

Newsbits

by Gordon Loane

UNB Prez named to advisory committee

UNB President Elizabeth Parr-Johnston has been named to an Advisory Committee on Liberal Arts and Sciences recently established by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

Parr-Johnston joins seven other university presidents from across Canada on the Advisory Committee.

UNB Math Prof wins major award

John Stockie, a Mathematics and Statistics Professor at UNB Fredericton, is a winner of the first Pacific Institute of the Mathematical Sciences (PIMS) Industrial Outreach Prize for his work in hydrogen fuel cell design.

The PIMS Industrial Outreach Prize is intended for individuals who have employed mathematical analysis in the solution of problems with industrial, economic or social impact.

Robbins named to Humanities Federation

Wendy Robbins, an English professor and Faculty Representative on the UNB Fredericton Academic Senate has been elected as Vice-President, Women's Issues, of the Humanities Federation of Canada.

Robbins is also a 1997 recipient of the Allan P. Stuart Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching at UNB Fredericton.

Domain change for clubs and societies

There will be a change in web address for all student clubs and societies (except the UNB Student Union) at UNB Fredericton effective immediately.

Web sites for UNB Fredericton will be moved to the new www.unbf.ca domain.

As such, Clubs and Societies URL beginning <http://www.unb.ca/clubs> followed by the current club address will change to <http://www.unbf.ca/clubs> followed by the current clubs and societies address.

Safe Ride will not operate April 13 - 16

The UNB Student Union operated Safe Ride Van will not operate from April 13th - April 16th inclusive, because of the Easter Holiday weekend.

Depending on staffing, SU officials hope to operate the service throughout the April exam period until Saturday, April 28th.

SU Banquet, Activity awards, tonight

The UNB Student Union Annual Banquet and Activity Awards ceremony will be held tonight beginning at 6:30pm at the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel.

Graduating students who have made significant contributions to student life at UNB will receive Gold, Silver and Certificates of Merit at the ceremony.

The James Downey Student Leadership Award will also be presented.

Tickets still available for Red 'n' Black

Reserved tickets are still available for the 53rd Annual Red 'n' Black Revue, which takes place tomorrow beginning at 8pm at the Playhouse on Queen Street.

Tickets for the student variety show are \$7.50 for students and \$9.50 for adults.

Tickets can be obtained between 10am and 6pm today or by calling the Playhouse Box Office at 458-8344. Tickets will also be available at the door on Saturday night.

GSA seeking applications for Fund

Graduate students have until Monday, April 30th to apply for funding from the UNB Graduate Student Association's Special Projects Fund.

A maximum of five projects may be funded each year by submitting an application to the GSA Finance Committee, through student departmental representatives.

The maximum contribution by the Special Projects Trust Fund is normally \$500.

Further criteria and information can be obtained by calling the UNB GSA office at 453-4700.

Bruns Alumni awards handed out tonight

UNB's student newspaper, *The Brunswickan*, will hand out Staff Awards at a special year-end party tonight.

Among the awards to be presented: Photographer of the Year, News Writer and Story of the Year, Entertainment Story and Writer of the Year, Sports Writer and Story of the Year, Rookie of the Year, Keener of the Year and Editor of the Year.

Paper Trail to close April 20th

The UNB Student Union owned and operated Paper Trail will be open until Friday, April 20th, when it will close for the summer months.

Students are also reminded that the Paper Trail will be closed for the Easter Weekend from Friday, April 13th to Monday, April 16th inclusive.

Oldest UNB student to celebrate birthday

Family, friends and Alumni are planning to gather at Kennebec Manor in Saint John, N.B. on May 20, 2001 to celebrate the 100th Birthday of Marion (Fleet) Rogers.

She is the oldest living graduate of UNB Fredericton, having completed her studies in 1924.

Bank of Montreal donates cash

The Bank of Montreal recently donated \$10,000 to UNB Fredericton to support the restoration of the Maggie Jean Chestnut House, at the corner of Charlotte and Church Streets in historic downtown Fredericton.

The Maggie Jean Chestnut House is currently the home of UNB's Renaissance College, which will soon complete its first year of operation.

STU receives two pledges

St. Thomas University recently received cheques from two banks earmarked for the university's New Century of Achievement Campaign.

The campaign is raising funds to build a new Professional Studies Building, currently under construction on the STU campus.

