NEWS

Deadline: Wednesday at 12:00 noon. News Desk: 453-4983

SUB expansion referendum postponed

by Gordon Loane

A referendum on possible expansion of the Student Union Building has been\ postponed until the fall or spring of next year.

"We had originally planned to hold a referendum in conjunction with Student election next week, but we need more time to prepare expansion plans and seek feedback" said Eric Burchill, President of the UNB Student Union.

"The Fredericton architectural firm of Goguen and Smythe are preparing a conceptual plan for the expansion but it could be the end of April before it's ready," said Burchill. The plan is based on a student survey conducted on the UNB and Saint Thomas campus last fall.

"The next step in the process is to prepare a project paper, enclose it with the conceptual plan, and forward it to Eric Garland, UNB's Associate Vice-President of Finance and Administration," the president said, "But that doesn't mean the conceptual plan is set in stone. It just means that the university has been informed of the planned project and its status."

Burchill says the Student Union plans to hire a project co-ordinator for the summer under a federal summer student Challenge grant, and that "if funding is approved, a call for employment applications will go out soon." It will be the project co-ordinator's job to prepare an information campaign and prepare for consultative meetings with student groups in the fall, Burchill says: "After consultations the original expansion plan could undergo several revisions, we'll have to see."

As far as funding for the project is concerned, Burchill sees student/administration co-operation as key. "There's no question the expansion is dead without a funding commitment from students."

"That's when the administration will be expected to do it's part, but obtaining funding for any project this size is difficult," Burchill admits.

One thing that has pleased Burchill is the co-operation he has been receiving from UNB officials, particularly Eric Garland. Burchill says the Graduate Student's Association has been briefed on the project and should be joining the SUB expansion advisory committee shortly.

"Saint Thomas students have been involved from the beginning and we're hopeful representatives from CAMPUS will be on board shortly." said Burchill.

Partial SU fee refund possible

by Gordon Loane

The UNB Student Union is giving serious consideration to a plan which could see undergraduates receive a small refund on their $99 student fee. If the two to three dollar rebate for each student takes place, it would be the first since the administration of former Student President John Bosnitch.

It's all because the Student Union expects to have an operating surplus of anywhere between fifteen to thirty thousand dollars when the fiscal year ends April 30th. It amounts to about two to three dollars a student.

"The surplus has arisen because there are more students enrolled at UNB than had been projected by the Registrar's Office at the time we prepared our operating budget last year" said Burchill. As a result, Burchill says, the entire executive has thrown its support behind the rebate plan.

Just what form the rebate plan will take still remains up in the air. Council will be discussing how the surplus will be distributed, Burchill says.

A second option is to ask students to give up their rebate and throw it all into an emergency student loan or bursary program which would be administered by the union. "It's a realistic option which would help future students having a tough time making ends meet-which includes most of us," Burchill says.

A third option would be to ask each student what they wished to have done with their rebate. "We could use a check-off system where each student could indicate a preference on a sheet of paper" Burchill says.

A fourth option would be to spend the surplus on a worthy new project. Burchill says the student union has a long list of these projects, but deciding which one is the most worthy could be difficult.

One thing is for certain, the UNB Student Council is expected to decide in the next few weeks. The plan would then require the formal approval of the UNB Foundation for Students which receives the student fee collected by the university and ultimately authorizes the expenditure of student funds.

"S.M.A.R.T. Spring Break"

by Geoff Davidson
S.M.A.R.T. P.A.C.C. UNB

This spring S.M.A.R.T. P.A.C.C. sponsored its best alcohol awareness week yet., with more events than ever before, and enthusiastic student participation and response at all activities.

"S.M.A.R.T. SPRING BREAK" began Feb. 13 with a tremendously successful "kick-off concert" featuring Spirit of the West. The concert was a near sell out, and everyone had a fantastic time.

S.M.A.R.T. P.A.C.C. volunteers served up soft drinks, pina coladas, strawberry daiquiris, everfresh drinks and non-alcoholic beer at the non-alcoholic dry bar. Additionally, a Labatts 0.5 sampling booth was set up at the concert entrance, inviting each audience member to sample Labatt's new low alcohol products. Student response to the "ultra-lite" beer was positive and a majority pronounced it an authentic tasting beer. Students were also asked to sign the alcohol awareness week "S.M.A.R.T. SPRING BREAK PLEDGE BANNER", and given the opportunity to fill out a ballot to win a $700.00 Alpine Car Stereo from Bacchus Canada.

Alcohol Awareness Week continued on Sunday with residence presentations. A total of 8 presentations in the various residences on campus, featuring the video "The Aftermath", demonstration of the Bacchus Manoeuvre and tips on responsible drinking. These tips included information on drinking over the Spring Break, women and alcohol and some general information on alcohol and its effects. Groups ranged in size from 7-8 students to as many as 50-60, which was fantastic considering many students had several midterms this week. Reaction to the sessions was appreciative and students felt that the sessions were informative, thought provoking, and in many cases, produced emotional responses. "The Aftermath" video proved particularly effective, encouraging students to seriously consider the consequences of drinking and driving.

On Monday, Feb.15, committee members acting as accident victims, Fredericton City Police & Fire departments, campus security and St. John Ambulance collaborated on "Krash Test Dummies"; a simulated alcohol related car crash. The sirens drew plenty of attention, with concerned spectators fearing it was an actual accident until receiving a pamphlet explaining it was an educational demonstration for alcohaol awareness week. This innovative event drew a crowd of nearly 200, and provoked discussion on campus.

On Tuesday the McConnell Hall cafeteria was the site of the , Jello Feeding Frenzy Contest. Participants threw Jello into their partner's mouth. Prizes included $50 for the winning team, with runner-up prizes including t-shirts, sweatshirts, CD's, etc. (all donated by local businesses). Winners Stefane Czetwertynski, and Ian Scott were cheered on by

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Crime of the Week

Press Release

On Wednesday the 27th and Thursday the 28th of January 1993, electronic top loading Mettler balances were removed from room B-24 of Head Hall.

Disappeared from B-24 night of Wed. Jan. 27/93: Mettler, model # PE 300, Serial # E-13934, Dept. ID, CHE. 402, value - approximately #3000.

Disappeared from B-24 night of Thursday, Jan. 28, 1993: Mettler, Model # PC 220, Serial # A-7778L, Dept. ID, CHE 1296, value - approximately $3000.

Sometime between Friday, the fifth of March, and Monday, the 8th of March, a further electronic balance was removed from the same lab. This electronic balance is described as follows: 16 Kg Scale, made by Mettler, Model # PM 15, Serial # F97031, Dept. ID, CHE 1784, Value $4500 - $5000.

These thefts are considered major and Crime Stoppers will pay up to $2000 for information leading to the arrest of the person responsible for this crime. If you have information about this crime call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222 (TIPS) 8477. We want your information, not your name. If your tip leads to an arrest Crime Stoppers guarantees a cash award. Call now.

Inter-Residence Challenge—The members of the Aitken House Committee urge the residence community to give generously at next week's Blood Donor Clinic. Aitken has won the bi-annual inter-residence challenge 37 times out of the last 46. They have lead the way the last 20 times consecutively by "Giving the Gift of Life." Shown are Andrew MacPherson, President of Aitken House, and Aaron Taylor, house Vice-President, with some of the trophies the house has won in the past. The clinic will be held on Tuesday, March 23, between 1:30 pm and 4:30 pm, and between 6 pm and 8 pm, and on Thursday, March 25, between 10 am and 12 pm, and between 1:30 pm and 4:30 pm. The clinics will be in the Ballroom of the SUB.