

# the brunswickan

canada's oldest official student publication.



## A Different Look

Hennigar returns to UNB as a New York Islander

Sports, page 15



## Carrier Calamity

Exploring cell phone provider options in N.B.

Opinion, page 5



## Candidates Chat

Two MP candidates discuss their platforms

News, page 3



# KEEPING THE SUB ALIVE



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickan

James Brown, Executive Director of Residential Life, Campus & Conference Services has proposed a \$25 levy to be added to existing student fees. The levy would go towards subsidizing costs incurred for upkeep of the SUB. Brown doesn't want to have students worried the building is "falling apart."

## Travel service leaves campus

JOSH O'KANE  
THE BRUNSWICKAN

There's an empty space at the entrance of the SUB as of this morning that already has several parties eyeing it.

As the age of the internet has virtually eliminated the need for walk-in travel agents, Travel Cuts has closed its office doors to go online.

"There was a time where we used to write all of our tickets manually, and then the internet came," says Diane Aubie, Sales Manager of the Fredericton branch of Travel Cuts, which has vacated its SUB office as of this morning, Oct. 1.

"It was also a bit of an enemy, because people started booking tickets themselves online. That decreased our business."

While Aubie says that she still is doing enough business to stay open, most clients opt to deal with Travel Cuts via email or telephone. She says there's no need for a walk-in office anymore, and will thus will now operate the local branch of Travel Cuts out of her home.

James Brown, Executive Director of Residential Life, Campus & Conference Services oversees the SUB and says he's already heard from several parties interested in acquiring the space, including the Student Union.

"The Student Union's actually worked with the SUB Board to propose to the [UNB] Board of Governors that they take over the space," says Brown. The SUB Board is the governing body of the SUB.

As of the time of print, Brown says he has not met with Bethany Vail, SU President, to discuss the issue.

Vail says that the SUB Board, which met last Friday, agreed to recommend to the Board of Governors that the SU should take over the space.

The Board of Governors meets Oct. 23.

"What we got approved on Friday was that the Student Union is able to take over the Travel Cuts space and create a welcoming centre," says Vail.

Brown doesn't mind the SU taking over the space - but, given the financial situation of the SUB, wants rent to be paid.

Rent for the Travel Cuts office space is about \$980 a month, says Brown.

"If they're proposing that they would rent the space, then that's a proposal that I'm completely open to," he says. "If they're talking about taking over the space for free, that's going to leave a \$12,000 hole in the budget - and they know I'm already going to them and asking to resume the SUB Fee."

HILARY PAIGE SMITH  
THE BRUNSWICKAN

University students from all over the world pay for their Student Union Building, so why shouldn't UNB?

Residential Life, Campus & Conference Services recently proposed to the Student Union that a \$25 levy be added to student fees in order to support the upkeep of the Student Union Building, James Brown, the executive director of RLOCS, proposed the levy to the Student Union in a recent council meeting and reception of the idea varied from outrage to acceptance.

Brown was aware that his pitch to the Student Union was not likely to be warmly welcomed, but found himself pleasantly surprised by the Union's open ears and calm deliberation of the topic.

The solution of a student levy is not new to UNB. Following decades of on-again, off-again student contributions to the mortgage, it was decided in 1994 that students would contribute \$25 each to the expansion and improvement of the building. The renovations were completed in 2000 and the student levy was lifted.

"I assure you the normal way of funding these buildings is through a levy. There have been levys in the past to sustain the building," Brown explains. "What I'm asking for a consideration of is not something unusual or unique to

UNB. Generally the reason they're called Student Union Buildings is that they are supported by a levy on students. That's how they come into business."

Though the concept of a levy is not entirely foreign, it still raises questions of principle; why should the students pay up when higher-ups with deeper pockets aren't willing?

Brown answers the question on so many minds, "It is the university's responsibility."

The university maintains itself as an institution in two major ways: student tuition and government grants. The deciding factor in the amount distributed by the government is the number of students that attend the university in question. To Brown, the deciding factor in imposing a levy on students is the value of the building

to those who use it.