Donations were recently received from Jim Quigley, Bank of Montreal Vice-President for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island and John Bleumortier, Scotia Bank AGM and Centre manager for the King Street Fredericton Branch, who presented the first installment of a \$25,000 pledge.

Former UNB Bookstore Manager mourned

UNB and St. Thomas University, Faculty, staff and alumni, are mourning the passing of Marjorie Logue, Manager of the UNB Bookstore from 1951 to 1979. Funeral services will be held today at 3pm at the J.A. MacAdam Memorial Chapel in Fredericton.

Memorial service for retired UNB prof

A memorial service will be held at a later date in St. James Armenian Church in Richmond, Virginia for Haratune Hovanes (Mike) Mikaelian, a retired Psychology Professor at UNB Fredericton.

Professor Mikaelian passed away last Friday at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital in Fredericton.

He had taught at UNB Fredericton for 24 years and from 1975-1984 served as Chairman of the Psychology Department.

He is survived by his wife Norma; one daughter Dianne (David) Barba of Richmond, Virginia and grandchildren Michael and Brittany Barba; a sister and several brothers.

Memorial tributes may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital.

Editorial sparks controversy at STU paper

Gordon Loane

The Brunswickan

The Chairperson of the Board of Directors at the St. Thomas University Student newspaper, *the Aquinian*, is demanding the resignation of the paper's Managing Editor/News Editor over an Editorial that appeared last week.

Chairperson Amanda DiPaolo wants Managing Editor/News Editor Greg Mercer to resign for suggesting that a trip she and Board Secretary Mike Girard took to Ottawa and Toronto last Fall was a misuse of the paper's funds.

Girard said that the *Aquinian*'s then Editor-in-Chief Dan Schnare authorized \$200 in expenses for his trip to Ottawa to cover a session of Question Period in the House of Commons and to meet with Opposition Leader Stockwell Day.

"I wanted to get an idea of his function as an MP and as a leader because of the potential then of a federal election," Girard commented.

He said the day before he left for Ottawa last Fall, former Prime minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau passed away.

"We were allowed to sit in the opposition gallery and watch the memorial addresses."

"It was a rather unique and unexpected turn of events," Girard said.

Upon his return to Fredericton, Girard approached Mercer with the idea of printing an article in *the Aquinian*.

"He rejected it saying it was old news," Girard contended.

Another \$200 was authorized by Schnare for a concert in Toronto.

"I went to Toronto to cover a Matchbox Twenty concert to spice up the Entertainment section," said DiPaolo, who previously served as Entertainment Editor of *the Aquinian* for three years.

"Usually we have had concerts covered and big acts covered that don't come to Fredericton," she said. DiPaolo then wrote up the article for publication in *the Aquinian*.

Both DiPaolo and Girard are outraged that Mercer would call their trip to Ottawa and Toronto a "misuse of funds."

For his part, former *Aquinian* Editor-in-Chief Dan Schnare remembers authorizing Girard and DiPaolo's trip to Ottawa and Toronto.

"They were both members of the Board of Directors and we have approved expenditures for Board members before," Schnare said.

He said last year a trip to see a Backstreet Boys concert in Montreal was authorized and a few years ago someone from the paper attended the East Coast Music Awards in Halifax.

"Looking back I am not sure I would have authorized things the same way but there is \$200 in travel money available to various Editors, etc.," he said.

Both Girard and DiPaolo are also suspicious about the timing of Mercer's Editorial, written to coincide with the Wednesday distribution of the *Aquinian* on one of two days in which STU students were heading to the polls in the Spring general election last week.

Girard and current *Aquinian* Editor-in-Chief Andrew MacDonald were running for the paper's top job in the general election, won subsequently by MacDonald. "There was an attempt

on Mercer's part to detract from my candidacy for Editor-in-Chief and I am very upset with him," said Girard, a third year Honours Political Science student.

Girard made his dissatisfaction known by resigning as *Aquinian* Board Secretary last Saturday, two days after the election results were posted.

"I feel Mercer's Editorial was mean spirited and unethical on his part," said DiPaolo.

"He has compromised the integrity of the Editorial Board but also that of *the Aquinian* in general."

"If he had the best interest of the newspaper in mind he would resign as Managing Editor and News Editor." She said, just hours after the *Aquinian* hit the stands the middle of last week.

