

from Aitken page 1

The truth could have been hidden for longer though, says James, but he feels that the community is better off knowing now than later.

"If we really are not going to operate it next year," says James, "it's the least unkind to allow them to put energy into elections and let them know as much as I know about developments. This way they can talk about alternatives. I have no wish to exclude them from the process."

After a rally was held Sunday evening to show the campus's support for Aitken, the house's residents and many supporters showed up for a house meeting, at which James presented his argument for the closure of Aitken -- at which point he saw how great an effect it would have on the community.

"On a preliminary basis, I had considered Aitken as a place to close," says James. "I met with Aitken students last night, and a considerable number of alumni and other residence students, who all felt strongly that I should give serious reconsideration in the decision about it and who made some good arguments. They have looked at the whole array of residence facilities, and they have a good returner rate."

"There is good spirit in Aitken."

And the results?
"I've agreed to revisit that decision and keep them posted on developments in the budget. I also agreed that a spokesperson from Aitken, and their president, Trooper, should be able to speak to whoever else is in on the decision. If the decision is about Aitken, then we should get an Aitken perspective on the decision."

However, if Aitken does not feel the effects, then the chance is that someone else may.

"I think we'll be committed to not operating two residence buildings for next year. One will be Jones and the other will be another building of ap-

proximately that size."

After hearing James's arguments and realizing the fate of residence life, many residents at Aitken have shifted their attention outward, to the whole of UNB's residential community -- realizing that any house could have been the victim.

Artigas and Trooper say they are helping to formulate other solutions that avoid permanent closure of a residence building.

One argument offered by Artigas is to "lease a residence, but don't sell it. Because years down the road, when enrollment goes back up, what are you going to do? Go off campus again? It makes it hard on students; it's a turn-off. At least this way, if you do a one, two or three year lease, at the end of that lease you can reevaluate."

The justification for which residence will be closed will come down to returner rates -- of which Aitken has a particularly high number.

Aitken residents, Residential Life and potential buyers will continue to be in talks over what to do with the situation, at least until the motion goes to the university's board of governors next month. In the meantime, Jones House as a building will remain closed, but in Res Life's hands. It may be turned into a possible source of revenue for Res Life, such as a miniature conference centre.

James Brown's turnaround after his meeting with Aitken House has brought some hope into the hearts of those who thought they would lose their home in the move.

"He used some pretty specific words," says Trooper. "We had little to no hope going into that meeting, and this guy said he was committed to getting our house back. That was a big step in the right direction. He is working with us, and we are going to work to get back Aitken house and look for a viable solution. It's looking more positive than it was."



Jonathan Hudon /The Brunswickian

SafeRide back

by Niki Klukas

The Student Union's SafeRide program is back up and running with a new van to help the service along.

According to Laura Kaderly, SafeRide Coordinator, the service had been down for about two and a half weeks because of mechanical troubles with their old van.

"There was an accident a couple of weeks ago and we had to get the van fixed, so that's why it was out. We ended up getting a brand new van, which is nice," says Kaderly.

It was inconvenient for students who normally make use of the SafeRide service, and it was also problematic for drivers who depended on a paycheck.

In order to get around campus, students could have taken advantage of Campus Security's program, Safe Walk, but SafeRide is the only option for assistance in getting safely off campus.

Chris Delahaye, SafeRide driver, says, "It was kind of a nuisance not being able to work. It was bad timing around Christmas, and I could not afford to go without a paycheck."

"I kept on asking every week if it was going to be back up and they kept saying 'Oh, no next week...' and it kept on dragging on and on. I'm very happy that it's back up and running again," he continues.

The SafeRide program began sev-

eral years ago, and although it has had some setbacks, it is succeeding, says Kaderly.

She emphasizes the point that the services is not meant to act as another taxi for students, but it is there to give students within walking distance to campus a safe ride home at night.

"It runs Sunday through Thursday. We change hours from month to month. It usually runs from dusk until 11, so right now it runs from five to 11," says Kaderly.

She continues, "There are pickups at the SUB and Head Hall, and there is a whiteboard so people can go to the doors of the SUB or Head Hall and see what time the van will be back."

"We are going to do some orientation with the new drivers to get them familiar with the older drivers, and we're going to implement more training," she concludes.

Delahaye notes, "Compared to previous years, not that I've worked previous years, but I've had friends who have and they said it was a lot better organized back then compared to now."

He explains one positive point of difference. "The hours are better now. There is less staff now. Right after Christmas a lot of people left so now there's more hours for us to catch up on the hours we missed while the van was down."

Now that the SafeRide service is back in action, students, drivers, and coordinators alike are pleased to welcome the new changes.

from Cabs page 1

only issue arises from a section from the current bylaw that requires drivers to get their passengers to their desired destination on the most direct route.

Some may feel that the downtown bar district, especially the tannery area, will now get very congested after the bars close.

Overbo believes that this will not be the case. He said that the proposed regulation still will not stop a crowd of passengers from hailing the same cab, even if they are going to different locations. As long as the first passengers to get in the cab say the driver can pick up more people, then a second fare can hop in.

