

THE AIRPLANE BETA DELTA GAMBLE

**UNB on board,
LeBlanc confident they
will roll a seven**

by Kora Stapelfeldt

Riding the airways to the states may soon be easier for Frederictonians.

The local chamber of commerce is asking for travel commitments to secure a new Delta Air service from Fredericton to Boston to other areas of the US and rest of the globe.

The new service, via Delta and its partners, would commence as early as June 1st, 2003. However, they need to ensure people will be using this new service in order to put it in place.

This is the first time Delta has done a Travel Bank and the first time one has been organized in Canada.

A non-binding air service pledge is being circulated in order to "strengthen the area's case for new air service."

The Fredericton Airline Travel Bank needs a minimum of 2.5 million dollars in pledges in order for Delta to rest its wings on Fredericton ground.

If the money is not raised, Delta will not bring their planes here. If they cannot ensure people will use the system, the airline could stand to lose millions.

Fredericton Chamber of Commerce General Manager, Weldon LeBlanc, feels this amount is not only feasible, but will be reached nonetheless.

"When you look at the industries,

these companies, their primary clients are elsewhere, mostly in the states."

LeBlanc feels because of the needed access to these areas, this can serve as a "gateway to the international markets."

Although the idea of the Delta Travel Bank has been discussed for over a year with the Fredericton Airport Authority, the campaign began December 9th.

The deadline for the 2.5 million is February 28th and LeBlanc is confident it will be pledged. "I'm not even thinking [otherwise]," he said.

By Wednesday, the count was up to a little over one million dollars.

LeBlanc stressed the need for people to take part in the travel bank. "We need action now," he added.



Is the C of C going out on the wing?

related, would ensure the participant receive a VISA card to be used for their travel with the company.

At press time, members of the Fredericton Airport Authority and Delta Airlines were not available for comment.

AIRPORT SECURITY MEASURES TIGHTEN UP

**International students
could face new
hassles while travelling**

by Walter Shawlee, The Peak

BURNABY, B.C. (CUP) — Air travellers in the U.S. and Canada will now have to spend more time in lineups, as airports in both countries have recently stepped up security measures in an effort to curtail terrorist actions.

New airport security measures implemented Jan. 1 by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), a new American governmental agency, requires all baggage in U.S. airports is to be searched, with 90 per cent of baggage checked by new x-ray equipment.

"With this additional layer of security in place, airports and air travellers are

better protected than they have ever been," said James M. Loy, chief operating officer of the TSA.

Changes to Canadian airport security have been somewhat more drastic: for example, corkscrews are no longer permitted on board aircraft.

These measures were implemented by the Canadian government's own organization, the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority, which has been in operation since April 2002.

Under the guidelines of the TSA, hand searches of luggage will also take place on a frequent basis without the owner being present.

The lack of recourse and supervision by travellers of their luggage may discourage air travel in North America, something that an already ailing airline industry cannot afford.

"How are they going to ensure that the baggage handlers don't steal?" asked Clement Apaak, Canadian Federation of Students international student commissioner.

A decrease in air travel may also hurt universities who rely on international students for funding.

The increased challenge of entering North America may dissuade international students from pursuing education abroad.

"It is going to be a very traumatic experience for many international students," said Apaak.

He says it could be especially difficult for students who leave their native country for the first time to pursue education.

Apaak says that while the threat of terrorism is present, the cost to personal freedoms and privacy may not be worth the increase in security.

ACTIVISTS PLAN TO 'DRUM' OUT 'IRAQNIPHOBIA', PROMOTE PEACE

**Anti-war protest to take
place at City Hall
this Saturday**

by Andrew Hill

Black ink shouts, "Wage Peace!" from the fluorescent orange background of a mini-flyer.

These credit-card sized flyers, with their bright colour illustrate the contrasting attitudes that many North American and European students have regarding the United States' fear of Iraq ("Iraqnophobia") and possible attacks on Iraq.

"We need to act now," says Shea Tompkins, echoing an important theme of these worldwide demonstrations. Tompkins is the leader of the protest drumming circle.

This sense of urgency will attend the celebration of peace outside City Hall downtown Fredericton on Saturday, January 18, at 1pm.

The main focus is the opposition to the war in Iraq; "peace in Iraq" is the catch phrase being tossed around.

"Unlike the Vietnam War protests, the one on Saturday is part of the pre-emptive peace movement," said

Asaf Rashid, a local demonstrator. In the 1960s, the peace movement began after the war started.

The "raging grannies," local women over forty-five years old, plan on performing songs that chastise the possible war(s) in Iraq and North Korea.

The protest (i.e. celebration of peace) emphasizes having fun through puppets, costumes, and musical instruments.

Rashid put the protest in a bigger picture when he mentioned that third world countries were not as involved in the opposition to this war. The third world countries have other problems, like hunger and disease, to worry about.

Those attending are encouraged to dress up or bring, for example, drums, to add to the non-violent atmosphere.

The organizers have also been working on a puppet, a wooden pole with Bush's head on the end that will debut at the demonstration.

"Even churches in the area have backed up anti-war sentiments by handing out mini-flyers about the weekend's protest in their bulletins," said Daron Letts.

A deeper side to the celebration

and fun underlies the anti-war protest. Why are people all over North America (Washington D.C., San Francisco, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Vancouver) coming together on January 18th?

Rashid, as one of the organizers, urges people to come together and stop the U.S. now.

"If the U.S. military is not stopped now, where will this lead next?"

The idea of ending all wars, according to Letts, is the notion that the local churches and protestors grab onto.

A touch of spring to keep you warm

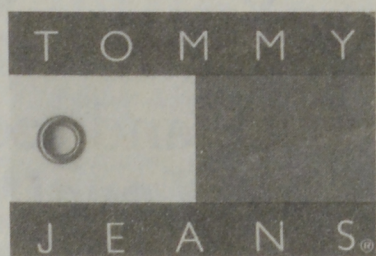


Heather Hickey/The Brunswickian

Don't ignore the small things, A kite flies because of it's tail -Hawaii Proverb

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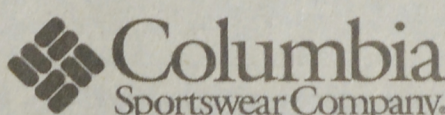
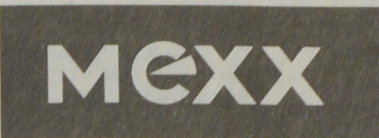
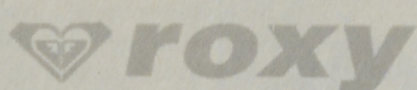


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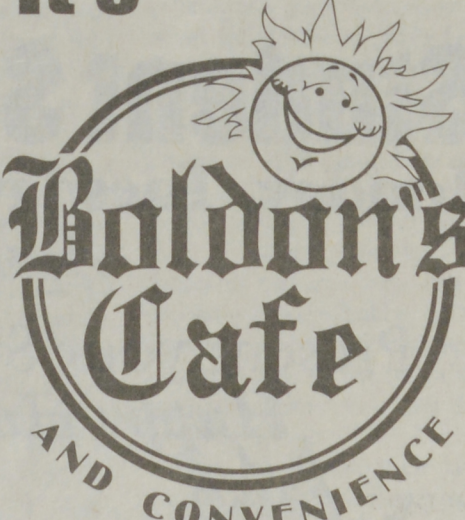


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