Turn your head and cough

Health insurance at UNB: prudent investment or financial boon?

by David MacCoubrey

Every year UNB students have to pay extra money, after tuition, for Student Health Insurance through the UNB Student Union.

Health insurance was implemented in 1995, following a "yes" vote in a student referendum. Dental insurance began three years ago. Graduate students voted to join our plan, which is also in its third year.

The cost this year is $97 for health insurance and $79.00 for dental insurance. Money that many students are reluctant to spend, but like having the piece

of mind that comes with health/dental insurance coverage.

The insurance company UNB utilizes for health coverage is ACL and Associates Ltd. based out of Toronto, with the UNB student ID card functioning as the health insurance card. Coverage begins September 1, 2001, ending August 31, 2002.

This year, insurance payments can be made online at Paydirect at www.aclassociates.com, which is not currently running.

Every pharmacy in Fredericton has Paydirect, so students with coverage only need to pay for the price of their prescriptions (after rebate). Dentists must have Paydirect in order to price the student accordingly. If not, the students have to pay the full price and be reimbursed by ACL at a later date. This payment method is what students must do until ACL goes online, which should be mid to late October.

Generally, most students are not concerned with the cost of the insurance, but with the amount of time it takes to actually get insurance. One thing students need to realize is that they are covered automatically on September first.

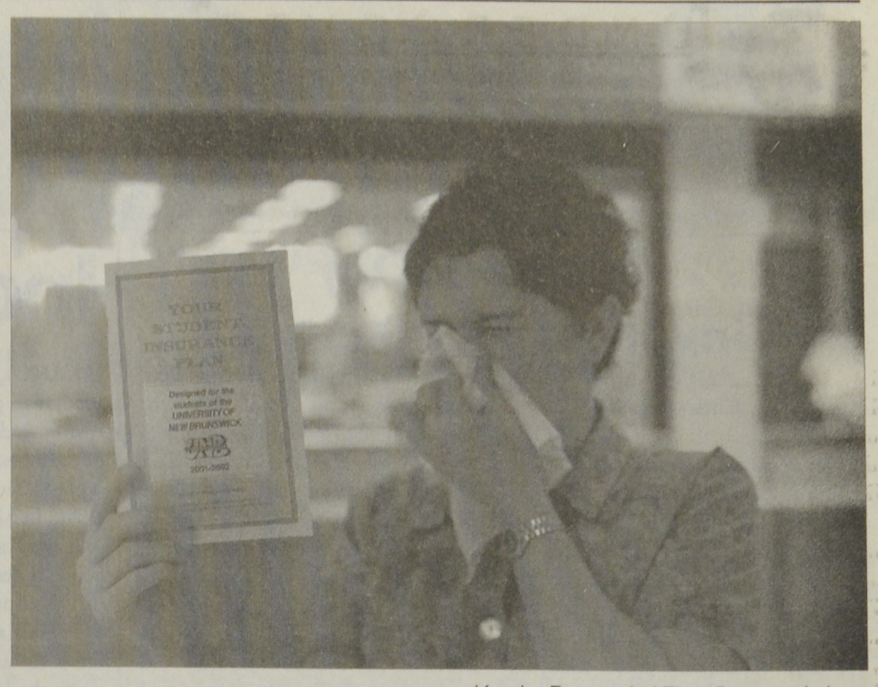
The main reason for a waiting period in other years is that the Comptrollers Office wanted the Student Union to wait until the "W" drop date, usually the end of October. In case of early withdrawls from school, it makes processing the refund easier.

Another reason for the long processing time is opt-outs. The Student Union is in charge of alphabetizing and filing of the huge amount of opt-outs. However, there are still more students using coverage than not.

Vice President-Student Affairs, Maria Barrett-Morris states that, "the Student Union advertises the opt-out date everywhere in order for students to be informed of the opt-out date [September 21]" Such advertisements can be found in the Beaverbook, the calendar, the Brunswickan, various posters, and in Jane McGinn's E-mail newsletters.

Barrett-Morris also states that they go as fast as they can to get everything done as early as possible for students. Students just have to be patient.

The benefits can be found in the Beaverbook or a booklet supplied by the Student Union. If you have any additional questions or concerns contact the Student Union office in the sub.



Kevin Forneris/ The Brunswickan

Some students, such as the one pictured above, are confused over the benefits they are entitled to under the UNB Student Insurance Plan.