DiPaolo is also considering whether or not to resign from the *Aquinian* Board over the Editorial incident.

For his part, Mercer said he has heard little things through the grapevine which suggest his possible resignation will be discussed at the next *Aquinian* Board meeting.

The Board twice postponed meetings last week and as of Tuesday this week Mercer had not heard when the Board would meet or had not received any notification to appear at a scheduled meeting.

Mercer is defending his use of the term misuse of funds in his Editorial, which pulls no punches on his view that MacDonald is the better of the two candidates over Girard to be *Aquinian* Editor-in-Chief next year.

"What I mean is using funds in a way which I don't feel benefits the paper," he said.

"In terms of personal trips, I don't

see what that brings to a newspaper."

Mercer said Board members are also not entitled to *Aquinian* money according to the paper's constitution, and should not be involved in the paper's content.

"But Board members feel they are and what DiPaolo and Girard brought back was one article," Mercer continued, referring to the Entertainment item.

"I feel that \$400 for a student newspaper to pay for an article is an expensive fee."

Mercer was aware that the trips to Ottawa and Toronto taken by DiPaolo and Girard were authorized by former Editor-in-Chief Dan Schnare, before he wrote his Editorial.

As for DiPaolo's demand for his resignation, Mercer calls that an unprofessional approach.

"For her to get involved in such a way, because Girard is her boyfriend and has also demanded my resignation, I find interesting."

"They are offended that this money was questioned and they are offended that the value of the Board was put in question," he said.

As for the appearance of his Editorial in *the Aquinian* during the STU general election last week, Mercer does not deny that it may have had an effect on how students voted for Editor-in-Chief.

"I don't think we would be serving the students of St. Thomas who pay for our newspaper and who are our readers if they were not aware that one of the candidates for Editor has been involved in this misuse of money," Mercer said.

"The Editorial I wrote also spoke of Girard's inexperience which I also think is important."

Goguen welcomes NB bursary program

Gordon Loane

The Brunswickan

UNB Student Union President, Charles Goguen, is pleased with New Brunswick Premier Bernard Lord's announcement of a new \$7.2 million bursary program aimed at the province's neediest university students.

The provincial government's budget last week limited an increase in funding to \$3.1 million, or two percent, for four New Brunswick universities, including UNB, St. Thomas University, the Université de Moncton, and Mount Allison University.

The Premier acknowledges the increase will not be enough to prevent student tuition hikes which will be announced by

universities soon.

"Obviously, we all know that tuition is going to go up in a few weeks," Goguen said. "If we can't stop that then let's try to help with bursaries and non-repayable grants at least to get the debt loads down in a controlled manner."

Through the New Brunswick Student Alliance, Goguen said representations to help the poorest students have been made to a provincial government committee aimed at improving access to post-secondary education.

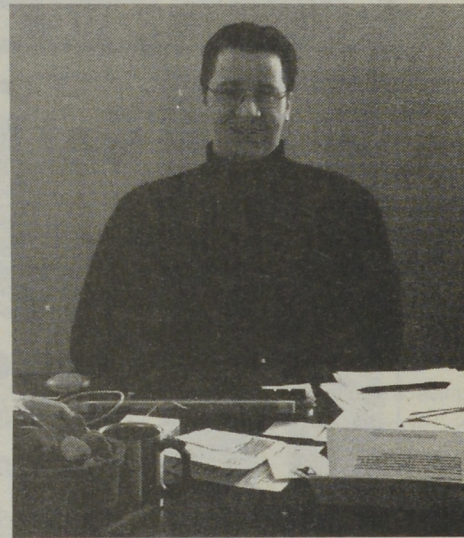
New Brunswick Education Minister Elvy Robichaud is expected to respond to the report of the committee on accessibility when he presents his department's full spending estimates in the legislature in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, the

Department of Education's main estimates released in conjunction with the provincial budget last week show the province intends to create a Canadian Millennium Bursaries Fund that will provide \$7.2 million to post-secondary students.

Under money provided by Ottawa, the program allows the provinces to decide how the provincial allotments are to be distributed among students.

Unlike a student loan, bursary money does not have to be repaid once a student graduates.



Kevin Forneris/ The Brunswickan
UNBSU President, Charles Goguen, welcomes new bursary program in light of expected tuition fee increase.

