

Cellar finances still in the basement

JOSEPH FITZPATRICK

THE BRUNSWICKIAN

The UNB Student Union has advanced an additional \$14,500 to the Cellar pub, an independent yet wholly-owned subsidiary of the Student Union located in the basement of the Student Union Building.

This is in addition to the \$11,000 allocated as part of the Student Union's 1996-97 budget, bringing the total to \$25,500 so far this year and to \$104,500 in the three fiscal years since the bar opened.

Shona Bertrand, Chair of the Board of Directors of Student Union Beverage Services (SUBS Inc) the independent company which owns and oversees day-to-day operations of the Cellar, said that the additional money was necessary because of a combination of losses and expenditures incurred by opening over the summer, capital equipment purchases and start up costs for September.

Losses for opening during the Summer have yet to be calculated. They were sufficient indications, however, to suspend summer operations by the first of July.

"We wanted to give it a fair chance," commented Bertrand.

Although there were losses, Bertrand does not regret the decision

to try summer hours. "It was idea which was tossed around by last year's Board," she said. "If we didn't try it we would always have questioned whether it would work."

Bertrand also cited benefits to the Bar Manager, Darryl Kent.

"During the year, it's always go, go, go," Bertrand said. "But during the summer, there's time to take a look at everything. I hope he learned a lot

NBSA lobbying to cut tax on books

GORDON LOANE

THE BRUNSWICKIAN

New Brunswick Student Alliance President Shawn Rouse will continue to lobby both Ottawa and Fredericton to exempt book purchases from the upcoming 15% harmonized sales tax.

His comments come following word last week from Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin that books will continue to be taxed.

This week New Brunswick Finance Minister Edmond Blanchard said the province is considering following the example of Quebec when it comes to a book tax. Quebec has had a harmonized sales tax for several years, but while the federal tax portion on books is collected, the provincial tax is not.

Rouse calls the comments of both

from the experience."

As for opening again next summer, Bertrand is clear that it is not an option at this time.

Capital expenditures made over the summer included the purchasing of the pool table, which was formerly rented.

"We had a 50-50 deal with the owner, now we get all of the revenues," Bertrand pointed out. "[The 50-50

deal] generated several thousands of dollars for the Cellar."

With the new arrangement, Bertrand expects that the pool table will pay for itself by November.

As Bertrand explained it, for the Student Union not to advance the additional funds would have caused the Cellar to default on its rent and lease agreements with the University, and not open in the fall.

finance ministers "discouraging."

"We are still calling on the Federal Minister to allow an amendment to the memorandum of understanding with New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland that will allow a tax exemption on books."

As for Blanchard, Rouse said he appears to be a minister who stands by his principles with conditions.

"If he believes reading should not be taxed, I expect him to work towards that end, not say, 'well, it will not be taxed provincially, but we will allow the federal tax,'" Rouse said.

The Federal Finance Minister claims that \$140 million would be lost by Ottawa annually if the tax on books is dropped.

Rouse is clearly not impressed with this statement. "I can tell you what the Federal Minister is spending on social assistance, literacy problems and

Employment Insurance payments," he said. "There is a social cost to taxing reading and raising the price of learning in the country."

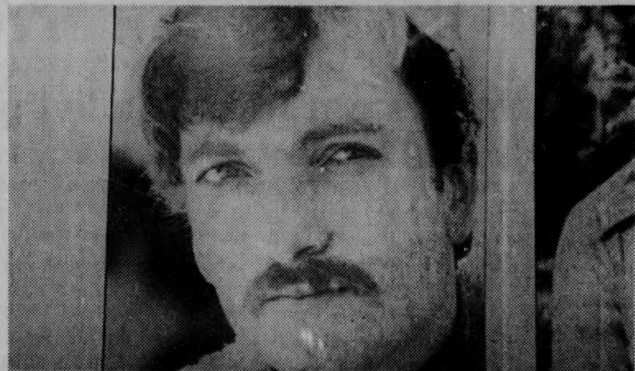
"The Federal Minister might be better advised to lower the cost of learning now and not create so many barriers to literacy and self-education."

Beginning next Wednesday, Student Unions on all university campuses in New Brunswick will take part in the week long postcard campaign in which students will be encouraged to send postcards to both Martin and Blanchard opposing a tax on books.

The NBSA is also setting up a web page where people can e-mail the ministers directly with their comments.

