

Got a problem with *Cosmo*?

Campus Shoppe under scrutiny over its stock

by Matt Bryenton

Some people find magazines to be offensive.

Last spring, members of UNB's Students Against Rape and Intimidation approached Greg Belding, proprietor of The Campus Shoppe about some of the magazines sold there, such as *FHM*, *Stuff*, *Maxim* and *Cosmopolitan*.

The initiative was then led by former UNB student and member of UNBSRI, Daron Letts. Letts said his role with the organization was to support the advocates of feminist change on campus by various initiatives, such as last year's addition of more accessible telephones around campus.

Letts says UNB is an academic community, which prides itself on its intellectual and social aspects. He feels the magazines cited above are, "nothing more than 10 cent porn that are symbolic of the absence of quality and intellectual magazines on campus."

Concerned for the wellbeing of women, Letts is worried about the statistics relating to violence against women and the rise in these types of incidents should be a wake up call.

Letts also mentioned that these magazines are tasteless and they don't say a lot for the intellectual community UNB prides itself on being.



Bruns Staff/The Brunswickan

Do magazines such as Maxim and Cosmopolitan pose a threat?

In some aspects, they pose a threat because they objectify women which is direct opposition to his and the UNBSRI's goals.

Belding describes these magazines as, "the *Reader's Digest* for this generation. The stories are short so you can pick it up here and there, the covers often have celebrities... in provocative outfits with flashy titles... the genre of these magazines are in your face, you can't walk by and not notice them."

These magazines are definitely being seen by the public as *FHM*, *Stuff*, *Maxim*, and *Cosmopolitan* are all on the upper end of the top 10 in magazine sales. Also on that list are *Marie Claire*, *Glamour*, *Teen People*, and *People*, and various

celebrity magazines such as *Rosie* and *Oprah*.

When asked if he considers these magazines to be pornographic, he says they are not and that he reiterates they are more "in your face" and if you want an example of pornography, go into porn shops and there is a visible difference in the graphic/explicit nature of the covers.

When asked about *Penthouse* and *Playboy*, he said they are minority sellers and they will soon be removed from the shelves at the Campus Shoppe.

As it stands now, Belding is going by what he believes is acceptable. Belding also notes that if there is objection, there is a process and he

Council

Continued from Page 2

the centre on November 14th.

The board for the University Women's Centre will be meeting for the next two weeks, after which it hopes to have general definitions of the centre's purpose in place, according to Whitfield.

Even so, most of the council discussion ensuing Whitfield's plea concerned what the exact purpose of the Women's Centre will be. In particular, whether or not men will receive accepted or receive equal treatment at the centre, or if men will be accorded a similar service.

"It's hard to define," said Whitfield. "It's a Women's Centre, but it doesn't mean that men won't be allowed to enter." She claimed they would, in fact, be welcomed there in the same way as women.

A hand-out provided by Whitfield to council states that the Women's Centre could offer a library on sex, gender, and identity issues, advocacy, coordination of discussion and support groups, and a newsletter for its users.

The hand-out also says that members of the centre share a "commitment to tolerance and celebration of diversity."

Council member Lindsay Cameron asked "if there aren't any men, how can they drive in diverse directions?"

Some council members asked if a Men's Centre would be built to balance between the genders.

"Speaking as a man," said SU VP Executive John Campbell. "I don't really want a Men's Centre."

is open to suggestions.

Letts feels student input should be asked what they would like to see

Education representative, Jason Burns claimed men have similar needs, and that potential concerns for men should have been brought up when talks began in the spring.

"I don't think you will hear a man say: 'on the weekend I felt a huge policing of masculinities at the bar,'" said Burns.

"Men don't talk about these things in the same way that women do. But men will be just as emotional about social constructions."

Burns said having the word 'women's' in the title of the centre implicitly discriminates against men.

Whether the Board will address these concerns for the University Women's Centre in the coming weeks remains to be seen.

For Whitfield, meanwhile, one hurdle has been cleared. She said there is a great deal of pressure for the SU to support, and even run the Women's Centre, as most like organizations on campuses across the country are run by Student Unions as societies.

She noted, for Council's benefit, that the vote in favour of her motion "doesn't define what we are by [student council] supporting it, but we're saying that it can have value to some people. That's all."

Campbell, meanwhile, explained that if the Board for the University Women's Centre moves in a direction against Council's liking, the UNB SU could reneg on its support.

sold in The Campus Shoppe and maybe a platform on censorship should be discussed.

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(Tuesday)

PLACE: Student Union Building
(New Atrium Section)

TIME: 12:00-4:30p.m.



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- Dress in business-casual attire (you may be interviewed)
- Approach the employers with a smile and a firm handshake
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Employers attending are: Atlantic Blue Cross Care, Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, Canadian Forces, Casco Inc., Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc., Enterprise-Rent-A-Car, Fluor Canada Ltd., Irving Group Moncton, Irving Oil Ltd., J.D. Irving, McCain Foods, Michelin, NB Power, NB Workinfontet, New Brunswick Internship Program, Public Service Commission, RBC Royal Bank, Royal Sunalliance, Weyerhaeuser Canada, WorkopolisCampus.

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