

NEWS

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Students raise over one million for Venture Campaign

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THE BRUNSWICKAN

Did you ever wonder where the money was coming from to fund all the activities, buildings and costs of running the university? Well, some of it comes from the hard work of students here at UNB.

The Venture Campaign's calling centre was started with a \$1,000,000 goal in mind, which has not only been achieved but surpassed. It was raised by students who called alumni asking for a pledge toward the campaign. The callers were also available to answer questions and hear concerns of the alumni as well as to keep them up to date on activities at the university.

"You get them talking about the good old days," said Jacque Lovely, a supervisor at the call centre. He said the callers make the contact a positive experience for alumni.

Most of the time students have a great conversation with their caller and "bond," said Sarah Jennings, another supervisor.

The work environment at the call centre is friendly and relaxed. Jennings is in charge of incentives for the students. There are rewards for the callers who make the first pledge and for those who make the most pledges.

"My job is to keep the students happy and motivated," she said.

The callers also organize activities outside of work like sleigh rides,



Student callers have raised more than one million dollars for the Venture Campaign

DREW GILBERT PHOTO

bowling and barbecues. One couple who met at the call centre is engaged to be married.

The organisation and professionalism of the student callers is made obvious by the fact that they have raised an impressive \$1,111,000!

The students also enjoy other aspects of their job. "The nicest thing about it

is you get to hear about when [the alumni] were in school," says Jennifer Price, a student at the call centre.

Sometimes the callers get a little tongue tied. Rajan Verma once asked if the caller would like to pledge to the "denture campaign." Another caller said she hoped she was "calling for a good time" instead of "calling AT a

good time."

The main goal of the campaign was to raise \$1,000,000 for the Academic Opportunities Fund, which will be used for initiatives including special curriculum development and creative new programs such as quality teaching, entrepreneurship, environment, and fine arts.

Surveillance Society theme of Vigod Memorial lecture

GORDON LOANE

THE BRUNSWICKAN

With the latest in high technology, are we increasingly living in a surveillance society as George Orwell predicted thirty or forty years ago? And what are the implications of protecting privacy in a so-called surveillance society?

This is a subject that Professor David Flaherty, then of the University of Western Ontario and now Privacy Commissioner of British Columbia, raised several years ago in a book entitled *Protecting Privacy in Surveillance Societies*.

Privacy Commissioner of Canada Bruce Phillips referred to Flaherty's book in a speech at Saint Thomas University as he delivered the seventh Dr. Bernie Vigod Memorial Lecture in Human Rights.

"In the book Flaherty argues that so-called high technology surveillance techniques have negative implications for a private life," said Phillips. "That is a real understatement coming from an academic if I have ever heard one."

Phillips noted numerous examples of the effect a high technology surveillance society can have on privacy rights.

In his recent annual report to Parliament, Phillips affixed a "Day in the Life" sample of the high technology

surveillance any ordinary Canadian citizen faces day to day.

"We got to twenty-six items before we ran out of space on a single page," said Phillips.

The list includes the number of times a citizen is seen by a camera, had their name printed by a machine that they may or may not know about, or had a record made of something they had done that day.

To take a Fredericton example, Phillips visited a large national department store while in the capital.

"I was in the store five minutes and I found eight cameras watching me," he told the audience at the lecture. "Now you might think that is excessive, but you could also argue that the department store has the right to enough surveillance over its customers to make sure its property is protected."

Then, there is a recent move by Human Resources Canada that has Phillips offended.

HRC is now taking customs forms filled out by Canadian air travellers to the United States and running them up against another database in the possession of the Unemployment Insurance office, according to Phillips.

"They want to see whether all the people travelling to the US have or have not been recipients of Unemployment Insurance during the

period of their absence and have complied with their obligations to report that absence to the UI office."

Phillips said what they are doing is fishing around in the records that you have supplied to your government, information that the Supreme Court itself has said is fundamentally your own and that you have provided to the government of Canada on the basis of a trust relationship.

"They are abusing that trust," Phillips emphasized.

Then there is an American Direct Marketing Company that will sell you a list with the addresses of 80 million people on it, subdivided by ethnic groups, according to Phillips.

"The information can also provide the names of children and their families, their age ranges and their sexes," he said.

"Wouldn't a terrorist group be happy to get a hold of something like that?"