Women as "Persons"

Gaudet to receive Governor General's Award

by K Brookland

Madeleine Gaudet, a New Brunswick nurse, is the only Atlantic Canadian recipient of the 2001 Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case.

As "a tireless fighter" for the nurses of New Brunswick, Gaudet has been actively involved in the New Brunswick Nurses Union since 1980. She became President of the union in 1982, and during her eight year tenure, she passionately brought nursing issues, and ultimately, women's issues to the forefront of discussion not only in this province but nationally.

Gaudet has always advocated for increased benefits and job security for women. She recognized early in her union career that the profession of nursing was largely made up of women (95%) and in order for their work to be valued, the true worth of women's work in general had to be recognized.

Gaudet was one of the first nurses in New Brunswick to advocate for better pensions for nurses, serving on the pension committee for hospital nurses to improve their benefits. She recognized that if pensions for nurses did not reach a sufficient level, retired members would live below the poverty line.

In 1986, Gaudet became a member of the Minister's Advisory Committee on Womens' Issues and Education. The Committee lobbied for funding of nontraditional programs at the PhD level for women. She was also a member of the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women from 1988 to 1997, becoming an outspoken advocate for pension issues, pay equity, as well as speaking out against the casualization of women's jobs. (According to the New Brunswick government, if you are a casual worker you are not an "employee" unless particular criteria are met.)

As a vocal advocate for women's rights, Gaudet served from 1997 to 1999 as chairperson of the Board of the Muriel McQueen Ferguson Centre for Family Violence Research and she is currently working for the NB Nurses Union as Labour Relations Officer, routinely handling grievances, preparing for adjudications, and dealing with other membership issues.

Madeleine Gaudet, as Debbie McGraw wrote, "has taken her nursing profession and her nursing heart and expanded her caring role out to the community in which she lives." It was in fact, the NB Nurses Union which nominated Gaudet for the award.

The Persons Case in the title of the award refers to Emily Murphy and four other prominent Canadian women – Nellie McClung, Irene Parlby, Louise McKinney, and Henrietta Muir Edwards. In the early part of the 20th century they asked the Supreme Court of Canada to answer the question, "Does the word 'person' in Section 24 of the BNA Act include female persons?" After five weeks of debate, the Supreme Court decided the word 'person' did not include women.

Murphy and the others, nicknamed "The Famous Five," refused to accept the decision and took the Persons Case to the Privy Council in England (then the highest court in Canada). On October 18, 1929, the Privy Council's decision was that women were, in law, persons.

The work of "The Famous Five," is now honoured by the Governor General's Award in commemoration of the Persons Case.

UNB President announces retirement

Departure date set for June 30, 2002

by Ben Conoley

Elizabeth Parr-Johnston, UNB's president and vice-chancellor, has announced her retirement, set for June30, 2002.

Speaking on her retirement, she said to the board of governors, "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as president of UNB and am proud of the many accomplishments of the past five years.... The years ahead will be challenging but highly productive. I am certain UNB is positioned to provide outstanding leadership in support of our province and nation."

She also commented on why she made her decision. "My decision to step down stems from my desire to have time for myself and my large family and because I believe it is only proper to step aside for the appointment of a qualified individual who can serve a full term as president of this great institution. Were I to reoffer, I would have a maximum of two years before retirement."

Parr-Johnston, who has held the position since 1996, has made a number of important accomplishments in her time. These include the creation of Renaissance College, establishing many new chairs and centers, completion of several new buildings, attraction of the National Research Council E-Commerce Center, doubling scholarship support for students, appointment of many vice-presidents and deans and the improvement of financial planning and control structure.

Rod Nolan, chair of the UNB Board of Governors, responded to her announcement in a very positive manner. "As president, Elizabeth Parr-Johnston has served with distinction during a very difficult period in UNB's history. The financial demographic and competitive challenges faced by our university have never been more daunting. However, Liz has addressed them directly, courageously and most effectively. As chair of the board, I look forward to working with Liz and to her continued leadership as she completes the final year of her term."

Before joining UNB, Parr-Johnston served as president and vice-chancellor of Mount St-Vincent University in Halifax for 5 years. Her resume also includes senior federal government positions, executive roles with institutions such as Inco Ltd. and Shell Canada, where she was the senior woman from 1988-1990. Currently she sits on a number of boards including the Bank of Nova Scotia, Empire Company Ltd., and Emera.

The search is underway for a successor to Parr-Johnston. The Board of Governors has put together a joint committee to find a new president who will likely assume office on July 1, 2002.