"We want both ministers to get grass roots input on this matter directly from students," said Rouse.

Alien abductee attracts crowd for lecture at UNB



Travis Walton (pictured) and Mike Rogers spoke at UNB Monday night about their encounter with alien visitors.

MICHAEL ALLEN

THE BRUNSWICKIAN

On Monday evening a full auditorium of a wide range of people waited to hear from a man who was allegedly abducted by aliens in 1975.

The main purpose of Travis Walton's lecture was to promote his book, *Fire in the Sky*, and to inform anyone who has seen the Paramount movie *Fire in the Sky* what parts of the movie were true with respect to what happened to him.

Accompanying Travis was Mike Rogers who was amongst the seven people (six in the movie) in the truck the night of the abduction.

Rogers was the first to speak about the ordeal and showed a 20 minute movie with clips from the movie and from numerous talk shows they appeared on.

Walton was up next to tell his story and the audience learned that "90% of the abduction scene in the movie were Hollywood" and not what actually occurred. He then went on to tell about

the abductions from his own point of view.

"I woke up and heard noises. I then saw these things and tried to defend myself with an instrument. I ran from the room and entered another... Soon, what appeared to be a human brought me away to another room where other human-like people were and I was put under with gas. I then awoke on a familiar road, on what I believed to be the same night."

According to everyone else involved, Walton was missing for five days.

Rogers then talked about government intervention and findings which supported the abduction: all but one of the men passed polygraph testing (one tested inconclusive), radioactivity was found at the abduction site in Arizona and the trees in the area showed increased growth rates since 1975.

The mind-blowing lecture ended with a question and answer period and a book signing. The only thing that still remains to be seen are the aliens themselves.

Students to decide on football at UNB

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gathers people together to live and learn. In the past, with the absence of a [football] program, that sense of community has deteriorated to a degree."

Dollimore has already met with Dean of Kinesiology Terry Haggerty and Athletic Director Jim Born and seems to have come away with a collective agreement that a team could be fielded if the budget is followed.

A meeting with Academic VP Louis

Visentin was scheduled for yesterday, in an attempt to get the university's endorsement for the team.

The resurrected team would play under the Varsity Reds moniker despite its funding coming from the UNB Football Club. Should the referendum pass, they would join the AUAA conference alongside Acadia, Mount Allison, Saint Francis Xavier and Saint Mary's. There is also the possibility that Dalhousie University will field a team.

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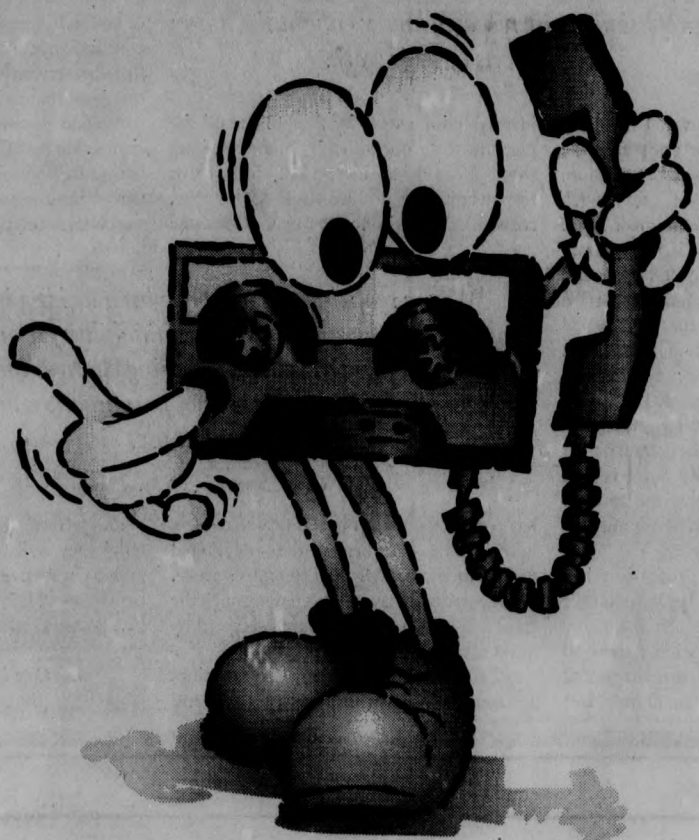
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