

THE BRUNS



NATIONAL NEWS

FROM UNIVERSITY NEWSROOMS ACROSS CANADA

University of Manitoba violated students' privacy: ombudsman

by Vince Teetaert
Central Bureau Chief,
Central Bureau

Manitoba's ombudsman has ruled the University of Manitoba was in violation of provincial privacy laws when it disclosed personal information about some students to the university's student union last year.

The ombudsman found the U of M was not compliant with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) when it disclosed information about graduate students to

the student union after the union requested the information to conduct a mail-out in January 2001.

The ruling follows a breach-of-privacy complaint filed by the student association at the University of Winnipeg on behalf of Erik Aasland, a student who was enrolled in a joint master's program at both universities.

Aasland made the complaint after he received a letter from executive members of the U of M student union urging students to vote against a campaign spearheaded by the graduate student association at the university to secede from the student union.

Aasland said he was surprised to

receive the letter because he had never given his home address to the University of Manitoba Student Union, or UMSU.

Aasland and the University of Winnipeg student association filed two complaints to the ombudsman.

In his first complaint, Aasland said students provide personal information to the university in confidence.

"This information cannot be shared with a third party without the consent of the individual students," he said in his complaint.

The second complaint "concerns the misuse of confidential student records for partisan political activities."

The ruling authored by Darren

Osadchuk, the ombudsman's compliance investigator, states: "The public body (U of M) was not compliant with FIPPA when it disclosed Mr. Aasland's personal information to UMSU."

To comply with FIPPA, the U of M must inform students as to what their personal information will be used for and who will see that information.

"The [University of Manitoba] has advised that it will take steps to ensure that its practices are compliant with the provisions of FIPPA and this is being monitored by our office," Osadchuk said.

"Basically what the ombudsman office found is that the practice is

allowable but not under the conditions which we had been working under," said Shelley Sweeney, access and privacy coordinator for the U of M.

She said the U of M had been providing personal information to UMSU so the student organization could do its job mandated by the provincial UMSU Act.

"We understand the necessity to allow UMSU to carry on with their duties," said Sweeney.

Osadchuk ruled that while the U of M acted in good faith, the UMSU Act does not provide provisions for the university to disclose personal information to UMSU.

International fees soar at McGill

by David Wachsmuth,
The McGill Daily

McGill University caught student leaders off-guard last week with an announcement that tuition fees for international students will leap 37 per cent over the next four years.

The four-year increase, announced to the university's senate last Wednesday by vice-president Morty Yalovsky, amounts to an 8.4 per cent increase for the 2002-03 academic year, followed by three consecutive years of 8 per cent increases.

Miguel Bernal-Castillero, president of the McGill International Students' Network (MISN), was quick to express anger over the announcement.

"They know that what they're doing is tacking on too much tuition on very few students because they can get away with it," he said.

"Our immediate reaction is disappointment. It's a lot of money," said Bernal-Castillero.

"Students come here on a budget and they're just going to make this an unaffordable university for very good students."

Bernal-Castillero said he is also angry because students were not given advance notice of the fee hike prior to the senate meeting announcement.

"The way they pronounced it to senate was an insult to students," he said, adding he believes the university kept the announcement off the senate meeting agenda to avoid students' angry reaction.

McGill has 3,800 students from abroad, comprising 16.6 per cent of the student population — the highest ratio of foreign students of any Canadian university.

"This is the most international university, arguably, in the world. You're talking about a big loss for McGill... because we are the ambassadors of McGill outside the borders of Canada," said Bernal-Castillero.

Dan Nudelman, an arts student from the U.S., agreed.

"It takes years to build a good reputation, but it takes a lot less time to dismantle one."

"McGill's edge is that it's a top-notch university, but not at a top-notch price. If that changes, fewer foreign students

will be interested in applying," Nudelman said.

Yalovsky said the university recognizes the increase may create financial difficulty for some students. Twenty per cent of the money collected from the fee increase will be directed toward a financial aid program, he said.

ARCUP

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Eleven papers from as far away as *The Muse* from St John's to *The Baron* from St John came by to learn technique and receive advice from professionals working in the field. A number of lectures were given on Saturday ranging from entertainment writing to photography to advice on how to avoid getting sued.

Jackie Webster gave a particularly moving speech as the keynote speaker, which was attended by newspapers and the public as well. Webster, an alumnae of *The Brunswickan*, related some advice from years of experience, as she spoke on the role of student media. Webster is known for her work with *Maclean's*, *The Globe and Mail*, *The National Post*, and *The Telegraph Journal*, the latter from which she recently resigned due to a "draconian contract whereby we would lose control of our material." Seven others also refused to sign, including Dalton Camp and Max Wolfe.

