

NEWS

Committing a sin with someone else's PIN

Cash stolen from students' accounts

by Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

Fredericton City Police and UNB Security are investigating two separate incidents of theft as bank machines on campus were used to steal just over \$1,200 in cash from students' personal accounts.

The two UNB students lost money from their accounts after their personal identification numbers (PIN) somehow became known to thieves.

A total of \$720 was taken in the first incident which occurred on either October 12 or 13.

"A student had a bank account completely cleaned out when amounts of \$500 and then \$220 were taken," said Rick Peacock, Director of UNB Security.

In a second incident, on October 25 or 26, another student lost \$500 from their account. That money has

since been recovered.

"Someone slipped \$500 under the student's residence room door shortly after the theft," said Peacock. "If we can find out who is responsible, theft charges will be pursued in both incidents."

UNB Security investigates about three or four similar complaints each year, prompting Peacock to issue a cautionary note to all automatic teller users.

"Everyone should memorize their PIN and ask others who might be near the bank machine to please stand back so that confidentiality can be maintained," said Peacock.

"Security begins with yourself," he emphasized. "Take the necessary steps to protect yourself from being a victim."

There are three banking machines located on the UNB campus, two in the SUB and one at the campus branch of the Bank of Montreal.



The horror continues...Another pumpkin is led to a senseless slaughter. Photo by Marc Landry

How a pumpkin becomes a squash

by Cheryl McLean
Brunswickan News

If you were on campus last Monday in time to see men and women adorned in white robes moving to the hypnotic tremors of Bach, don't panic. It was not a cult, it was the Great Pumpkin Sacrifice!

It was reported that about 1000 spectators showed up to watch this Halloween event in which a gargantuan fruit was lit and pushed off the Harrison roof after a blessing from the Three Wise Persons, known dur-

ing daylight hours as Andrew Johnston, James Skidmore and Linda McNutt.

This year, the pumpkin weighed in at 511 pounds, an all time record in Harrison history.

The music got underway at 11:00 p.m. and a procession commenced at the doors of Harrison toward Lady Dunn. A few changes were made this year, making the event a hit.

New banners, torches and costumes were created, as well as the painted skeleton faces of the pump-

kin carriers. Tim Travis and Bev Dunfield, the Loyal Guardians, were pleased with how smoothly the evening ran.

The only problems that got out of hand were some eggs and a few apples. None of these problems have been reported to be from rival residences.

"The Sacrifice is a good forecast of the academic harvest to come, shown by the successful outcome," said Doug Maclean, president of Harrison. "The pumpkin smiled at us."

Sexpress yourself

CHSR's Sex FM protests campus radio censorship

by René Ross
Brunswickan News

CHSR-FM was among 26 campus radio stations across the country to protest programming restrictions imposed upon the radio station at Dalhousie University.

The Canadian Radio-Telecommunications Commission, the federal body responsible for broadcast regulations, had imposed restrictions on the Halifax-based radio station after a June 1993 broadcast entitled, "All Day, All Gay," a program dealing explicitly with issues on homosexuality.

Following CKDU's broadcast, nine complaints were filed with the CRTC stating that the program was "offensive." Complainants argued that the content of the show was offensive and the issues of homosexuality and sexual preference should not have been discussed on the air.

After a year of hearings and appeals, the CRTC decided that CKDU's licence would be evaluated every four years instead of every seven. Restrictions have since been placed on the station's programming format and CKDU must air potentially offensive programming after 9:00 p.m. and listening discretion must be advised every 15 minutes.

These new policies have upset CHSR and their affiliates, who believe that CKDU has been treated unfairly. Campaigns and protests were soon underway in defence of Dalhousie's station.

As a result, campus and commu-

nity radio stations across Canada protested by re-broadcasting portions of the original program in a day-long show called 'Sex FM.'

"Sex FM was not a show about sex, but a broadcast dealing with debates about censorship," said Tristis Bhaird, program manager at CHSR.

"If CKDU's license were to be revoked, freedom of speech would be inhibited," Bhaird noted. "With these restrictions we would not be able to broadcast sufficiently to specific communities."

But CHSR is not without its share of inquiries either.

"We have received the odd complaint about over programming in the past and we have dealt with those complaints on our own. But it is a matter of principle that CKDU be defended," Bhaird explained.

Sex FM at CHSR did attempt to cross some barriers when it aired the two pieces believed to be the cause of the controversy at CKDU.

The first piece was Beth Brant's "erotic" love poem, "The Language of Desire." The other, Bhaird said, was a mini soap opera about two gay men and their search for soul mates.

Bhaird is upset that these two works caused such a debate.

"Other stations, including CHSR, have aired these segments in the past but no official complaints have been filed. They are beautiful works," she said.

Sex FM followed a discussion format and dealt with topics ranging from nudity in the theatre to censorship in other countries.

Student Alliance paper makes suggestions to Feds

Post-Secondary Funding: Fourth in a Series

Charlene Deyarmond
Brunswickan News

Amid the speculations of rising tuition following the release of the federal government's discussion paper on social reforms, one local student has garnered widespread attention with a report which not only attacks the heart of the policies' assertions, but suggests some more practical and productive solutions.

First-year UNB law student and Chair of the NB Student Alliance, Kelly Lamrock, describes the proposals contained in Human Resource Minister Lloyd Axworthy's social reform policy paper as so "appalling" that they amount to a virtual disaster for post-secondary education.

Feeling that the Canadian Federation of Students had pretty much dropped out of the debate, Lamrock stressed that it was not enough to simply voice disapproval over the proposed reforms, but most pertinent to suggest alternatives. This led to the composition of No More Smoke And Mirrors: Why The Voucher System Won't Work, and Some Common Sense Reforms That Will.

The essence of the current proposals rests on the government creating a voucher system in which funds currently given to provinces for post-secondary education will instead be distributed amongst stu-

dents.

Proponents of this system maintain that it will make institutions more publicly accountable, force them to become better and cheaper, give students more freedom of choice, and save the government money since students will have to pay the amount of the vouchers back after graduation.

According to Lamrock, these benefits will simply not materialize.

"Post-secondary education would more than likely become too expensive and Canada would start seeing a two-tier system not unlike our American neighbours," he said, insisting that marketability will replace accountability.

In his paper Lamrock writes that what the government is suggesting will not eliminate the debt but move it around. In the end, the voucher system serves only to make it appear as though the government is managing the debt, when in actuality the debt will only be passed on to future generations.

Instead of this course of reform, No More Smoke And Mirrors offers the government alternative measures to alleviate the growing debt problem.

Some of these suggestions include: holding public reviews of administrative expenses at post-secondary institutions; ensuring fed-

eral transfer payments to provinces for education are put specifically to use; reducing repetition of courses; making budgets public; and offering more co-op programmes.

Paramount to these changes, according to Lamrock, is the implementation of an income sensitive model of repayment.

"Students want to pay back their loans, unfortunately circumstances sometimes arise which makes it impossible for them to make their full required monthly payment," he said.

"In the system we have now they find themselves in default, a more flexible system would allow students to pay what they can afford, which keeps the loan file active and makes full payback more probable," he added.

When asked about the response to his paper, Lamrock commented that not only do students appear to be glad he has written it, but furthermore, 30 student unions across the country have endorsed it.

Perhaps, most importantly, however is the federal government's apparent interest in No More Smoke And Mirrors.

Acknowledging a call for a meeting with Axworthy, Lamrock cautioned, "We'll have to hold on and see. Nothing is a sure thing, but I feel good about the way things are going."