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CASA allegations against former SUVP resurface

GORDON LOANE

THE BRUNSWICKAN

Editor's Note: Pat FitzPatrick is a staff photographer for The Brunswickan.

The new National Director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations is in Fredericton this week looking for answers.

Matthew Hough wants to know whether charges will be laid in connection with allegations which first surfaced last January while Pat FitzPatrick was acting National Director of CASA's Ottawa office.

FitzPatrick was also chief organizer for the ill-fated National Conference on Post-Secondary Education that had been slated for Fredericton last February.

CASA members allege that \$10,325 is unaccounted for in total. Approximately \$8,100 of that is associated with efforts to organize the Fredericton conference.

Fredericton City Police have been conducting an investigation of conference spending for several months. Hough now says Police turned the file over to the Crown Prosecutor's office two months ago. He wants to know where things stand now.

Hough told *The Brunswickan* this week that he has spoken with the City Police officer assigned to the investigation. Police will not tell him what recommendation they have made to the Crown, and Hough hopes to speak with the Crown Prosecutor's office before the end of the week.

Meanwhile, the person at the center of this controversy has decided to speak out for the first time.

Pat FitzPatrick told *The Brunswickan* this week that he cannot get into specifics.

"But I can tell you I know where the money for the Fredericton conference was spent," said FitzPatrick. "I know how to give an

accounting for it that will be legally acceptable in the opinion of my lawyer."

"I do not feel I have done anything wrong morally, ethically or legally and I am ready to defend myself as need be," he said.

FitzPatrick also told *The Brunswickan* this week that the total amount in dispute for the Fredericton conference is more like \$7,000, not the \$8,100 that CASA officials allege.

FitzPatrick claims that no one from CASA has attempted to contact him.

"When I left CASA in January, former National Director Alex Usher knew my Fredericton address and home telephone number," FitzPatrick said. "It was no secret that I was enrolled as a student in the UNB Science Faculty last January."

CASA officials also say FitzPatrick signed an unauthorized cheque for \$225 while at the Ottawa office. The cheque was subsequently cashed.

"It was only the National Director Alex Usher who was authorized to sign cheques at that point in time," Hough said this week.

"Alex would have had to have gone to the bank to change over the signature or there would have to have been some sort of directive, some sort of communication from the Board of Directors," said Hough.

Pat FitzPatrick said that a mistake occurred but that it was someone else's.

"This matter can be easily resolved should this thing ever go to court or come to an investigation," he said.

Also in dispute is about \$2,000 in petty cash that CASA officials say was to be used to pay hotel and meal expenses for a national Board of Directors meeting that occurred in Ottawa last December.

"The hotel was booked by Pat FitzPatrick and all of the arrangements were made for us to stay in the Travel Lodge Hotel in Ottawa," said CASA's new National Director.

"We thought there was going to be money used in a petty cash fashion, but none of those bills were paid," said Hough. "We were left with the bills on that."

But FitzPatrick said he paid the Travel Lodge hotel bill in Ottawa in the early morning of December 24.

"I know where the receipt for that is, but no one has asked me, no one has talked to me," said FitzPatrick.

"CASA can dispute that money as much as they want but the bills that were issued to us were paid the day we left for the Christmas break after the meeting," FitzPatrick emphasized.

CASA officials have recently said that they decided not to press charges in Ottawa because it would have been too costly to the organization.

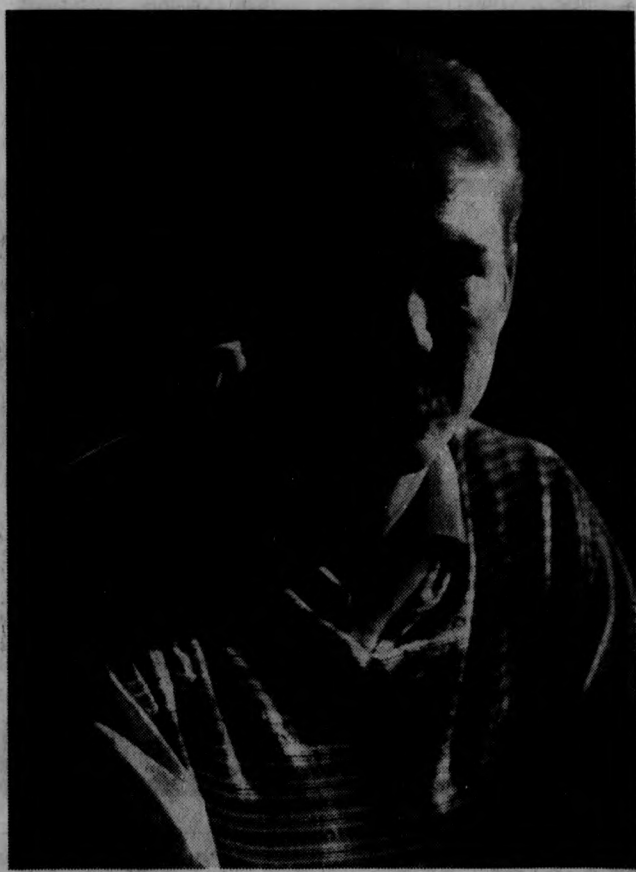
FitzPatrick admitted this week that the last few months have been "frustrating as hell."

"I have lived under a shadow for ten months or so now and have been in a legal position where I cannot say much."

