

Newsbits

by Gordon Loane

Auditions for the 2001 Red n' Black Revue variety show take place tomorrow and Sunday from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Marshall d'Avray Hall Auditorium on the UNB Fredericton Campus.

Co-ordinator Nalini Iype is looking for performers and behind the scenes technical and support staff for the show, which is set to take place on Saturday, April 7th at the Playhouse.

The 2001 UNB Graduating Class is looking for senior students interested in serving as Faculty representatives.

The representatives would help promote and organize grad class events and assist with fundraising for any potential Grad Class project.

Further information can be obtained at the Grad Class office, room 32 of the Student Union Building or by contacting Christine Hawboldt at 453-4622.

The UNB Student Union's Annual year-end Banquet and Awards Ceremony will take place on Friday, April 6th at the Beaverbrook Hotel.

UNB Graduating Students are reminded that applications are now available at the UNB Student Union office, Room 126 of the Student Union Building, for SU Activity Awards which will be presented on April 6th.

The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, March 23rd.

UNB Student Union President Charles Goguen expects to appear before Fredericton City Council next Monday with objections to a new by-law and draft plan being promoted by the Southeast Hill Neighborhood Association.

Among other things the plan would limit the number of unrelated basement renters in a single-family home to two, from the current three.

Student leaders at both UNB and St. Thomas believe the plan, if adopted by City Council, will drive up the price of rent for students, make housing more difficult to find and increase transportation costs because students will be required to find accommodations further away from both campuses.

It's down to the crunch this week for UNB Student Union Councilors who must decide what annual salary to attach to a proposal which would create the position of full-time SU President.

In addition, a re-structuring proposal now before Council would create the new position of VP Executive, also with a potential increased salary.

Council hopes to pass its new restructuring proposal in time for the 2001 Spring General Election call for nominations, set to take place within the next week or two.

The UNB Student Union owned and operated Cellar Pub and Grill will operate throughout the March Break, according to SU VP Finance and Administration Scott Duguay. He indicated there would likely be shortened hours of operation as many students will be away from campus during the week of March 5th to 12th.

Four UNB Engineering Students, who recently won the Atlantic Engineering Competition, are off to the Canadian Engineering Competition from March 1st to 4th in Victoria, B.C. thanks in part to a \$600 grant from the UNB Student Union.

The SU recently accepted the constitution of the student group "Best Buddies Canada" while the constitutional proposal from the Global Connections Experience 2001 group was turned down.

UNB students who plan to graduate this Spring are reminded to complete an application to graduate.

The application must be completed and returned to the UNB Registrar's office, 2nd floor, Sir Howard Douglas Hall (Old Arts Building), by March 1, 2001.

For more information contact the Grad Class 2001 office at 453-4622 or unbggrad@hotmail.com or visit <http://www.unb.ca/graduation> for all the details.

The tentative UNB April Exam Schedule has been posted on the web page: <http://www.unb.ca/schedules/exam>.

Students should report any conflicts immediately to the UNB Registrar's office. Students are also reminded that travel plans should not be finalized in April until after the Final Examination Schedule is posted, which will be by Friday, March 2, 2001 at the latest.

Deferred examinations will not be granted for reasons of travel arrangements.

A former chief of Campus Security at UNB Fredericton, James Arthur Barnett, passed away at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital earlier this week.

Barnett was also Chief of Police in the towns of Sussex, N.B. and Marysville, N.B. (now part of Fredericton).

He is survived by two daughters - Marilyn Smith and Sharon M. Colford - both of Fredericton, and a son Richard A. Barnett of Moncton, N.B.

A funeral service was held this past Wednesday at Bishop's Chapel, Woodstock Road.

Donations may be made, in memoriam, to the Shriner's Children's Hospitals.

New Brunswick Premier Bernard Lord will deliver the Annual State of the Province Address next Wednesday, February 28th, at the Sheraton Fredericton Hotel.

A reception will begin at 6:00 with dinner to follow at 7:00 p.m.

Further information is available by calling the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce office at (506) 458-8006.

Barry Toole, a political science professor at St. Thomas University, is currently serving as Chair of the Judicial Remuneration Commission.

The Commission, authorized by the Provincial Court Act of the Province of N.B., is charged with the responsibility of recommending salary, pension and other financial benefits for Provincial Court Judges.

Other members of the Commission include Denise Leger and UNB Alumnus Frederick R. Drummie.

A 1976 graduate of UNB's Faculty of Nursing, Lynda Finley, has been appointed interim Executive Director of the 8,700 member Nurses Association of New Brunswick, effective February 16th.

Finley also holds a Master's of Nursing from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. She replaces Lucille Auffrey, who recently left to become Executive Director of the 110,000 member Canadian Nurses Association in Ottawa.

St. Thomas policy already in place... UNB weighs options for exam deferment

Gordon Loane

The Brunswickan

UNB officials are reviewing their options after a group of students petitioned them seeking a two-day April final examination deferment.

The students want to attend demonstrations at the alternative "People's Summit" taking place from April 20th to 22nd in Quebec City in conjunction with the Summit of the Americas Conference.

