

Unions seek inclusion of part-time instructors

by Naomi Osborne

Part-time UNB professors and librarians are speaking out to the Association of University of New Brunswick Teachers (AUNBT) and Stipend and Sessional Instructors' Union (SSIU) in attempts to achieve improved terms and conditions of employment. The unionization of both full time and part time employees will be a great benefit to the entire UNB academic workforce.

The union drive arose when members of the part time faculty began voicing their concerns to both associations.

Communications Director for SSIU, Graham Cox, has been organizing the union drive for a month now.

"The part-time stipend workers came to us last year," said Cox. "They wanted to be protected and to be included in university agreements."

Since, Cox and members of the SSIU have been working to make that happen. SSIU is a national union with 165,000 members. As it is affiliated with the Canadian Labour Congress, they are able to operate under different laws than AUNBT.

AUNBT is also representing the part-time employees in this union drive. Last Thursday, September 6, the AUNBT executive called simultaneous meetings in Fredericton and Saint John open only to members of the Association.

The outcome of the AUNBT meeting was a pleasant one for instructors vying to get in. The full-time faculty agreed to open membership to the part-time faculty. This gives AUNBT the permission to start getting people to sign up with them, which they have begun doing. Their goal is to have sixty percent of all the professors sign up with them.

As soon as this goal is accomplished, that union will be able to present the signatures to the Labour Board, who in turn will declare said group a union. Despite the long process, what needs to be understood is the primacy of the workers and the amicable relations between organizations, said Cox.

SSIU is working to ensure that the stipend workers will be protected under them and will enjoy the same occupational security as full-time employees.

"Our main goal is to include stipend workers as a group within the union and not as a separate collective agreement," said Cox.

AUNBT's past president, Francesca Holyoke, is emphasizing the effective-

ness of collective voices as opposed to individual requests. It is the lack of stability that hinders part-time faculty from having complete freedom in the classroom, says Holyoke. Developing courses without security or stability can become an insurmountable challenge, as the professor cannot expect continuity within that course.

"Some part-time professors never know from one year to the next if they will be offered the job again," said Holyoke.

The role of the part-time staff at UNB is vital, as they teach over one third of UNB undergraduate courses. However, until now they have lacked a unified voice, causing their exploitation and essentially preventing them from becoming unionized. One of the greatest problems is the inability to fully enjoy the academic rights that the full-time staff often takes for granted.

"They work with the students and the problem is that there is no office for the professors to meet with a student about an issue," said Holyoke.

When it comes down to the basics, it is about professors respecting the work of their part-time colleagues, said Holyoke.

Part-time faculty lack academic independence, and as a result they are unable to exercise the same freedom of expression in the classroom as their unionized colleagues. Adding insult to injury, their lack of job security makes their role as teachers all the more difficult.