FitzPatrick said part of the frustration stems from the fact that current CASA National Director Hough and others have been making various allegations in student newspapers across the country.

For CASA, the last few months have been somewhat difficult as well.

Following FitzPatrick's resignation from CASA in January, Carleton University decided to leave the organization, as did the University of British Columbia. The University of Calgary decided to leave, too, but has since had a change of heart.



CHRISTINA ATKINSON PHOTO

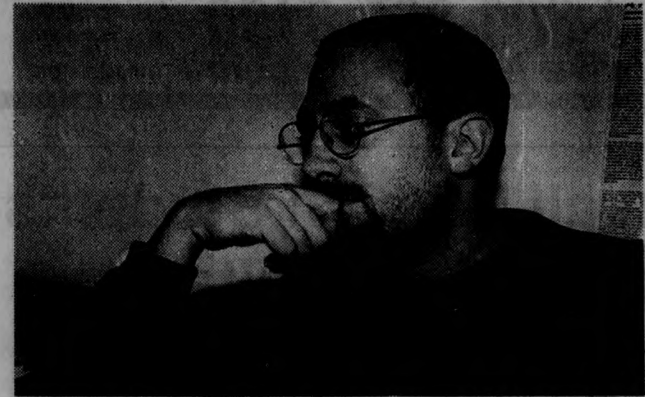
Matt Hough, National Director of CASA: CASA members allege that over \$10,000 is unaccounted for in total. Fredericton City Police have been investigating and the file is now in the hands of the Crown Prosecutor.

New members include the University of Manitoba and, just last week, Acadia.

Financially, it has been very tight. The Ottawa office was forced to severely trim its budget just to get

through the summer and the 1995-96 deficit amounted to just over \$3,500.

But, on a more optimistic note, the \$3,500 debt will be eliminated in this year's budget.



MARK BRAY PHOTO

Pat FitzPatrick: "I do not feel I have done anything wrong morally, ethically or legally and I am ready to defend myself as need be."

New store on Queen Street advocates decriminalization and legalization of marijuana

CYNTHIA KIRBY

THE BRUNSWICKAN

If all goes well, marijuana will be legal within five years.

This is according to Chris Kelland and Aaron Greenman, proprietors of D.T. Hempsters which opened Friday, September 20 on Queen Street. "Out west, almost every province has a hemp store. We figured the Maritimes didn't have to be left out," Kelland said.

The store currently sells products

made from hemp, including shampoo and conditioner, soap, jewellery, backpacks, lotions, and various paper products.

"We're going to carry just about everything you could possibly need because you can make everything from hemp," Greenman said.

"You can make plastic," Kelland added. "Also, Ford made a car that was actually more durable and lightweight than metal cars."

Response to the store has been

fantastic so far, according to Greenman. "We expected police or church groups or parents or something to come in and complain, but there hasn't been anything."

Besides hemp products, which don't contain enough THC (the drug responsible for producing a high), the store also provides information about marijuana and hemp to customers, and has a petition in favour of legalising marijuana and hemp products.

Eventually, however, Kelland and

Greenman would like to be able to sell marijuana out of their store.

"The government has a double standard. Marijuana is less harmful to you than alcohol and cigarettes, which are both endorsed and taxed by the government," Greenman said. "They declared that marijuana causes brain damage after apophizing monkeys with the equivalent of 90 joints a day."

"If we push hard enough and get people to stand up and say 'Yes, I smoke pot,'" Kelland said, "marijuana

could be legal within five years."

"There's a joint Senate and House of Commons Committee that will start reviewing the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, also known as Bill C-8, so if we put pressure on the committee and write enough letters, hopefully we will sway them to the side of legalising marijuana," he continued.

To this end, the two are circulating petitions and organising a hemp rally to be held within the month. They were

also guests on CHSR-FM on Tuesday for a call-in discussion on whether or not marijuana should be legalised.

"There's too many people smoking marijuana to effectively support prohibition," Kelland said.

The two believe that it is sometimes necessary to break the laws to have them changed.

"Marijuana is legal right now, we just have to tell the government," Greenman concluded.

Safewalk program under new management

K BROOKLAND

THE BRUNSWICKAN

UNB has Safewalk again this year - with a difference.

The program is currently being run on an interim basis by Campus Police until the co-ordinators can get the program organized. Change has come in another form as well. Originally, Safewalk recruited only from Neill

House, however, this year recruitment is campus-wide.

The co-ordinators, Andrew Smith, Renee Fleming and Katherine Langdon, were elected last year and have been recruiting for the past two weeks. Smith said thus far they've posted sign-up sheets in all the residences, but they are going more actively recruit this coming week.

"There are so many changes that

need to be made," said Smith, referring to organizational difficulties that have never faced the program before. "It was much easier before when all the volunteers were in one residence, but we've been getting great support from Deans Craighead and Austin," he said.

Smith said the majority of those who volunteered last year were female. "There are a larger number of females who live in residence

compared to males," said Smith, who expects the same to be true this year.

Campus Safety Co-ordinator, Julie Troost; Dean of Residence, John Craighead; and the three student co-ordinators held an organizational meeting Thursday evening.

Craighead stressed that Safewalk "still remains a student program," and said he hopes the new recruits will be ready to take over the operation soon.



Greenman and Kelland: not shy about their opinion. CHRISTINA ATKINSON PHOTO



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THURSDAY
OCTOBER 10

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.50¢ pool
60 inch TV
NFL Sunday's



For members and guests only