"Our office is putting together options this week for the Vice-President Academic John McLaughlin to consider," said David Hinton, UNB's Acting Registrar.

He would not divulge the specifics of what options are under consideration or whether a decision on the matter would be taken by McLaughlin or forwarded to the UNB Fredericton Senate when it meets next Tuesday or again next month.

Hinton indicated that a policy decision would be needed because UNB's current Academic regulations for deferred examinations are not adequate for the issue that is arising because of the petition.

"I suspect similar situations have developed at other universities requiring a policy decision or a decision by the Senate," he said.

The Concordia University Senate and officials at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, N.S. recently granted their students final examination deferments to go to the Quebec City Summit.

A so-called "Academic Amnesty" is also under active consideration at McGill University and a number of other Canadian universities.

Meanwhile, the UNB Student Council, meeting in regular session last Thursday, passed a lengthy motion encouraging university departments and professors to be flexible, in so far as it is feasible, in making formal alternative arrangements for examinations for students who want to go to the Summit.

"The Student Union recognizes that a University Education includes the right to pursue knowledge and to challenge in a reasonable manner both popular and unpopular ideas," the motion stated.

The Student Union also emphasized that the motion of support for the students wanting to attend the Summit in Quebec City does not imply that the SU holds a particular view on a Free Trade Area throughout the Americas.

Meanwhile, Dr. Richard Myers, Vice-President Academic at St. Thomas University, said it wouldn't be the general policy to offer some kind of blanket permission to be absent for any particular kind of demonstration or anything of that nature.

While the university administration has not received a petition from students looking for final examination deferments to attend the two-day Quebec City Summit, Myers said STU has an existing channel in place for students to appeal to be granted permission to miss an examination.

"They simply file an appeal with the Registrar (Larry Batt) on an individual basis and he consults with the Admissions Committee," Myers said.

"We would suggest to any student who is interested in perhaps missing an examination for that reason to file

an appeal with the Registrar."

The Admissions Committee is chaired by Psychology Professor Dr. Kim Fenwick. Membership consists of the STU Registrar, four faculty members and two students. Granting an examination deferment would be up to the Admissions Committee, Myers indicated.

"I would say that it is not necessarily out of the question but it is also not automatic," Myers emphasized.

"On an individual student basis, the Admissions Committee would probably be interested in what the student has in mind, why exactly is the student interested in going, what exactly would the student miss (1

exam or several) and a consultation with the professor (s) involved would also likely ensue," he said.

"Since the Admissions Committee often deals with requests for examination deferments at the last minute for various reasons, no fixed deadline for an application is in place."

"But if a number of students file appeals for examination deferments to go to the Summit, the Admissions Committee could set a deadline," Myers said.

Since a regular procedure is already in place to handle examination deferments at STU, Myers doubts the issue would be sent to the Academic Senate for consideration, even if the university receives a petition.



Mike Cormier / The Brunswickan

Dr. Robert G. Evans from the Centre for Health Services and Policy Research at the University of British Columbia delivered the W.C. Desmond Pacey Memorial Lecture Wednesday at the Wu Conference Centre. Joining him is Dr. Mike Farnsworth of UNB's Department of Economics.

CASA Director anticipates new Student Loans

Gordon Loane

The Brunswickan

The National Director of one of Canada's largest student organizations is hoping for a seamless transition next Thursday as Edulinx Canada officially becomes the new service loan provider for Canada Student Loans.

Mark Kissel of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) said Edulinx, 49% owned by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and 51% by a United States group of student loan providers has promised better communication and initiatives to ensure that students get their loans processed quickly.

Those measures include appearances on university campuses in September and January each year over the three year initial term of Edulinx's contract with the federal government.

An internet component and a 1-800 help line, in which the company promises that 80% of calls will be answered within 20 seconds, are additional services being offered.

For students seeking part-time student loans, Edulinx has formed a partnership with Canada Post offices on or near university campuses where a 72 hour turnaround time is promised once an application for assistance has been received.

"We are encouraged by what Edulinx has promised but we are a bit tepid in seeing how it will all turn out," said Kissel, who was at UNB Fredericton earlier this week before heading back to his Ottawa office.

As far as the Canada Student Loans system is concerned Kissel sees two main areas that need improvement.

"On the back end student loan interest rates need to be lowered fast from the current prime plus 2.5% or prime plus 5% to something approaching basic cost recovery," he said.

At the same time on the front end, Kissel is quite nervous about Edulinx and its involvement with the Canada Student Loans system, especially with recent bankruptcy laws which prevent students from declaring bankruptcy for ten years.

"The Bankruptcy Law has been written to protect the banks," Kissel declared.

Kissel's return to Ottawa this week wraps up his recent tour of member student unions in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Since he took over as CASA National Director last May Kissel has spent many days lobbying on behalf of students and for more funding for post-secondary education at various universities across Canada.

He has been accompanied by a hostage brain which is indicative of students' minds being held hostage by the lack of funding for post-secondary education.

In fact, Kissel has also been pushing this year's CASA lobbying theme "Education: Canada's Renewable Resource."