SU President, VPs receive hikes in pay and perks

Gordon Loane

The Brunswickan

UNB students will shell out an additional \$18,424.25 in Student Union fees next year to pay the annual salaries of a full-time SU President and four part-time Vice Presidents as a result of decisions made by the UNB student Council.

Effective May 1st, the SU President will receive a full-time annual salary of \$24,960, up \$15,337.75 from the salary paid to the current SU President for part-time honoraria during the 2000/01 academic year and full-time wages last summer. Similarly, three SU Presidents will see their part-time honorarias during the 2001/02 school year and full-time salaries this summer increase a total of \$658.50 each from the current arrangement.

The honoraria for the positions of Vice-President Finance and Administration, VP University

Affairs, and VP Student Services, will rise to \$3,885 for part-time work during the 2001/02 academic year, up \$321 or nine percent from this year.

The Summer full-time salaries for each of the three Vice-Presidents will also rise to \$5,737.50 this Summer, up 6.3 percent or \$337.50 from a year ago.

Three Vice-Presidents will receive a total annual honoraria and salary package of \$9,622.50 each, beginning May 1st, up 7.3 percent from the current \$8,964.

The new position of Vice-President Executive will receive a total annual compensation package of \$10,075, consisting of \$4,000 for part-time honoraria during the 2001/02 academic year and \$6,075 for the full-time wages this Summer.

The SU Vice-President External, a position which has been eliminated in a recent top-level restructuring, previously received \$8,964 in annual honoraria and

salary.

The next effect is that the new Vice-President Executive will receive honoraria and salary costing the SU an addition \$1,111 in 2001/02 over that paid to the V-P External.

In total, the SU President and four Vice-Presidents will command total salaries and honoraria of \$63,902.50 next year.

The UNB Student Council has also allocated \$3,000 in total executive-level expense accounts for next year, unchanged in total from this year, however, the expense accounts will be allocated to the SU President and VP Executive only in 2001/02.

The SU President has been allocated a \$2,000 expense account, while the new VP Executive will receive an expense account of \$1,000.

SU Executives also plan to spend an additional \$6,200 to attend conferences next year.

The total expenses allocated for

Conferences including travel expenses, accommodations, conference fees, and meals, will total \$17,800 in 2001/02.

Council plans to send two delegates to all Canadian Alliance of Student Association and New Brunswick Student Alliance conferences next year, up from the one delegate who was allowed to attend each conference this year.

Expenses for CASA conferences will double to \$7,800 next year, while expenses for NBSA conferences will also double to \$4,000.

All five SU Executive members are also slated to attend the Super Con conference in Calgary this Summer at a total cost of \$6,000 for conference fees, travel, accommodations, and meals.

The Super Con conference replaces the Canadian Academic Round Table Conference and the COCA Conference that had previously been allocated \$5,700.

New NBSA Prez wanted

Gordon Loane

The Brunswickan

The New Brunswick Student Alliance, a lobby group which represents university and community college students, is still without a new President for 2001-2002 following a meeting last weekend at St. Thomas University.

UNB Student Union Vice-President External Kate Whitfield said after only one candidate for the position emerged at the last minute a decision was taken to re-open nominations until Saturday, April 28th.

The Student Alliance is searching for a bilingual university student to assume the \$12,000 a year post.

The candidate will be expected to work full-time this summer and must put in up to twenty hours weekly during the 2001-2002 academic year.

The NBSA provincial office will be located on the campus of the successful Presidential Candidate.

Travel expenses, an assistant, monthly meetings of the NBSA board and lobby meetings with provincial government officials are just some of the duties and perks that come with the position.

Whitfield is looking for UNB students who might possibly be interested in the position.

Those interested should contact her at the UNB SU office (453-4955).

If no suitable candidates can be found by the end of April, Whitfield said an option is to appoint an Interim NBSA President for the summer months.

Meanwhile, Peter Loewen, who has just completed his term of office as Vice-President External of the Students Association at Mount Allison University has been elected Director of Administration and Research for the NBSA.

Loewen, who will serve as student representative on Mount Allison University's Board of Regents next year, will assist in pooling information, studies and research regarding post-secondary education issues for the Student Alliance.

In addition to acting as Secretary for all Alliance Board and Executive meetings, Loewen will maintain the NBSA web page and digital communication systems.

He will also assist the NBSA President in co-ordinating lobby campaigns and with other administrative duties.