Concordia union crumbling?

Continued on Page 3

The political handbook, "Uprising," was distributed free-of-charge to students. Some students reproached the union for a publication they considered anti-corporate and preachy. B'nai Brith Canada alleged the handbook attempted to incite hatred and violence. Both the CSU and the university have said the accusations are without merit.

Stea contends her executive is under attack for its left-wing, activist politics — not for its performance administering the union. She says the union has spent much of its time working on the handbook and is only now beginning to focus on other projects.

"Because we have had to focus on the handbook, we haven't even started doing the concrete work that we want to get done," said Stea.

Stea says the executive is listening to students, but not taking steps to counter the petition. She said that for the time being, everything is business as usual.

"If the petition goes through then we'll deal with it, but in the meantime we still have obligations to fulfill."

Mike Nimchuk, president of the ECA, says many students are happy to see a movement to oust Stea taking shape.

"People are fed up. A whole bunch of people have come up to say 'we're tired of this' and that they want to do something about the CSU," he said.

Nimchuk said at the pace signatures are coming in, a new election may be just over a month away. He said his group is well on the way to garner the required signatures from 10 per cent of the student body to force an election.

Although Nimchuk says the petition is a success, many on campus say they support the union.

"I'm impressed with the student union here," said Jason Wilkens, a second year biology student.

"I think they are taking an active role in my everyday issues. They help with getting money back from the school — things that otherwise students wouldn't know about," he said.

Others say the CSU's anti-corporate position has the potential to harm students' job prospects upon graduation.

Edgar Pierre, a fourth year bio-chemistry student said he's worried that a Concordia degree won't get him a job anymore because the school is so closely associated with radical politics.

"I'm graduating this year, and this isn't good for me because I'm going to the job market. Since Concordia is on my C.V., employers might continue to look elsewhere," he said.

Stea says the CSU will maintain its ground on corporatization. If corporations don't want to hire Concordia graduates because of the student union's actions, she says, then the corporations should re-evaluate their hiring practices.

"It's not my responsibility that the companies have bad labour politics or bad practices, and I don't think its any students' responsibility either," she said.

Jonathan Carruthers, a CSU president from 1995-96, said a Concordia union opposed to corporations is nothing new.

"Concordia over the years has almost always attracted radical student governments," he said.

"This is a university that is all about critical thought. It is impossible not to have discussions of these kinds. The student union should act as a catalyst, a moderator, between different opinions. A student union should be there to promote discussion on every issue."

Stea said that even if a new election is called, left wing and progressive voices at Concordia won't be quelled.

"I think a lot of people have been challenged by what's in the handbook and they think that by getting rid of an activist or left wing executive, that activism and the left wing opinion will go away," said Stea.

Lord shuffles cabinet

Continued from Page 2

According to Betts, the program is an economic growth strategy that will aid all New Brunswickers.

"One of the pillars of the strategy will be a focus on investing in people. This includes education and job creation in New Brunswick."

Betts, who graduated from UNB with a Business degree in 1978, spoke fondly of his time at the university.

"The recent changes made (by the Lord government) to cabinet reflect highly upon the calibre of education available at UNB. I am proud to serve as minister of Business New Brunswick, and equally proud to be a graduate of UNB."

Betts has recently been under fire from opposition parties for last session's budget. The most controversial element of the budget was the $100-milion "rainy-day" fund, set aside by the government in anticipation of a possible recession.

TODAY

IS THE LAST DAY TO VOTE

Look for a polling station near you

Positions:	
Education	2
Student at large	1
Forestry	1
Senate	1
Arts	4
Board of Govenors	2
Computer Science	2
Grad Class 2002:	
President	
Vice President	
Treasurer	
Project Co-ordinator	

UNB STUDENT UNION Late poll open until 7:00pm in the SUB STUDENT UNION UNB

Free Free Free

The Varsity Reds have a free gift for all full-time UNB students

You've heard the rumours? Well come and find out all next week in the SUB cafeteria between 11am - 1pm. The UNB Varsity Reds, in cooperation with some great people, have something FREE for all undergrad AND grad students. In fact, we're so excited about it we're going to have a big rally in the SUB cafeteria this Monday, Oct 15th starting at noon. Be there. Enjoy the excitement and pick up your FREE gift. If you can't be there Monday, and you should try really hard, you have all next week between 11am - 1pm to pick up your gift. It's yours from the UNB VReds and friends! See you Monday in the SUB.

UNB VARSITY REDS

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