



# THE BRUNSWICKAN

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

Volume 134 • Issue 10

November 10, 2000

Second Class Mail #8120

## Counselling Services in a bind No more after hours staff

Gordon Loane

*The Brunswickan*

Overworked and understaffed personnel at UNB Counselling Services are no longer responding to after hours calls from UNB or St. Thomas students.

For years, Counselling staff has been available to respond to students' concerns nights and weekends through

struggling with a concern. Then, any students who do call and wish to have further help will be able to see someone from Counselling Services during the day or first thing on a Monday morning," she said.

"If it's an emergency, this after hours service will be able to contact an ambulance or the police, if need be," McGinn-Giberson explained.

UNB's Director of Residential Life and Conference Services, Michel Ouellette, expressed concern earlier this week with the decision to cut off Counselling Services unilaterally, especially for those who need crisis intervention counselling after hours.

Ouellette had a scheduled meeting earlier this week with Vice-President Academic, John McLaughlin, about the issue. "For whatever reason, Counselling Services sees it as a human resources issue and I see it as a service issue to students and for whatever reason, I just can't make any headway with convincing people that this is a serious issue that the university community needs to address," Ouellette said.

He pointed to statistics provided by Counselling Services, where 90 calls from students were received after hours in one academic term alone last year. McGinn-Giberson appears ready to work with Ouellette;

Counselling Services Director, Reg Craft; and top UNB administrators John McLaughlin; and Michael C. Ircha, Assistant Vice-President Academic; to arrive at a solution for Counselling Services in Residence.

"We are going to have something there but we just haven't figured out what that is yet. At this time I don't foresee a huge resource issue, it's more a matter of finding out what would be appropriate and comfortable for the residence community and how we make that happen," McGinn-Giberson said.

She admitted that part of the long-term solution to addressing Counselling Services in Residence is to respond to the fifth item contained in the residence Community's Strategic Initiatives Document, which was approved by the UNB Fredericton Academic Senate and the university's Board of Governors last Spring.

The fifth item of the SID Document calls for the employment of a Counsellor-in-Residence to address academic, personal, and development concerns of students and student leaders, manage crisis

situations, as well as support housing professionals.

Ouellette has not been able to proceed with the hiring of a Counsellor-in-Residence because of concerns expressed by UNB Counselling Services. It is not known just exactly what those concerns are but the name of the position and whether the counseling should be provided in Residence or through UNB Counselling Services is believed to be at issue.