Phillips said a service on the Internet offers to help track down any of 160 million individuals living in the United States.

The information service will provide the address, telephone number, names of household members, dates of birth and even a list of neighbours, according to Phillips.

A program called Pharamnet in British Columbia now records all of the

prescriptions issued and stores it in a provincial database linked by name to the individuals receiving the prescriptions.

It's purpose is to protect individuals from obtaining conflicting prescriptions.

"But in addition the information obtained from this list can be shared with others, such as the police, for purposes completely unrelated to the health care of the individual," Phillips noted.

Other examples of the invasion of privacy abound.

In the United States, a high school in Indiana requires the random drug testing of students if they take part in open lunch, cheerleading, or even park on school property.

The Clinton administration is developing a plan which would involve drug testing for anybody who applies for a drivers license.

In Great Britain, a House of Commons Committee is proposing that every male child born in Britain should be required to give up a DNA sample at birth against the possibility that they might be involved in crime at some point in their lives.

"I am sorry to say it but the Mother of Parliaments is suggesting that every male child at birth is to be regarded as a potential criminal suspect," said Phillips.

Phillips also told his audience about two new items of high technology that hold troubling implications for the protection of privacy rights.

"Technology can now make a digital image of your face, store the image and then link it up with a camera to scan a crowd and see whether you are in this crowd."

Phillips noted that the manufacturers of one such system claim that by next year their product will be able to scan a data base of 50 million faces in less than a minute.

A service known as a passive millimeter wave detector, a form of radar, can see beneath your clothing, detect items such as guns and drugs over a range of twelve feet and look through building walls and detect activity.

"That someone without recourse to a judicial warrant or anything else except curiosity can stand outside and point a camera and see through your walls is disturbing," said Phillips.

Phillips notes that there are usually four principle justifications for increased surveillance: safety and public order, law enforcement, economy, and convenience.

What is troubling to Privacy Commissioner Phillips is that there is a supine, accepting public for all of this. "The public is insufficiently critical and questioning because we don't see these things in our daily lives and because we are by nature in Canada a trusting and tolerant society."

Phillips is still hopeful that a healthy mix will be struck between the benefits of high technology and privacy rights.

"Unless all of these applications of new technology are hedged about with proper rules which require that they only be used in circumstances that pay reasonable respect to the privacy rights of the individual, are they going to be accepted in society," he predicted.

Council Watch

MARY ROGAL-BLACK

THE BRUNSWICKAN

The Student Directory was shuffled off to the information highway by council this week after VP Student Services Trish Davidson suggested that it would not be financially responsible to publish the phone book this far into the academic year.

In the most heavily-debated motion of the evening, Davidson argued that money could be saved by putting the directory listing online. The publication has been delayed for some months by what Davidson said were problems getting the information from the Registrar's office in the right format. Because of the delay, she said, it was not worthwhile to put out a paper copy of the directory that would only be current for three or four months. Davidson told council the directory would cost four to five thousand to print. Last year's directory cost \$4000.

Several councillors were concerned that an online directory would be inaccessible to students who don't use the internet. VP University Affairs Anoushka Courage pointed out that only sixty per cent of students are using their e-mail accounts and that not a lot of people have computers at home.

Davidson, who said that the directory could be printed out and/or photocopied for students who requested hard copies, appeared unsympathetic to the plight of the unwired. "Come hell or high water, students are going to have to get on the web and get used to it," she said.

Forestry Representative Blair Saulnier took an environmental approach to the debate. "I think you should save the paper," he commented.

Business Representative Matt Hanrahan was also in favor of financial restraint. "I can't justify \$5000 for three months of usefulness. We're here to represent students as well as we can. I can't justify this at all." Hanrahan compared the expense to babysitting since students could access the information online.

However, VP Finance Monique Scholten pointed out that the cost of the directory was already budgeted for and that, especially since a lot of students don't use their e-mail, it was a handy resource to have at home. "I'll never underestimate the importance of every dollar, but it works out to less than fifty cents per student," she said.

Other alternatives, such as including the directory as an insert in *The Brunswickan* or publishing it in a shorter print run, were suggested by some councillors at the table, but council seemed uninterested. "I'm sick of talking about it," Davidson said, and the motion was called to question. It carried 13-9-0.