"There is a particular building that exists to house student government, to maintain student activities, various kinds of club activities and social activities and to the extent that that's valued by students it's not unreasonable to say 'this building is falling apart.' It has no capital funding to maintain it. We, me in particular as this falls into my mandate, and you as students have a common interest in maintaining that building so that those activities can go on. How would you feel about contributing to that?"

The university currently contributes to the maintenance of the building and Brown assures students that even with a levy in place, the university will continue to contribute their share.

For the current school year

the university is contributing a total of \$709,600 to the utilities, maintenance and capital renewal of the building. The university's unbudgeted capital needs, or the most immediate areas for repair, total \$944,096, with the two most significant areas being the leaking foundations and roof.

There are roughly 9,000 students at the University of New Brunswick and at \$25 per student, the total amount raised by the levy would be around \$225,000 for the SUB. That number when paired with the university's contribution should near the cost for repair, at least for the moment.

A decision has yet to be made on the SUB levy, and it is currently not listed on this week's student council agenda.

# Beavers are back: Staying in the woodlot

SARAH RATCHFORD  
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Fredericton activist and UNB alumnus Mark D'Arcy is highly unimpressed with the state of UNB's woodlot and the effects trapping has had on its beaver population.

D'Arcy is a spokesman for the activist group Friends of the UNB Woodlot.

Between Nov. 11 and Dec 26, 2006, 24 beavers were trapped and killed in the woodlot due to the University's concern that their dams would damage infrastructure.

"There was a safety issue," says

Dan Tanaka, Communications manager for UNB. It was perceived as such because "dams were causing flooding over roads," he says.

D'Arcy deems this action completely unacceptable.

"UNB stated that it took responsibility to do inventories of its wildlife," says D'Arcy. "Where are these inventories? Biology professors haven't seen any results. When you ask how many beavers are living in those wetlands, no one knows."

It is D'Arcy's opinion that information is being withheld.

The activist says he wonders why UNB's administration is not being held accountable for its actions.

He says that there should be no violence committed against beavers since Friends of the UNB Woodlot have offered to build anti-flooding devices, and engineers have proven that coverts can be built to make use of these anti-flooding devices.

To the university's defense, Tanaka says that the university tried to combat the problem by using "limited fencing to keep the beavers out." This tactic, however, "ultimately didn't work."

As a result, the university decided to seek another opinion - that of New Brunswick's Department of Natural Resources. It was recommended that a licensed trapper be brought in to do some limited trapping in order to deal

with the safety issue, says Tanaka.

However, "UNB has experts in engineering, biology, and forestry who are not being asked to help. Why not?" D'Arcy wants to know.

Wetlands make up only a small percentage of our province at 4%. In spite of this, however, they have quite a large role to play. Wetlands contribute to Fredericton's drinking water. They also act as a form of insurance against climate change, says D'Arcy.

This works by an intrinsic, natural system, he explains. Because of the wetlands' location at the top of the hill, they save Fredericton from flooding.

"One acre of wetlands will absorb 1-1.5 gallons of rain," says D'Arcy. "If they are compromised, Fredericton is setting itself up for a severe flood."

Because of this risk, "wetlands in urban settings must be protected," says the environmentalist. He cites statistics from Environment Canada as cause for major concern. "There will be a 30% increase in winter precipitation, more severe rain events, and two times more winter runoff," he worries.

In the face of this severe weather, then, why would the university

SEE BEAVERS PAGE 2

SEE SUB PAGE 3

**SPCA TEXAS HOLD'EM**  
**NIGHTLY TOURNAMENT**  
**TUESDAYS**

\$15 Buy-in, Up to \$672 in Weekly Prize Money, No Rebuys (Max 128 Players) Continuing Tournament lasts 8 weeks, Registration from 4:45 - 6:45pm

LUCKY

**THE NEW**  
STUDENTS WORKING FOR STUDENTS SINCE

**Social Club**

**TUESDAY WING NIGHT: 35¢ A WING**