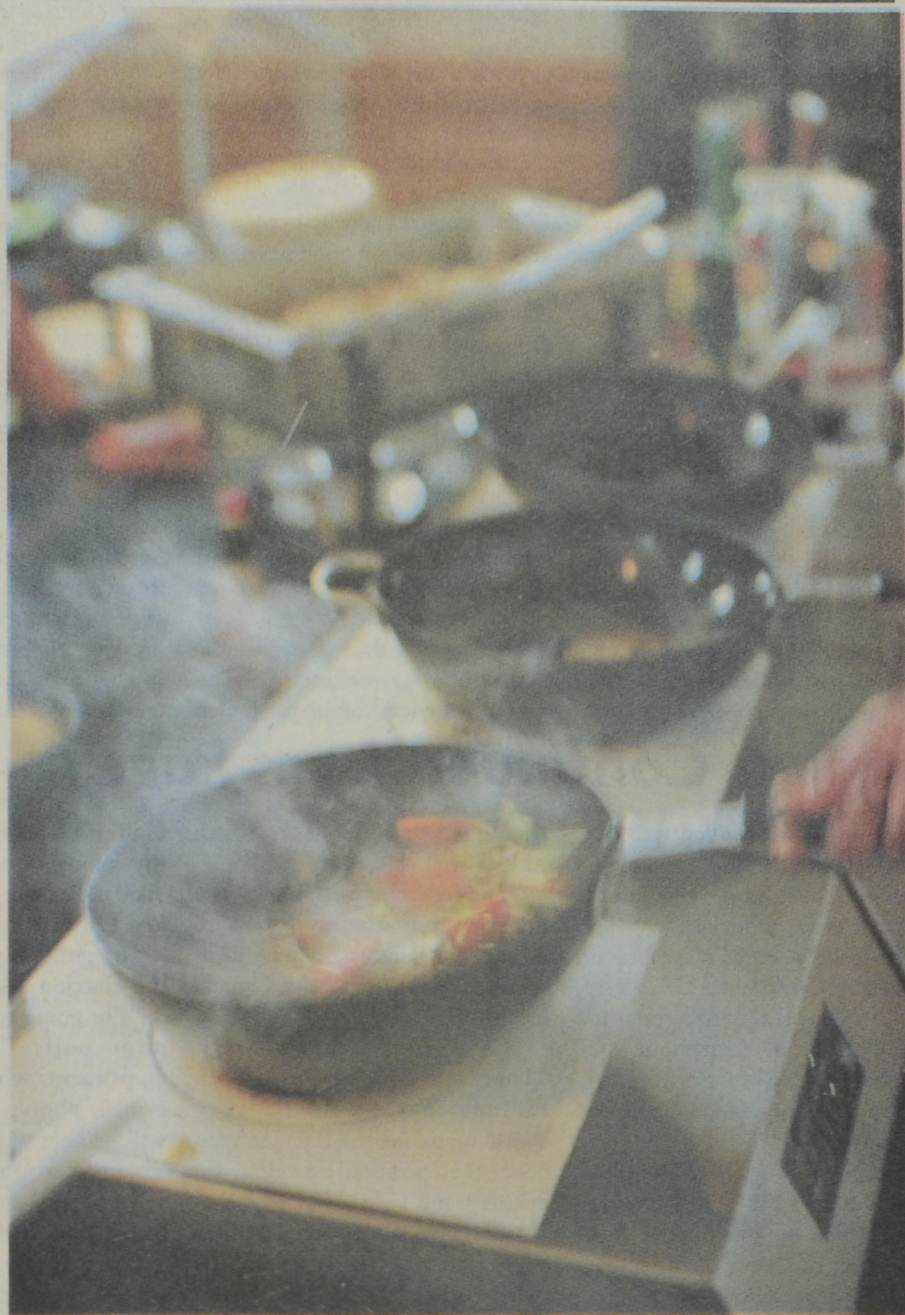
In addition to this is the larger issue of whether UNB administration officials are prepared to provide additional resources to restore UNB Counselling Services to UNB and STU students after hours, or whether the so-called temporary solution about to be worked out with an unnamed outside crisis intervention organization becomes more permanent.

There are those in the university community who wonder whether senior UNB officials have adequately addressed the concerns expressed in the 1996 External Review of Student Services concerning Counselling Services.

The report stated that over the 10 years prior to 1996, there had been significant increased demand upon the Counsellors due to large enrollment, reduced staffing and an ever-increasing number of students with serious psychological problems seeking help.

"These realities have forced the staff of the Counselling Centre to devote more and more of their time and energy to crisis management and direct therapeutic work," the 1996 report stated.

"Both the staff themselves, and others



Kevin Forneris Photo / The Brunswickan

Display cooking at McConnell Hall.

## Beaver Foods sold

Gordon Loane

*The Brunswickan*

Cara Operations Limited, which owns the Harvey's and Swiss Chalet restaurant chains, is selling its Beaver Foods subsidiary for about \$150 million.

The buyer is Compass Group Canada, a subsidiary of Granada Compass PLC, a British company in the food service and hospitality industries which includes Forte Hotels.

Compass will also have the right to

introduce Harvey's and Swiss Chalet brands to institutional food service locations throughout Canada under a 10-year licensing agreement announced by the companies. The licensing agreement is part of a strategic alliance between the two food service companies.

Beaver Foods, which operates Cara's food services business, is a major caterer to elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools, including the UNB Fredericton campus.

**Election Candidate Coverage - Second in a Series**

## PC Raj Venugopal

Joseph W.J. FitzPatrick III

*The Brunswickan*

Raj Venugopal is running for the Progressive Conservatives in the Fredericton Riding on a personal platform of "effective and local representation." He is asking students to support him on November 27th.

"We want students not only to take part in the democratic process, but we want them to feel good about taking part in the democratic process," he said.

"Everyone who's 18 or over on this campus has a vote and they can use that vote to change the political system."

"There's no reason why students at UNB and St. Thomas can not make a difference, no reason at all," referring to the slim margin of victory in 1997 for incumbent Andy Scott (L), fewer than 1,300 votes. There are as many as 6,000 students eligible to vote in the Fredericton riding on November 27th.