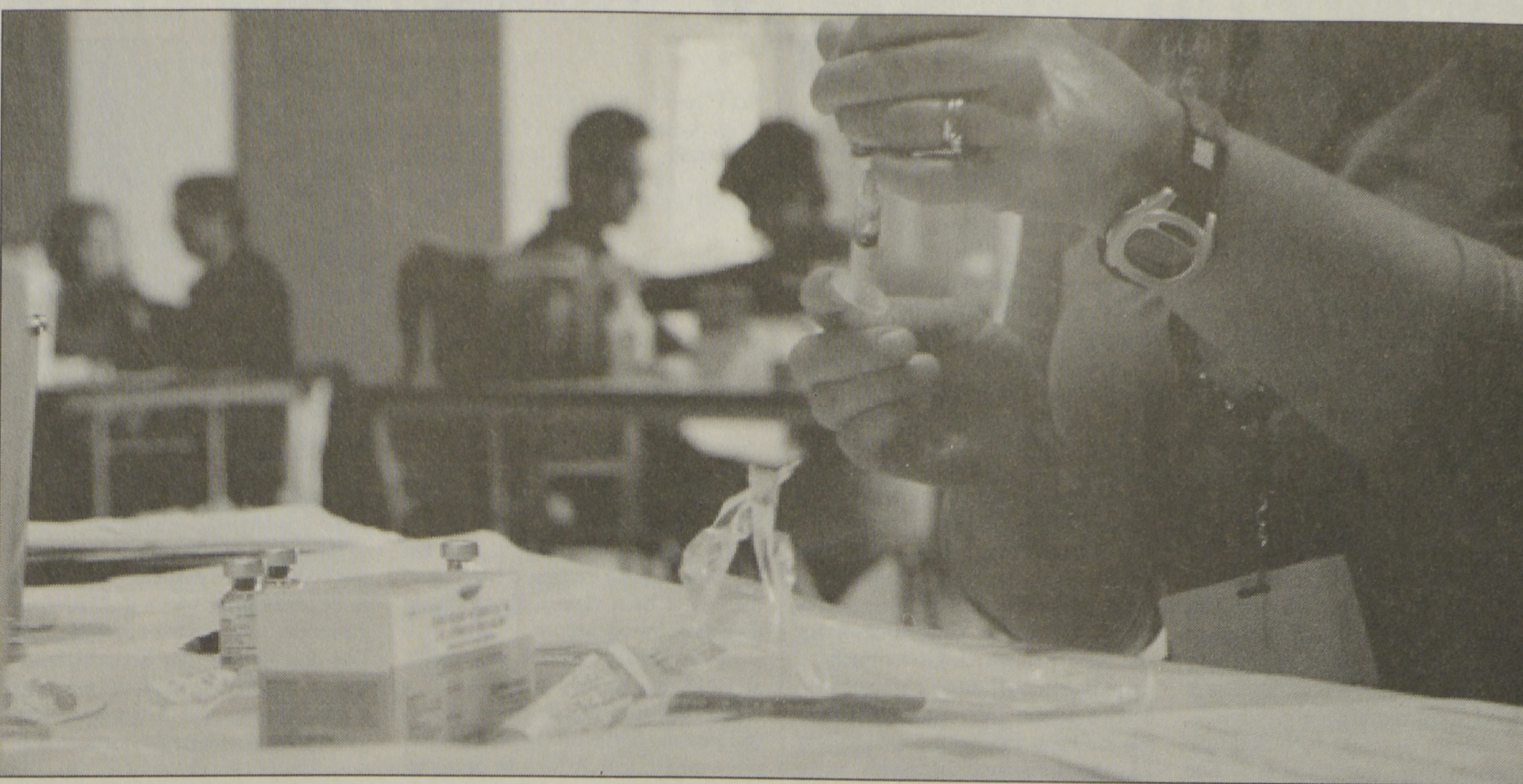
AUNBT's executive has issued the proposal that the constitution and by-laws be enlarged to allow the association to represent a separate, part-time bargaining unit. This means that part-time faculty and librarians would be able to join AUNBT and have them as their bargaining unit.

If this was established, both full-time and part-time faculty would be represented under AUNBT and would work as one to establish job security and academic freedom.

University administrators have been trying for years to separate the academic profession into different components, such as part-time academics, research only, teaching only, and technologically-mediated courses. If administrators succeed in dividing the components of knowledge, then all academics would suffer. This process of academic fragmentation will speed up if UNB's part-time faculty was represented by a non-academic union.

With hope, the union drive will succeed in improving the jobs of part-time employees at UNB. Regardless the outcome, both organizations are working to do what is best for the employees.

Over 1400 students immunized against MMR in ballroom clinics



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickian

A Mumps, Measles and Rubella immunization clinic was held last week in the SUB ballroom. Nurse Kim Greechan prepares to administer a shot for a student. "We immunized over 1400 students in two days; an amazing response, so we plan to hold another clinic," says Anne Forestall, Executive Director of Student Affairs & Services. The second clinic will be held this Thursday, September 13th, from 9am to 3:30pm in the SUB ballroom.

Brutal sexual assaults shock university community in the capital city

Unrelated attacks prompt awareness campaigns, increased security

by Precious Yutango,
The Excalibur (York University)
and Nick Taylor-Vaisey,
CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP) -- Two sexual assaults in four days have prompted an increase in orientation week security and awareness campaigns at both of Ottawa's universities.

