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Business professor charged

Charges raise questions about university policies

by Lauren Kennedy

Reginald G. Sheppard, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Business Administration, appeared in court Tuesday, January 29. According to the Fredericton Police, he answered charges of assaulting a police officer [CC270 (2) (b)]. His trial was not heard in court that day because his lawyer requested that it be delayed until late May.

As of press time, Sheppard had not responded to The Brunswickian's request for comment.

His pending charges raised questions about what right students have regarding their knowledge of their professors' personal information. The other issue is what right professors have regarding their privacy.

Bethany Vail, VP Academic for the UNB Student Union, says nothing in their by-laws say anything about professors and as such, they hold no particular stance on the matter, although she is still

concerned.

"As VP Academic, it does kind of concern me. Regarding the privacy issue, there is a lot being protected from students but if a professor was legitimately charged with a criminal offence, I think students should be somewhat aware," she explained. "I don't want to ruin someone's life, but I think they should at least have some knowledge of [a case like this]."

Dan Coleman, Dean of Business Administration Faculty, is not aware of any formal policy dealing with professors who teach while facing charges and awaiting trial.

"Most of our employment relations are spelled out in our collective agreement. I don't think there is anything in there for actions that happens off the job. To my knowledge, [the collective agreement] is all job related," he said.

Coleman referenced clause 16A.03 of the AUNBT collective agreement, which deals with faculty members' professional responsibilities because he feels it is the only part of the agreement that may cover such an incident.

Should speculation regarding work performance arise during such an unsteady period, Coleman explains there are always personal factors that can influence a person's performance during work hours.

"It would be unfortunate if students did [judge this professor]; at this point it's a charge and he hasn't been found guilty. There are all sorts of life challenges that affect job performance."

Vail believes it is up to the university to deal with any issues regarding professors' privacy.

"If we are able to trust the university and know they are handling [the situation], then I think it's OK, because you don't want students to hassle professors."

Peter McDougall, Associate VP of Human Resources and Organizational Development, was contacted and was unfamiliar with any guidelines dealing with this type of situation.

As it stands now, it appears UNB has no formal policy regarding professors' activities outside of the classroom however these matters are dealt with on a case by case basis according to University Secretary Stephen Strople.

Sheppard joined the Faculty of Business Administration in 1999 and won the faculty's "Excellence in Teaching Award" in 2000. He was named a "Popular Prof" in the 2005 MacLean's Guide to Canadian Universities.

16A.03 – Faculty members have the responsibility to deal fairly and ethically with students and other members of the academic community, to avoid discrimination, to foster a free exchange of ideas and to refuse to practice or permit censorship, to respect the principles of confidentiality in a manner consistent with their academic role, to acknowledge their indebtedness to students and/or colleagues in relation to their own research, to uphold and to protect the principles of academic freedom, and to seek the highest possible standards of scholarship.

Dissemination of Knowledge
This involves undergraduate and/or graduate teaching and may contain elements of continuing education which fall within the faculty member's area of expertise and which have been approved by the Dean.

This is clause 16A.03 of the AUNBT collective agreement that outlines professional responsibilities of faculty members.

UNBSJ STILL UNB: GRAHAM



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickian

Premier Shawn Graham gave the State of the Province address on Thursday, in which he confirmed the UNB Saint John campus would remain a part of the University of New Brunswick. "Tonight I am very pleased to announce that the University of New Brunswick in Saint John will remain the University of New Brunswick in Saint John," said Graham. "UNBSJ will retain programs like liberal arts while expanding with new program offerings to meet emerging economic opportunities in the Port City and beyond." Though UNBSJ will retain its liberal arts programs, his statement does contain the hint that new programs will be established at the school to meet the needs of the community in Saint John, which was initially intended to become a polytechnic school. A similar model was also mentioned for the Université de Moncton's satellite schools in northern New Brunswick. The retention of UNBSJ and its liberal arts programs is great news said UNB President, John McLaughlin, in a press release to UNB following the speech. "This is good news for our students, our communities, and our province."

Residence retrofit could be in the near future

With declining enrollment, proposals are coming in for how to deal with the existing residence system.

by Josh O'Kane

Initial enrolment projections are in, and it would appear that enrollment at UNB and its residence system will be down again next year. This trend has in the past two years alone inflicted several residence buildings with partial or complete closures.