"I think students want someone who is young, understands their concerns, understands their experience," said Venugopal, who still carries student debt from his university degrees.

"With me, they see someone who is going to come through the ranks with them," he remarked. "These people have no problem talking to me."

"I just don't have one or two elections in me, I'm in it for the long haul," Venugopal said. "After two elections, I'll be at the age when most people start thinking about politics. By then, I'll be a seasoned politician."

Students have also told him they are looking for optimism, hope, and someone who understands the bread and butter issues of studying, working and living under pressure.

"I hit, I think, nearly a thousand doors on campus," Venugopal estimated. "The one thing I heard consistently is that students don't want to be talked down to, they want

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Kevin Forneris Photo / The Brunswickan

Jane McGinn-Giberson, UNB Director of Student Affairs and Services.

a pager system after a call was placed with UNB Security.

All that ended about 10 days ago, sparking concern from several UNB Residence Community students who contacted The Brunswickan late last week.

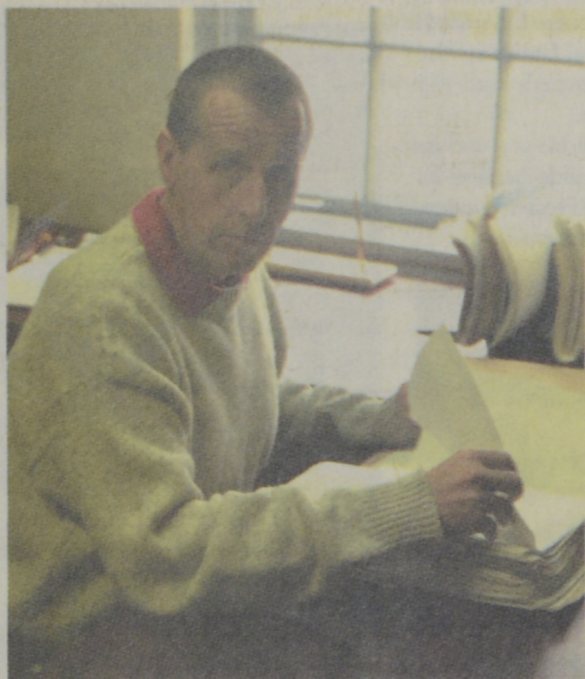
The students, who did not wish to be named, said the timing of the decision couldn't be worse, as stress levels tend to rise with the end of term academic crunch and the approach of December exams.

UNB's Director of Student Affairs and Services, Jane McGinn-Giberson, said the Counselling office has been short-staffed since August because of illness and accident. As a result, the normal complement of five counsellors has been reduced to three.

Not only is the Counselling staff overworked, but McGinn-Giberson said if staff provide after hours service, they are not available to provide care to students weekdays. "We've been working really hard to find a solution for after hours service," she said.

While no official contract has yet been signed, McGinn-Giberson has been talking with a well-known local crisis intervention organization to arrive at a temporary solution for after hours service.

"This organization would set up a separate telephone line for students who need to ask a question or are really



Sharon Wilbur Photo / The Brunswickan

Dr. Michel Ouellette, UNB Director of Residential Life and Conference Services.

of the UNB community who highly value this crucial work, nevertheless regret the loss of opportunity to do more preventative programming and education," the report read.

## STU arranges purchase of Windsor Street property

Gordon Loane

*The Brunswickan*

St. Thomas University is set to become the owner of a fourth residential property on Upper Windsor Street.

STU Vice-President Finance and Administration, Lawrence Durling said earlier this week that final arrangements to purchase a privately owned

residential property at 872 Windsor Street should be completed by January.

The residential property is back door to the construction site of STU's new Professional Services Building and adjacent to properties at 866 and 860 Windsor Street, which the university acquired over the past two Summers.

STU's Chaplain, Father John Keoughan, currently resides at 860

Windsor Street, while 866 Windsor houses three or four students.

The university has also owned a residential property at 820 Windsor for several years, which is currently occupied by STU students.

It is not known whether the university's newly acquired property will be occupied by students or assigned to someone else.



For Members & Guests Only

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON DRAFT SPECIAL

\$5.50 from 2:30-3:30

\$6.50 from 3:30-4:30

\$7.50 from 4:30-5:30

\$8.50 from 5:30-6:30