The first incident occurred just after midnight on Sept. 1. A 23-year-old female student was beaten unconscious and sexually assaulted inside the Analytical Chemistry Research Lab in the Steacie Building at Carleton University.

The woman was working alone in the third-floor lab when the incident took place.

The woman was beaten and had her hands tied behind her back. She suffered a broken jaw and a dislocated shoulder that required hospitalization. She is in stable condition.

The suspect is described as a white

male in his 20s, standing five foot eight to five foot nine, with broad shoulders and a bald head. He was clean shaven, spoke English with no accent and wore jeans, running shoes and a blue hooded sweatshirt with small white lettering on the chest. He was carrying a plastic bag from Macy's. He had been drinking.

Constable Isabelle Lemieux, a media relations officer for the Ottawa Police Service, added that after the assault the suspect cleaned the woman with a wet cloth before stealing her jeans, cell phone, a running shoe and her red- and white-coloured underwear.

The suspect was seen fleeing the scene on foot. "I don't believe anyone has been identified as a suspect," Lemieux said.

The police have not apprehended anyone in relation to the incident but are following up on several leads from the public as well as examining surveillance tapes from the area.

Only three days later, on Sept. 4, an 18-year-old University of Ottawa student was assaulted sometime before 4:30 a.m. while she was in Gatineau, Que.

Ottawa police, who quickly confirmed that the two assaults were unrelated, arrested two suspects on the University of Ottawa campus only hours later, at approximately 7 a.m.

"There is no connection to the Carleton University sexual assault. And I

think that was important for everyone at the University of Ottawa [to know]," said Isabelle Lemieux, an Ottawa Police Services spokesperson. "We know how rumours can come very quickly, and we want to reassure people that this is not another attack from the same suspect."

After determining that the incident itself occurred in Gatineau, Ottawa police transferred the suspects and the investigation to the Gatineau police.

Both universities have since stepped up security during orientation week activities.

At Carleton University, more than 200 posters with information about the assault and an eye-witness description of the assailant have been posted around campus. The information has also been sent to members of the community by e-mail and posted on the web.

The Carleton administration has conducted special presentations to residence students to make the community more aware of safety procedures on campus.

Carleton officials also discouraged students from going out alone.

"We're emphasizing the idea that if you're going out and partying, it's a new time, new friends, new rules, so you should always have friends with you," Len Boudreault, the safety director at Carleton University, told CTV on Sept. 3.

Claude Giroux, the director of Pro-

tection Services at the University of Ottawa, said his team is currently using all available resources to protect the campus, though he wouldn't elaborate on the specific strength of the force.

"We have a full complement of security. We're being very vigilant at this point," he said. "I can't really say the number of officers for security measures, but it's a full complement — a full staff."

Danika Brisson, vice-president of student affairs at the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa, said that the executive was taken aback by the incident, and was contacting each of the organizers of each faculty's orientation week activities.

"Everyone here is very distraught about what happened, and wants to make sure that it doesn't happen at any of our events," said Brisson. "I know that we're trying to talk to all the vp socials and the executives, so that they're more aware and more vigilant about everything."

According to Foot Patrol coordinator Margaret Sliwinski, the service committed more resources than usual this week because of orientation week. She said that about 60 volunteers are involved during this time and 14 are on duty every night until 2 a.m. There is also an SUV — provided by Protection Services — available every night.

SUB renovations are out as long as the debt is still there

by Jessica Grzesik

The Student Union Building is in major need of repair and restoration, but with no funds available, students are going to have to make-do with the current condition of the building. The idea of change for the building is not a new one, but for every new idea the same problem persists: Money, or the lack thereof.

Reported by a group of master's students and under the supervision of UNB's Dean of Business, Daniel F. Coleman, designs for a year-long project surfaced: 'The Student Union Building 'Study and Analysis'. The group was asked to find ways in which to ameliorate the SUB's aesthetics and to increase the building's revenue. With the lack of money as a barrier to many of the project's proposed ideas, they still needed to get their proposal approved by the SUB Board.

