



# THE BRUNSWICKAN

Canada's Oldest Official Student Publication • University of New Brunswick

Volume 134 • Issue 3

September 22, 2000

Second Class Mail #8120

## Cost a major factor Committee reviewing Safe Walk program

Gordon Loane  
*The Brunswickan*

Three university officials and two executive members of the UNB Student Union have begun a re-examination of the student "Safe Walk" program on the UNB Fredericton campus in light of costs and value-for-money concerns.

While the program appears to be in no immediate danger of closing, mainly for safety reasons, a second look is being taken at the \$25,000 annual cost of staffing the program with student campus police, seven nights a week.

It also appears the introduction of the UNB SU's Safe Ride program two years ago has cut down on the number of Safe Walk trips off campus.

The re-examination of the program is being conducted by Michel Ouellette, Director of Residential Life and Conference Services; Jane McGinn-Giberson, Director of Student Affairs and Services; Reg Jerrett, Director of Security and Traffic; Charles Goguen, UNB SU President; and Joe Allen, UNB SU Vice-President University Affairs.

"The group felt it was still in the university's best interest to have some sort of Safe Walk program and so the plan now is to secure funding that would allow us to continue it," said Ouellette.

"We also want to find out

whether Safe Walk is meeting current needs and so we will be contacting various student groups on campus to determine that," he said.

In the meantime, the Safe Walk program is now up and running

the Safe Walk program in full operation.

In addition to the annual cost of paying student campus police for a full nightly shift regardless of the service being provided, the number of off-campus trips has declined in recent years, especially with the introduction of the SU's Safe Ride program, according to Ouellette.

He has also noticed UNB residence students have either informal or more formalized arrangements among themselves to have escorts from one residence to another or from the libraries to residences.

Goguen feels \$25,000 a year is a lot to pay for a program that receives on average, one call per night. "I think there are ways to operate the program, either with a combination of paid CPs and volunteers that would cost less," he said.

Goguen was pleased that all five who attended the first meeting re-examining the program left on the same wavelength.

He would not discuss in detail what preliminary plans are in the works to secure funding for the program. "If what we see as a possible solution happens, it will probably still be run by the residence system," Goguen said.

He also said at this point the UNB Student Union has not been asked to provide financial support for the Safe Walk program.

**\$25,000 a year is a lot to pay for a program that receives on average, one call per night.**

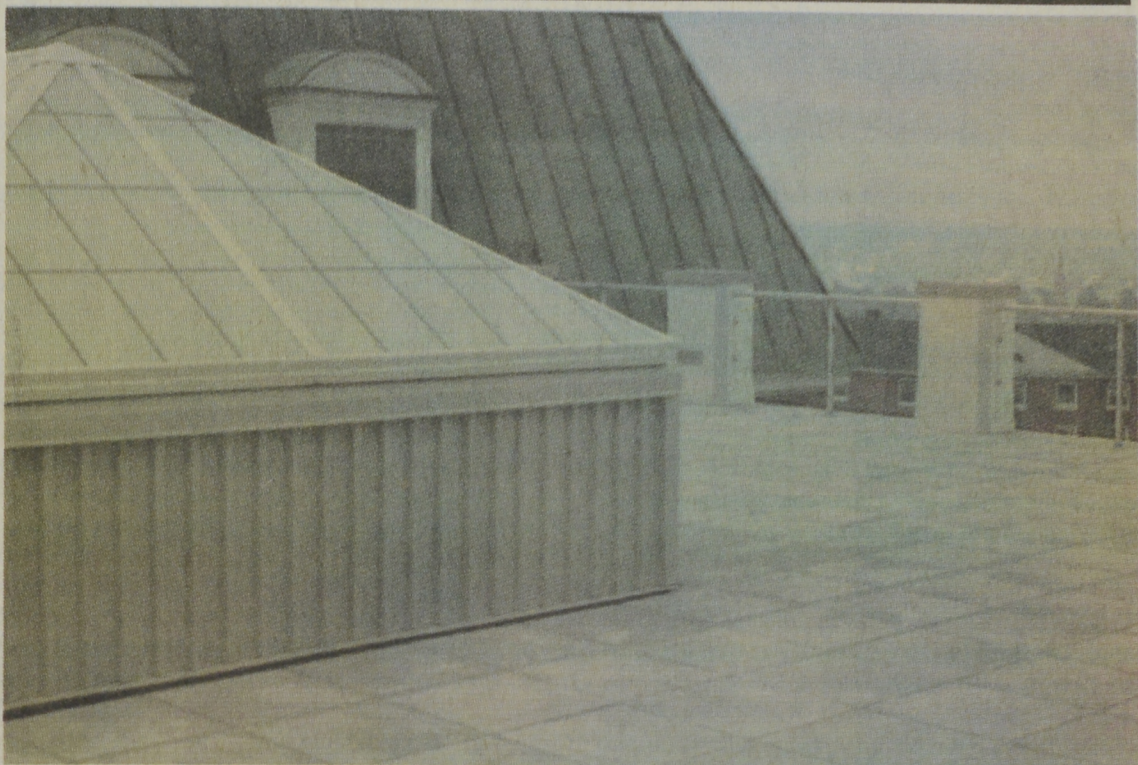
**- Charles Goguen, President, UNB Student Union**

