on *The Brunswickan*, suggesting that the money may have been deliberately misspent. All but a few other councillors voted against Williams' motion to penalize the paper for the oversight by taking the money out of next year's budget.

Councillor Heather Sanford, among others, spoke against Williams' motion saying that blame was not solely the Brunswickan's and that his accusations were "very distasteful."

The problem has been referred to the SU's Budget Committee and will be discussed further in the future.

Student Union election results

Press Release

The Student Union Election results show a 21.5% voter turnout, a minimal increase of 2.5% from last spring's elections.

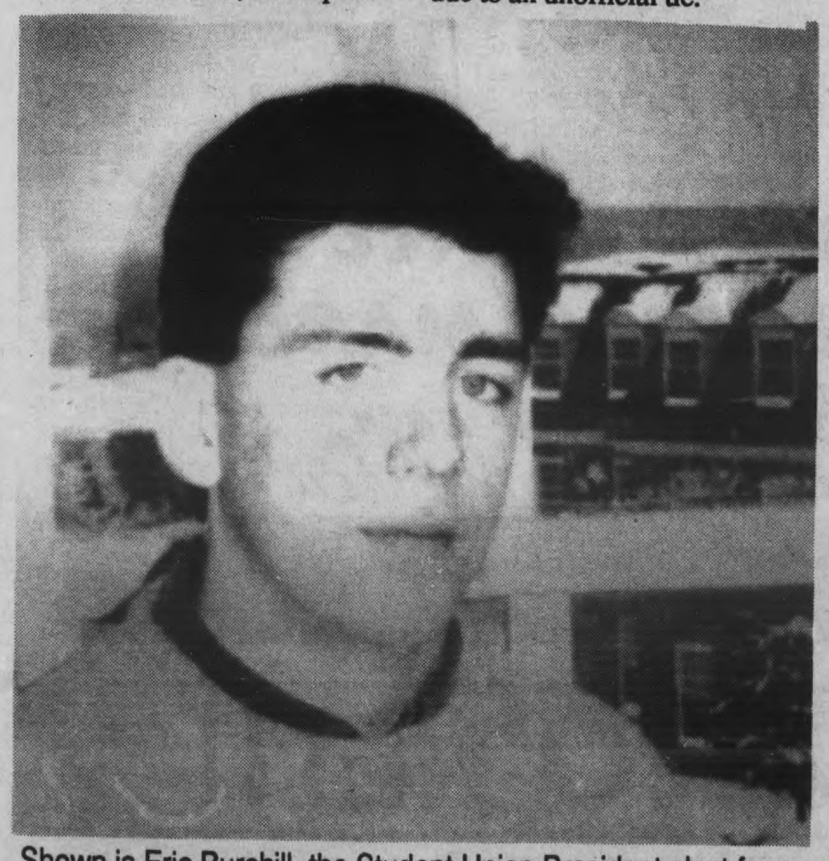
The official results are as follows for the executive: Eric Burchill, SU President; Anna MacDonald, V.P. University Affairs; James van Raalte, V.P. Finance and Administration; Kimberly Wetlaufer, V.P. Activities and Promotions; and Tammy Yates, V.P. External.

The results for councillors: Jason Burns and Samantha Ferlatte, Students-at-Large; Conrad Coughland, Duane Dunfield, Andrew John Fuller, Business Administration; John Finnamore, Computer Science; Joane Healey and Kathy Lanigan, Education; Darryl Kent, Bruce Nelligan, Andrew Van Wart, George Youssef, Engineering; Martha O'Sullivan, Forestry/Forest Engineering; Tim Comeau, Law; Aarika MacKay, Nursing; Patricia Kull, Physical Education; Karen Chu and Hugh MacNeil, Science.

The '92 Graduating class Valedictorian is Werner Disselkamp.

The '93 Graduating class executive is: Mary Dable, President; Shannon Hawkins, Vice President; Kerri Larsen, Secretary/Treasurer.

The results for Arts representatives were unavailable before deadline due to an unofficial tie.



Shown is Eric Burchill, the Student Union President elect for 1992-93. James Rowan photo.

Mechanical engineering professor found guilty of assault

by Leigh Acheson

On Wednesday, March 25, Esam Hussein, an associate professor of Mechanical Engineering at UNB was found guilty of assaulting his wife.

Hussein pleaded "not guilty" to the charge to Judge M.F. Caine in NB Provincial Court, but admitted to having hit his wife in the past, at times in front of the couple's children.

The court, in light of a request by the plaintiff for leniency in sentencing, gave Hussein a conditional discharge and one month's probation during which he must keep the peace.

A supporter of Mrs. Hussein, who was in attendance at the trial, says that Hussein explained his reaction was one of fear and that, although he was not struck, his actions were in self defence. However, she reports that he also intimated that he would continue to hit his wife.

There was no provision made in the sentencing for mandatory counselling for the defendant.

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