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CHSR experiences funding problem

by Karen Burgess

CHSR FM, UNB's student radio station, has run into budgetary problems recently which have raised concerns among station members, and both the UNB Student Union and the GSA.

Apparently, the station went over budget by \$8500 last year. In a recent Student Council meeting, SU Vice President of Finance and Administration James Van Raalte commented that a repetition of such an over expenditure could not be absorbed by the Student Union. He added that in the worst case scenario, the financial problems might force the SU to "pull the plug" on CHSR.

Making the situation more tenuous is the fact that a contribution from the Graduate Students Association, which was factored into this year's operating budget, will not likely be made available to the station for use.

Purvi Rajani, President of the GSA, explains that \$8 of every graduate students GSA fee goes into an account slated for use by CHSR and the Brunswickian. Apparently, in the Media Fund's first year of existence, the Student Union and other bodies involved had a verbal agreement which stated that the entire amount would go to CHSR. This precedent was followed again last year, with CHSR receiving approximately \$5000 from the GSA.

Dan Hare, First Vice President of the GSA, says that out of a "sense of fair play," this year's executive felt it would be appropriate for the Bruns to receive the entire endowment as they had received nothing for the past two years.

He explains that it was not the GSA's intention to support either of the campus' media outlets, but to "recognize each of them financially." He continues, "We (the GSA) would prefer if our money went toward the enhancement of these two, rather than their production."

Because the money is to be spent elsewhere, CHSR is faced with a \$5000 shortfall in its revenue.

Steve Staples, Programming Director at CHSR, feels that the problem is one between the Student Union and the GSA as it was the SU that directed the funds toward CHSR, and established the precedent which lead them to believe they could count on the revenue from the GSA.

Staples points out that the station is already operating on a tight budget, as the SU cut their contribution by \$10,000 in last year's budget. He feels that Van Raalte's taking over of signing authority for the station's purchase orders worsens the situation as now even attempts to reallocate funds from one part of the budget to another are "meeting resistance".

Van Raalte agrees that the move to control signing authority is extreme, but feels it was necessary to get the CHSR Board of Director's attention. He states: "If the Board of Directors is functioning the way it should be, then it should be the one solving the problem, not one of the funding bodies."

He also points out that the decision to cut SU funding last year was made on the mutual assumption that the loss would be made up in advertising revenue.

The over expenditure made by CHSR last year was, says Staples, the first of its magnitude in the station's 31 year history and, though he recognizes it as a legitimate concern, emphasizes that: "It is really less than 10% of the overall operating budget." Contributing significantly to the over-expenditure was the absence of a voluntary executive to review the station's finances.

This mechanism has now been re-established at the station, and Staples notes "they are the ones that really go over the budget with a fine tooth comb."

"In our minds, it is a dispute between the UNB Student Union and the GSA. It is an agreement between them but politically, at the Student Union, they don't want to deal with it. It's kind of convenient for them because they say 'we're not going to give them any more money and as soon as they go over we're

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Shown is Maria Paisley with the prizes for the CHSR fundraiser. Kent Rainville photo

Condoms pulled from STU vending machines

by Aime Phillips

Condoms are no longer available in the vending machines at Saint Thomas University.

In the January 21 edition of the STU student publication, The Aquinian, it was reported "St. Thomas has taken a positive step in the battle against the spread of AIDS with the installation of condoms", in residence vending machines.

In an interview on Monday, January 20, STU's Dean of Women, Joyce Dalton, confirmed that the condoms have been removed.

The dean of men, Harry Rigby, was unable to comment due to time restrictions.

When contacted, Rick Boyd, of Boyd's Vending Machines, the company responsible for the campus vending machines, stated that he added the condom packages to his vending machines last term at the request of the students.

Boyd said a few weeks ago he received a phone call from a STU Administrator, the Dean of Men, asking him to remove the condoms.

Boyd said he had not anticipated any problems with

adding the condoms to the machines, but he also had no qualms about removing them as requested.

Grace Getty, UNB's Aids Resources Co-ordinator, commented that "the research is very clear that providing condoms and making them available does not mean that kids are any more promiscuous... they think before they act more often. You have to decide what's more important. Should they die because they're having sex?"

Pat McDermott, VP External of the STU Student

Union, claimed that the Student Union is still in negotiation with the administration about the issue.

Article 4, section 2, of the STU Student Union policy manual states that "The Union supports the installation of condom dispensers in all residence washrooms." McDermott said he is aware of the section as a councillor and supports it. McDermott concluded "We are an open-minded university," but added he could not comment further until the negotiations are resolved.

Apparently, the STU

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