Webster's speech was energetically followed up with Ben Conoley and Chris Wilson-Smith's delightful stand-up comedy act in which Sean Patrick Sullivan joined in for a rendition of "Hit Me Baby One More Time," which is originally by the trios hero, Britney Spears. Despite the onslaught of "boo" and "Get off the stage newspaper geek"-like remarks, Sean, Chris, and Ben plan to hit the road this summer for a 67 city continental tour which will highlight with a

Canadians 'loonie' over Olympic gold

by Neil Parmer
Alberta Bureau Chief,
Alberta Bureau

An Edmonton icemaker hired to tend the hockey rink in Salt Lake City paid the bargain price of \$1.10 in hopes of

winning Canada double gold at the Olympics. He even paid in Canadian currency.

Trent Evans, an event operations supervisor with the company that makes ice at the Skyreach Centre, home of the Edmonton Oilers, embedded a loonie and a dime into the ice of Salt Lake City's E-

Centre to bring good luck for the Canadian hockey teams.

It seems Evans's plan may have worked. After a 50-year drought the men's team skated away with gold on Sunday afternoon. Earlier that week the women's team also won gold.

Evans was sent to Salt Lake City to help maintain the ice when he noticed the rink's centre was missing a dot to indicate where referees drop the puck. Before applying yellow paint to mark the face-off spot, he dropped a dime into the ice and then sealed a loonie on top.

While Evans let only a select few in on the secret, word quickly spread and CBC broadcaster Peter Jordan eventually broke the news the night prior to the men's final game.

Luckily the coins remained in the ice until the game ended.

At a press conference following the game, Team Canada's executive director Wayne Gretzky said the ice was melted with hot water to help pull out the good-luck coins. He also said the loonie would be given to the Hockey Hall of Fame and that Evans should keep the dime.

"I don't know if they'll lose their jobs, I hope not, but we got two gold medals out of it and the coin will look pretty good, I think, in the Hall of Fame," said Gretzky.

A record 10.5 million viewers tuned in to the game on CBC. The event became the most-watched television broadcast in Canadian history.

Robot Wars



Ben McFarlane/The Brunswickan

UNB Engineering hosted a robot-building competition over the weekend. Robots were judged on how well they performed when carrying out specific tasks.

Brisson

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relatively easy to fill the gap [from the departure]...then it's a relatively clear-cut case - absolutely we'll reward the leave."

"Our [former] swim coach took a year off in 1996; he went to Calgary to become part of the Olympic coaching squad...we saw that as a tremendous benefit to our program," said Stevenson.

Stevenson advocates the Kinesiology department's forgiving stance on granting leaves for sports activities. "We've supported a number of our coaches in going away and increasing their expertise...the value of that to the academic department is important."

With regards to Brisson's resignation, Stevenson said "there wasn't any negotiations...she made a request, we considered it, and we could not agree to a two-year leave of absence...she had to make some decisions, but these weren't negotiations in any sense of the word."

However UNB issued a press release which states: "in negotiation it was mutually agreed by Dr. Brisson and UNB that it was not feasible for either party."

Parr-Johnston commented "we tried to accommodate her [Brisson], but I think it's a question of how far we can accommodate."

In an earlier interview with the Edmonton Journal, Brisson said "when you become an amateur athlete, you accept that you'll never become a rich woman...so there's no sense in whining about it...it's a decision you make and accept."

VNC

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occurred on that web kiosk." As to the nature of the incident Hamilton replied, "seven of the mice were damaged."

Hamilton was then asked if and how the VNC was able to assist in this situation. The reply was "no, but that's the type of thing, even if there had been, for instance, a closed circuit camera, it may not have given us any information on the incident."

Hamilton continued by mentioning, "the incident happened over a weekend - it could have been anybody from an elementary school student to somebody walking through the University."

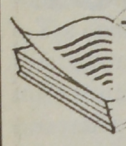
However, Hamilton clarified that only those with a student PIN can access those computers. "We need some means of accountability," said Hamilton.

On the other side of the issue, some students were indifferent to the situation.

Student Victoria Hazlett stated, "it doesn't bother me - there is so much surveillance everywhere now and I wouldn't do my banking here anyway." Hazlett also said, "if there was information posted about this, it would be a deterrence from any sort of negative situation."

Another student, David Aube, who also frequents the new computer kiosk said "UNB should let students be aware that they are being monitored."

E-info Labs - Special Topics

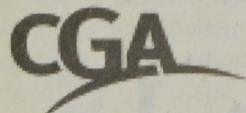
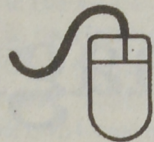


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