Blunston feels strongly that the new potential bylaw is pushing taxi cab companies to all operate a certain way. "I don't believe that any municipality should have the right to tell us how to run our company," she said. "[Whether

it's] how we make our money, [or] how many people we have in our cabs."

Agreeing with Blunston, MacFedzen also suggested that "taxi companies should be able to police themselves."

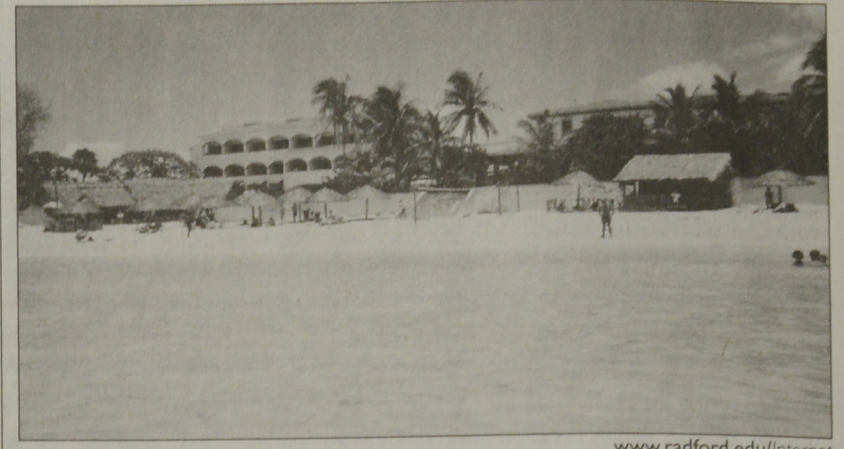
The new bylaw also raises another concern, that being a financial one.

Blunston offered that on a \$4.50 fare, she makes \$1.40. Therefore, if there are two passengers in the car, each going to separate destinations, essentially, the drivers make more money. If there is one passenger, the driver makes only a portion of one fare.

On the contrary, there is no financial benefit to passengers either. If they ride in a taxi cab with another passenger, they are still required to pay a full fare amount. This makes sharing a cab even less desirable.

The bylaw will be considered by the city's finance committee at the end of February, and from there, if approved, it will move on to Fredericton city council for final approval.

Take a spring break



www.radford.edu/Internet

by Niki Klukas

Spring Break is coming up next week. By getting the week of March 5th to 9th off from classes, students have nine full days free from school related activity.

The big question is what students are going to do with all of this free time.

According to Mark Tewksbury of campusaccess.com, "a large number of students will be leaving this year for Spring Break to fun-filled destinations, leaving all their worries behind."

Tewksbury goes on to say, "Spring Break is also a great time to take a road trip with friends. Going on a road trip can be an unbelievable bonding experience between friends."

"A couple of you huddled in a car for several hours to several days can be a real friendship test and can lead to learning things about your travel mates that you never knew. It is quite interesting how much can be shared when locked in a small space for such a long period of time," he continues.

Road trips are what youth and freedom is all about, explains Tewksbury. He feels that there is nothing better than a group of friends out on the open road.

"Not only can this be a great experience for developing and evolving personal relationships, a road trip is synonymous with adventure," he explains.

He continues, "It is also a cheaper way to get from point A to point B but also allows you to decide the pace and the schedule of your vacation. As opposed to a guided, planned trip, you have much more freedom to do what you want, stop where you want and see what you want."

Some popular Spring Break destinations include Daytona Beach, Miami South Beach, Cancun, the Dominican Republic and New Orleans.

"The Daytona Beach area is located in Florida's Central East Coast region. It includes seven communities stretch-

ing 23 miles along the Atlantic Coast," Tewksbury explains.

He continues, "Daytona is the largest municipality within the county of Volusia. Daytona is well known for its beach, which is 23 miles long and up to 500 feet wide at low tide."

"One of the benefits of going to Daytona is its proximity to other attractions in Florida. You are only about an hour's drive from Orlando and the Kennedy Space Centre as well as just 251 miles from Miami, which can easily become a two-day side trip," he says.

Tewksbury explains, "Miami is the playground for models, actors, the jet-set folk and the paparazzi."

He continues, "Most of today's action takes place on four streets, Ocean Drive, Lincoln Road, Collins and Washington Avenues, each of which is packed with sidewalk restaurants, contemporary art galleries, artists, models, arty boutiques and design shops."

Tewksbury goes on to explain about Cancun. "This resort town was developed from a very lush natural environment and has been transformed into a very commercial area: streets lined with luxury shops, shopping malls, and 4 star hotels."

"The vacationers love Cancun for the superb white sandy beaches and aquamarine waters, the over-the-top nightlife, as well as the proximity of the Mayan Ruins," he explains.

The final popular destination, according to Tewksbury, is New Orleans. This particular spot is especially hot during Spring Break because of Mardi Gras.

Tewksbury elaborates, "A trip down to New Orleans which coincides with Mardi Gras during your Spring Break is the perfect escapade from a long, cold winter and from the stressful daily grind of school."

Regardless of the destination, whether it is Florida, Cancun, or Moncton, students have the entire week to themselves to relax and try not to think about the upcoming, hectic end of term.

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