

NEWS

News Editor: Jonathan Stone, Deadline: Wednesday Noon

Daycare Co-op faces funding obstacles

by Gordon Loane

Fundraising isn't easy at the best of times, and these aren't the best of times.

Supporters of a new daycare centre on campus are learning that hard reality these days, as they attempt to line up more financing for a new \$300,000 facility to be built this summer on Montgomery Street.

Members of the Board of Directors of the College Hill Daycare Co-operative have quietly approached six campus organizations in the last few weeks seeking financial help.

The Directors are looking for \$66,000 to make the Daycare Centre mortgage-free. They are also seeking a yearly operating grant to help subsidize the cost of every daycare space and reduce the user fee.

To date, two student groups have been approached with mixed success.

The UNB Student Union, meeting in a closed-door session, has agreed to provide a \$6,800 grant towards the cost of the daycare building. The directors are still looking for just over \$8,000 more.

Student Union President James van Raalte says that request, and another one for a \$4,900-yearly operating grant will be considered out of next year's budget.

Into this week the directors increased this yearly grant request to \$8,400.

van Raalte says daycare supporters can expect an answer by early April. UNB undergraduates would be subsidizing 14 spaces in the 60 space facility. The user fee would be reduced by \$50 monthly to about \$300 if the Student Union grant is approved.

At the Saint Thomas Student Union, a similar financing request, though much-reduced in scope, has met with a cool reception. Twice in the last two weeks the STU Council has rejected daycare funding.

But while a yearly \$1,500 operating grant request has been rejected, council has not closed the door completely on a one-time request for \$4,500 for construction costs.

STU Student Union President Melanie White will head a committee which will study the capital cost request. Whether the committee will report its findings before, or after student elections scheduled for next month is still unclear.

What is clear is that Saint Thomas students will still get four spaces reserved for them in the new facility. Since the STU Student Union will not be providing a yearly operating grant subsidy, the four spaces will be provided at the full cost to the user of \$400 a month.

Saint Thomas Council members have several reasons for rejecting the daycare funding to date. One councillor said four spaces is just a drop in the bucket given the need among mature students at STU.

Others worried about the cost. One of those is SU Vice-President Kelly Lamrock. He told council in a two-page letter that subsidies for a daycare out of student fees leave the government off the hook.

"This project sends the wrong message to government: It's OK, don't worry about giving student equal opportunity, student unions will do that for you," said Lamrock.

He also said four daycare spaces do not solve a problem at STU.

While clearly disappointed with the decision at STU, Nancy Mathis, chair of the Board of the Daycare Co-op is not deterred.

"They've left the door open for further discussion and that has to be positive," she said.

Mathis, and other supporters of the daycare center will be meeting with other potential donors in the next couple of weeks.

The UNB Graduate Students' Association have 18 spaces reserved in the new facility and are expected to be a major contributor.

Other groups that are being approached include CAMPUS—the association representing mature and part-time students at UNB, and two staff associations, the AUNBT representing professors and the UNBEA representing other staff.

Twenty two spaces are being reserved in the new facility for faculty and staff at UNB. Two other spaces are for facility and staff at

STU.

Details of the proposals to be presented to those groups are still not available. Mathis says she would prefer not to mention them publicly until her group meets with the parties involved.

In the meantime she says the directors have received \$225,000 from UNB administration officials through a grant from the Maritimes Provinces Higher Education Commission.

A further commitment of \$22,500 has been received from the Saint Thomas University Administration since STU will receive 10% of the Daycare Spaces.

Both grants will go towards the \$300,000 cost of the building.

"What's important to remember is that if we're successful in raising a further \$66,000, the facility will be built mortgage free," said Mathis.

"Obviously less overhead equals better prices for our daycare users," she emphasized.

The Co-op has a number of fundraising events upcoming, including a movie series for children once a month at MacLaggan Hall, a child fair on April 9 in the SUB Ballroom, a yard sale and a benefit at the Social Club in early March.

"We're also seeking equipment donations from local companies," Mathis said.

The daycare hopes to hire an interim administrator in the next few

weeks to look after all sorts of details over the next couple of months.

"We're seeking a federal government grant under the Unemployment Insurance program and we expect to be successful," she said.

"The university has issued tenders for construction of the facility," Mathis said. "The dead line has been set for early March. Once the university chooses a contractor we expect to sign a lease," she concluded.

Construction is slated to begin this spring. The university plans to demolish the outdated Muskeg Building on Montgomery street to make way for the new project.



Photo by Kent Rainville

1994 General Election Candidates

Student Union Executive

President -Paul Estabrooks
Vice-President (University Affairs)-Pat FitzPatrick
Vice-President (Student Services)-Chris Alward
Vice-President (Finance and Administration)-Luc Pinet
Vice-President (External Affairs) -Lara Rooke

Yes/No
Yes/No
Yes/No
Yes/No
Yes/No

Student Union Council

Arts (5 seats)

Anoushka Courage
Heather Goodwin
Cheryl McLean
Jeffrey Melanson
One seat extended

Yes/No
Yes/No
Yes/No
Yes/No

Business (3 seats)

David Erb
Erica Gomez
Mike Wallace

Yes/No
Yes/No
Yes/No

Engineering (4 seats)

Deryl Armstrong
David Flook
Vish Nandlall
Andrew Van Wart

Yes/No
Yes/No
Yes/No
Yes/No

Forestry (1 seat)

George McGugan

Yes/No

Law (1 seat)

Paul McLean

Yes/No

Science (2 seats)—Election Required
Education (2 seats)—Nominations Extended
Nursing (1 seat)—Nominations Extended
Phys. Ed (1 seat)—Nominations Extended
Jeff Clark
Robb Hayes
Renée Peters

Student at-large (2 seats)

Trevor Brown
Douglas MacLean

Yes/No
Yes/No

Computer Science (1 seat)

Kelly McLaughlin

Yes/No

Board of Governors (2 seats)

Paul Estabrooks
Pat Fitzpatrick

Yes/No
Yes/No

One-year Senator (4 seats)

Douglas MacLean
Vish Nandlall
Luke Peterson
One seat, Nominations Extended

Yes/No
Yes/No
Yes/No

Two-year Senator (1 seat)

Robert Doman

Yes/No

Board of Directors, The Brunswickan (1 seat)

Shane Heath

Yes/No

Board of Directors, CHSR-FM (4 seats)—Nominations Extended President, Grad Class 1995

David Erb

Yes/No

Vice-President, Grad Class 1995—Election Required

Brooke Delong
Mike Wallace

Secretary Treasurer, Grad Class 1995

Erica Gomez

Yes/No

Valedictorian Class of 1994—Election Required

Peter Bance
Debbie Calvin
David McTimony
Rajeev Venugopal

Austin gets another five years

by Gordon Loane

A UNB search committee is recommending the re-appointment of Tom Austin as Dean of Students, *The Brunswickan* has learned.

The recommendation has been forwarded to UNB President Robin Armstrong and still needs the approval of the university's Board of Governors.

Reliable sources say Austin was the only candidate for the position following a call for nominations and applications from within the university community.

The appointment begins July 1, 1994, and is expected to be for five years. Austin has been UNB's Dean of Students since 1988 and a Computer Science professor since 1973.

In the meantime, a nine-member search committee has been named to find a replacement for Dean of Residences Mary Lou Stirling who is not re-offering when her term of office expires this summer.

The committee's initial meeting has been set for next Thursday. A call for nominations and applications will be issued the week before March break.