Changes in their initial plan were to move the UNB Student Union offices into the ballroom and the retail outlets into the current UNBSU hallway, among others. After the completion of the project in April, the report was brought to the SUB Board for approval.

The report caused considerable miscommunication between the SUB Board and businesses located in the building, as SUB members believed the project's proposals were concrete plans. Tensions were appeased as members quickly realized the report's objective was only to give the Board sound ideas for potential upgrades. Budgets were never spoken of in the final report.

"Fixing the ballroom is a long-range plan; there are still too many steps to follow to bring a concrete plan into ac-



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickian

tion," says SUB Board Director, Kim Norris.

The problem with any idea proposed to the Board is finances. The only way renovations to the SUB can be put into effect is if the Board receives enough money to fund repairs through donations or by raising student fees.

Any funds the SUB accumulates will be channeled towards reparations instead of renovations. As such, it is unlikely that the SUB will undergo any visible changes, seeing that the university does not want to waste any money it currently has.

"We do not know the funds available for renovations or repairs, but the whole building needs some maintenance. The roof leaks, there are key structural issues, and there are problems with the

building's ventilation system," says Student Union President, Brad Mullins. "The goal of the SUB is initially to make the building financially sustainable and overall a benefit to the students."

As it stands, Mullins would like to see the Student Union offices more accessible to students. Any move to increase the Student Union's visibility would be beneficial, as the Union is more than willing to accommodate students with needs.

"It is frustrating because we're in one little hallway that is basically inaccessible. This section of the building (SU offices) is not accessible to handicap students, and also to regular students because it is so hidden," says Mullins.

The report's suggestion to use the ballroom as office space would fix the

visibility problem, although getting rid of space that is home to numerous activities throughout the year has stirred up trouble. Students should realize the main idea of the report was only to modernize the SUB. With the small fee students pay towards this building every year, the building lacks the necessary funds to accomplish much else.

"People need to understand the SUB has six more years of debt to repay. There is absolutely no funding for repairs until this debt has been repaid," Norris says. Any plans for repair are long-range; the building needs to be attractive on the outside before work can be done on the inside.

"We work with what we have and people need to get together and help out," Norris says. The reason why UNB

has new additions to campus is only because of donations.

All Canadian universities are seeing red when it comes to paying off their debts. This is partially due to provincial cutbacks, forcing universities to raise tuition. With the added financial weight students must endure, enrollment has hit an all-time low, thus decreasing the revenue that universities need to repair and renovate their older buildings.

The Grad Class is looking into fixing the balcony in the ballroom; "a great view of the city is going to waste," adds Mullins. "We're always open to new ideas; everything is always done with student consultation. These rooms that need renovation are begging to be used, and we need feedback to maximize its use. With no feedback we assume people

are OK with what we are doing," Mullins says about the use of places like the ballroom.

Lack of use comes from it being an older room compared to other facilities. "Look at the Wu Centre. More people want to go there for their conferences because it is technologically sound," Mullins adds.

The Student Union needs more positive feedback to know if what they're doing is what the students want. The more people in on the discussion, says Mullins, the better.

Norris wants to make sure students and faculty understand that the Director's Office does not make decisions regarding the welfare of the SUB. Their responsibility is to ensure the building and its proprietors are following policy.

The decisions are reached through discussions among the SUB Board, students and the university. Norris has been on staff with UNB since 1982 and has heard many ideas that would be beneficial to both the students and the university, but knows any idea sprung onto him must first go through many hands and lots of money before he can dictate policy.

Students wanting to see change in the Student Union Building must know first and foremost the funds for any reparations will only come through fundraising and donations. Should the money be available at any point, change can only be reached after a student referendum.

The Social Club is also affected, as its bathroom facilities need to be renovated. "The clubs and businesses are owned separately and will be re-negotiating their leases in two weeks. The leases for these businesses are up next June. There will be no changes to the clubs appearance until their leases are renewed; no business wants to start renovations before a lease is re-negotiated," explains Norris.