for this academic year with the costs of staffing being paid on a 50/50 basis between university general funds and the UNB Residence community.

The Safe Walk program began several years ago as a residence initiative. Staffed by volunteers from Neill House, the program was soon expanded and became a campus-wide initiative.

During the last two academic years, however, the Safe Walk program has suffered from a lack of volunteers, especially at academic crunch time, and officials in the UNB Residence community responded with some funding to cover the costs of hiring student campus police.

Last year, the lack of volunteers turned out to be a \$25,000 cost to the Residence community budget to pay student campus police for their services seven nights a week in order to keep



Kevin Forneris Photo / The Brunswickan

*Patio, patio everywhere but not a place to sit.*

## Waiting on fire marshal to order seats SUB patio built but not open

Gordon Loane  
*The Brunswickan*

What could be one of the most popular features of the newly expanded SUB, the rooftop outdoor patio, remains unused and unfurnished this Fall while the university awaits a decision from the provincial Fire Marshall.

The Fire Marshall visited the rooftop outdoor patio and surrounding areas a few weeks ago but thus far there is still no word about what the occupancy standard will be or if any problems exist with fire regulations.

"Mark Demerchant from my office, accompanied the Fire Marshall on his visit but we have received no response yet," Michael Ryan, UNB's Associate Vice-President Campus Services and

Planning, said earlier this week. "I've asked him to follow-up on the matter," Ryan said.

SUB Director, Kim Norris, is also awaiting word from university officials about what numbers will be allowed on the outdoor patio and when it can be used for the first time.

Norris said no furniture for the outdoor patio has been ordered to date, so that if the patio is used at all this Fall, it will only be for stand-up patrons. "The SUB operating budget does not allow me to purchase tables and chairs for the outdoor patio this year," Norris maintained.

"The earliest I could possibly spend money on tables and chairs for the outdoor patio would be August 2001, too late for a Spring opening," he said.

Ryan said earlier this week the money allocated for the SUB expansion project did not include an allowance for tables and chairs for the outdoor patio and UNB Student Union President, Charles Goguen, said the SU has not been approached either.

Norris, however, has approached both the Manager of the Social Club, Matt Harris, and Cellar Pub and Grill Manager, Leah Murchison, to see whether a joint proposal could be agreed upon before approaching a private sponsor for tables, chairs, and umbrellas for the patio.

"Both the Cellar's Bar Services operation and the Social Club will wind up using the outdoor patio, so maybe they can line up a sponsor from a water or beer company or Pepsi, before the Spring of 2001," Norris said.

## GSA President upset with progress on Grad House

Gordon Loane  
*The Brunswickan*

Graduate Student Association President, Kirby Shannahan, who officially leaves office next month, has asked the four members of a committee looking into the future of a Grad House/Faculty Club on campus to attend next month's regularly scheduled meeting of the GSA set for October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Shannahan is not pleased with progress on a business plan for a prospective Grad House/Faculty Club project that, if approved by UNB officials, would see the renovation and expansion of a university owned property at 676 Windsor Street.