President Joie Hellmeister was unhappy with council's decision. "I think it's a great service we provide to students and it's disheartening to see it go up on the web when we don't even know how many students use it," she said. "Sure it's going to save money but this is a service students have paid for and I think it's a service students should receive."

The directory of UNB students, as published in past years, included names, degree program, year, and e-mail addresses. This information is also currently available through a search on the university website.

The *Consumer's Guide*, another SU publication that falls into Davidson's portfolio, ceased printing this year as well, with the promise that it would go online. You won't find it at <http://www.unb.ca/web/unbsu>, but Davidson assured council that the Student Directory would be on the site within two weeks. The SU web site is maintained by Publications Editor Mark Morgan.

Chief Returning Officer Matt Tingley gave his report to council this week, following last week's by-elections, in which *Engineering Rep* Tim McEwen won the only contested position with 62 votes over Michael Cormier (36) and Tahsin Rouf (17). Tingley recommended several changes to bylaws governing SU elections, including one that would prohibit council from making changes to election procedures after the election has been called.

"Elections need to remain independent from the political will of council," Tingley said. In a related issue, he suggested that the bylaws need to be definite with regards to acclamation of councillors. Tingley said that many of the students he spoke with during and after the election were unhappy that they were not given the opportunity to vote in those positions that involved yes/no decisions.

Council decided the week before the by-election to seat those candidates who were running uncontested.

Tingley also asked council to make a bylaw amendment giving the CRO the flexibility to change polling station locations. He said that regulations required him to keep a polling station open in the SUB, and the expense of staffing the booth with two people for eleven hours for three days was not justified by the 6 votes cast at the station.

Trish Davidson (VP Student Services), who "boycotted" providing council with her agenda items this week, said she had several productive meetings in the past week.

Plans for the Employment Opportunity Bureau are underway. The student-run organization aims to emphasize helping students to help themselves. Information on job search techniques as well as volunteer and employment opportunities will be made available at the Bureau.

Davidson said that at a meeting with Social Issues Commissioner Kate Rogers, they decided to make some shifts in focus from past years. Instead of focusing primarily on students with physical disabilities, Rogers hopes to address the issue of learning disabilities.

As well, Davidson said that she and Rogers agreed that last year's "slightly feminist stance" on social issues needs to be expanded to male and female issues, to become more all-inclusive. Davidson commented that she did not think that a feminist stance was a good thing or a bad thing. "I'm going to sit right on the fence on this one."

Anthony Knight (VP External) gave a report on a meeting of Atlantic university Student Unions he attended at Acadia University last week. He said that the NBSA was also there and that the schools agreed to make a coordinated effort on the education funding campaigns. The "Mr. Premier why don't you want me to work" campaign begins on Monday. (See "NBSA to hold Student Loan campaign next week," this page)

Monique Scholten (VP Finance) reminded councillors that honoraria recommendations are due this week from anyone requesting honoraria for volunteer work in the first term. The SU has budgeted over \$50,000 for honoraria this year.

Scholten also told council that during the course of the audit of last year's finances, it was discovered that the SU had been spending money from the budget on administrative expenses for SUB Expansion (such as architectural drawings and a portion of the SU General Administrator's salary) although it had set up a separate fund in 1992 for this purpose. In effect, Scholten explained, previous Councils spent the money twice, comparable to putting rent money aside at the beginning of the year and then using grocery money for rent.) At Scholten's suggestion, Council voted unanimously to move the fund's balance of \$33,675 into the SU Budget for the current year.

Anoushka Courage (VP University Affairs) told council that she will be working on an educational campaign to raise awareness of the problem of plagiarism on campus, which she said is on the rise this year. She reported that the Advocacy Centre has been busy, handling five or six cases per week. As well, Courage said that two yearbook editors have been hired.

President Joie Hellmeister was pleased to report that *The Paper Trail* got approval from the SUB Advisory Board to provide movie rentals to students. Hellmeister also said that she had to fight hard to keep the Student Resource Centre from getting charged commercial rent rates for their space in the building. Hellmeister said that the SRC, which provides several services for students, deserves space in the SUB. "It really upset me that we were considering paying rent on that space," she said. The Board agreed not to charge the SRC more than the \$1 per year rent it pays now.



Quote of the week

"Last year it was all the same thing and they didn't budge so I don't hold out a lot of shining hope." - Trish Davidson, commenting on the move to get changes in the current parking situation on campus.

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