The three R's-rebuilding campus infrastructure, restoring the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST) and relieving student debt-have also been a part of the lobby campaign.

In addition, Kissel and CASA have been the driving force behind a post-card campaign which has netted 30 to 40 thousand student participants who have forwarded a complaint on lack of funding for post-secondary education to MPs across Canada. From March 12th to 18th, representatives from 18 student associations that make up CASA, together with five prospective members, will gather for a lobby conference in Ottawa.

Student leaders will be pushing for more funding for post-secondary education from the federal government through meetings with Liberal MPs and cabinet ministers as well as opposition MPs.

"We are pushing Ottawa to restore the nearly 4 billion in cuts to the CHST instituted in 1994-95," Kissel emphasized.

With a Spring Economic Statement expected from federal Finance Minister Paul Martin, Kissel feels the timing of the week long March lobby conference could not be better.

Despite debt loads for university students that are averaging between \$15 to \$20 thousand upon graduation and that are often higher in some cases, Kissel still sees the value of a post-secondary education and urges high

school students to take the plunge.

"Numerous studies show that if you do not have training post high school the chances of advancement or for a high paying job are next to nothing," said Kissel, a recent Music Education graduate of the University of Western Ontario who plans to pursue a graduate degree in public administration in the future.

UNB Fredericton students pay approximately one dollar each per year towards CASA's national yearly budget of some \$275,000.

The annual budget pays the salaries of four full-time employees in CASA's aOttawa office.

While tangible results are hard to tabulate on a daily basis when lobbying on post-secondary education matters, Kissel pointed to some recent successes with the federal government's decision to establish the

Millennium Scholarship program and a February 2000 federal budget item which raised the tax exemption for scholarship recipients from \$500 to \$3,000.

On another front, Kissel does not see any immediate merger in the works between Canada's two student lobby groups-CASA and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), despite the fact that he thinks one group could not exist without the other.

"Our approach at CASA is more a pragmatist, policy driven, member driven, bottom up organization while CFS is more activist, into demonstrations and taking this message to the streets," Kissel maintained.

"Our focus is at the federal level only and only on post-secondary education while CFS lobbies on various other social issues as well," Kissel said.

Former UNB employee pleads

K Brookland

The Brunswickan

Former UNB Physical Plant employee, Dale Richard Hersey, pleaded guilty to an indictable offence which has a maximum sentence of 10 years.

Under Section 356 (1) (a) anyone "who steals anything sent by post, after it is deposited at a post office and before it is delivered is guilty of an indictable offence..."

Edward Derrah, Hersey's attorney, requested time for a Pre-Sentence Report which Provincial Court Judge Hazen Strange granted.

Hersey will next appear in court at 1:30 p.m. on the 21st of March.

GSA Conference Continued

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either inadvertently or deliberately tampered with.

"It takes an enormous amount of critical evaluation to mine the truth out of those sorts of records but in theory, that is what historians are trained to do and this is where we become a sleuth, a detective," Milner emphasized.

"It is that critical judgement of the documentary evidence, weighing, reconciling, assigning a value, that in many ways distinguishes a professional historian from an amateur."

"Both the detective and the historian, therefore, have to sift often conflicting massive evidence to arrive at a master narrative," Milner said.

In closing his remarks, Milner said a detective wanting to bring a criminal to justice ultimately wants to know "who," and will have to wrestle with "why" if the means exists to find out "who the who" really is.

"In contrast, the historian can usually figure out "who the who" is by sifting through the record but it's the "why" that remains difficult for historians," Milner said.

For a historian, Milner said the fun part is that they get to be detectives without the terrible burden of bringing criminals to justice or having to do it expeditiously.

"But both the historian and the detective must present their evidence which will ultimately be

brought before a jury of their peers," he noted.

At the end of the two day research conference in which some 33 presentations were made by graduate students, the Dr. Merrill Edwards Prize in Social Sciences and Humanities was presented to English graduate student, Katherine Miller, while second prize was awarded to Kinesiology graduate student, Laura Swift.

Third prize went to History graduate student, Jenny Clayton.

The Dr. Merrill Edwards Prize in Science and Applied Sciences went to Electrical Engineering graduate student, Jason Norris.

Second prize was awarded to Biology graduate student Catherine

M. Devlin, while third prize went to Biology graduate student, Jennifer Copeland.

The Judges for the presentations at the conference were Dr. Merrill Edwards, retired UNB Physics Professor; Ann Cameron, Professor Emerita of Psychology; and Roger Moore, Professor of Romance Languages at St. Thomas University.

The Conference Organizing Committee included graduate students Chris Sheehy (History); Heather Sheppard (Psychology); Tricia Beattie (Psychology); Diane Reid (English/GSA); Jeremy Gullison (Forestry and Environmental Management) and Ja'net Barchard (Chemical Engineering).



Kevin Forneris / The Brunswickan

Standing (L-R). Jennifer Copeland, Janey Clayton, Katherine Miller, Dr. Merrill Edwards, Jason Norris and Catherine Devlin. Missing from photo is Laura Swift.