He is also unhappy about what he calls "poor communication" between the committee and the GSA.

"The business plan has been dragging for some time and we need answers," he told members of the GSA Council this week.

In the absence of Grad House/Faculty Club Committee Chair Trish Edwards, committee member Deb Bulmer said a preliminary business plan was circulated late last month by Faculty Club President Allen Curry.

The plan calls for the expenditure of approximately \$500,000 in start-up costs and an operating budget that includes the hiring of a full-time manager and assistant manager.

Faculty members would pay a proposed \$100 in annual fees while graduate students would pay

\$20 annually to help pay for the facility's operation.

The financial projections also include profits and deficits during the first 5 years of operations, which some committee members want to hold a meeting about.

Bulmer is trying to arrange a committee meeting and Shannahan said he would like to meet with the committee before the GSA's October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Bulmer noted that the architectural plans for the proposed project include provision for a lounge, kitchen area, bar, meeting rooms, office and conference space in a renovated and expanded facility at 676 Windsor Street.

Acting on a request from Shannahan, she agreed to provide a formal presentation of the current architectural plans together with the proposed business plan for returning and new members of the GSA Council on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Meanwhile, nomination forms are being circulated among graduate students to fill five executive positions on the GSA Council for the 2000-2001 academic year.

Positions open include President, Vice-President Administration, Vice-President Communication, Vice-President External and Vice-President Finance.

The GSA annual Executive elections will take place at the next GSA meeting set for Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in SUB Room 103.

**"The business plan has been dragging for some time and we need answers"**

**- Kirby Shannahan, President Graduate Student Association**

## e-Commerce centre slated for UNB?

Joseph W.J. FitzPatrick III  
*The Brunswickan*

The National Research Council site selection committee has endorsed Fredericton over proposals from Miramichi, Saint John and Moncton as the home of a new NRC facility in New Brunswick.

The federal government has not officially endorsed the committee's recommendation, but it has been widely reported this week that Fredericton's bid was unanimously selected by the committee, which is composed of eight people, seven of which are employed by the NRC.

Federal Industry Minister John Manley, whose department received the recommendation, has also declined to comment.

Political observers note the matter will likely be dealt with at the meeting of the Federal Cabinet held this week.

UNB Fredericton was hoping to be selected as the site for the facility, which will house 40 NRC researchers and accommodate an additional 40 guest researchers.

"We feel we have a very strong proposal," said Larry Armstrong, Director of UNB's Centre for Entrepreneurial Leadership and Chair of the Greater Fredericton Economic Development Corporation.

The NRC has declined to comment on the recommendation, but officials said the new centre could open in the Spring of 2001.

The facility is part of the Federal government's \$700-million Atlantic Investment Partnership designed to support the development of information technology and e-commerce.

It is expected to operate with an annual budget of more than \$5 million.

## UNB student hurt on the job, Repap fined \$10,000

Gordon Loane  
*The Brunswickan*

One of New Brunswick's largest employers, Repap New Brunswick Inc., has been fined \$10,000 in provincial court in Miramichi following an accident in which a UNB student lost her left leg from the knee down.

The company pleaded guilty earlier this week to 'failing to ensure adequate safeguards' so that employees would not come into contact with moving machinery.

The charge was laid under the New Brunswick Occupational Health and Safety Act.

It was on August 11, 1999, that 21 year-old Candace Carnahan, a UNB student working at Repap for the summer months, took a shortcut commonly used by employees to get from the main mill floor to the winder floor, where large spools

of glossy paper are re-reeled into smaller rolls to suit specifications.

This required stepping across the space between two ground-level conveyors used for moving rolls of paper. The conveyors start and stop automatically.

Experienced employees at the mill knew where they could safely put their feet but unfortunately Carnahan did not.

She placed her left foot where the floor and the conveyor came together and the conveyor started moving. Her leg became stuck between the floor and conveyor, forcing crews to unbolt the equipment to free her.

Carnahan's leg was later amputated at Moncton City Hospital.

Following the accident, Repap erected metal barricades to make it impossible for employees to take the well-known shortcut, forcing them to take a different path.

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10pm - Midnite  
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