Public reaction to residence closure

has been negative, as demonstrated by the outcry from residents and alumni of Aitken House last year, when supporters fought all the way to UNB's Board of Governors to keep Aitken open. Dedication like this has forced Res Life and the university administration to examine other options.

James Brown, Executive Director of Residential Life, Campus and Conference Services, says that a preliminary budget has been drafted for 2008-09, which he says involves no closures.

"The university projections are that UNB enrollment would be down by about 200 full-time equivalent students from this year," says Brown. "That would drive a reduction by about 40 applicants to residence, which is not a large enough reduction to drive a building closure."

Other options are being considered, however, that could reshape the traditional undergraduate UNB residence buildings. Built between the late 1950s to late 1960s, the primarily double-room setup of the core residence system no longer appeals to many incoming students.

"We've had favorable consideration from senior management and from the board of finance, or at least favorable preliminary discussion, for a real renovation – not just a refurbishment – of a traditional undergraduate residence, to convert some of the doubles to singles with shared washrooms."

This renovation, which has currently not yet been budgeted, would take a 100-bed residence and reduce it to 75 beds with increased amounts of singles. An architect has already been consulted

to design a plan that would be minimally intrusive to the exterior of residence buildings.

Side-by-side sets of double rooms, in this case, would be given a common bathroom and each converted to single rooms, as Brown points out on a schematic using the upper levels of Bridges House.

Discussion was initially held about putting bathrooms towards the outside of the building in the rooms, but it was found that this would require the lengthy process of making changes to the windows of the building. The newest proposed design now has the common bathroom facing the hallway.

"It turns the doubles into large singles in an L shape, with shared washrooms

see Residence page 3

Getting "Down With the Butterfly" in a 'beautiful' way

by Naomi Osborne

"We play sweaty shows."

That's how Jason Burns, drummer for the band "Down With the Butterfly," summed up his band's performances.

And the sweaty shows and long recording hours have paid off. It's not their first time performing at the East Coast Music Awards, but it is the group's first time scoring a nomination for their album "Rise," which has been described as "intense" and "insightful."

Burns feels their ECMA nod is about them being able to share their ideals in an attempt to make sense of a beautiful world.

For the most part, the band grew up playing together. Three of the band members, Kris Pope (guitar), Ian Sherwood (vocals/guitar), and Burns (drums) grew up in Bellisle, New Brunswick and played together when they were younger. The fourth band member, David Scholten (vocals/guitar), originates from Ottawa.

The four started out playing gigs in Moncton, but before they could establish themselves as a band, unfortunate circumstances separated them for four years.

Once they reunited in 2006, they collectively decided to live in Halifax, where they have been welcomed with open arms ever since.

"Hali is a great city. It has been very welcoming to us [and] we will always love the east coast," said Burns.

The band has been working actively



Submitted

Down With the Butterfly play the CBC Galaxie Rising Star Showcase on Feb 9 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

on their next CD since the fall of 2007, and hasn't had much time for touring in the past year, although a few shows at the Capital have brought them to – well, the capital of the province.

No matter where their music may take them, the band will always find time for Fredericton.

"We love Freddy. Anyone who knows us will say 'That's no BS, they really do!'" said Burns.

Over the past two years, they have all experienced some fantastic and memorable creative moments. However, the one that Burns recalls as the most magical for him happened the night before I

interviewed him, while he and his band were recording their album.

"Last night in the studio was the most creative moment. We have a song that's a year old, and I've been working on the electronics and drums parts. I ended up scrapping the old idea and recorded three drums sets instead," said Burns. "It was magical. We all have our creative moments on the record."

Burns continued by describing the studio as "beautiful" and continued, "I started laughing uncontrollably between sets because I was so excited."

It is in these moments that creativity, talent, and truly insightful ideas emerge. For Burns, that is what making music is all about, and it is all worth it in the end.

"Our first CD was a snapshot of our live show. When we made it, we weren't even really a band then," said Burns. "It

was more of a methodical one."

When asked to describe the most significant moment of their career, Burns replied, "It's all a perception thing. When we released the album it was the biggest part of our career. It was creative and magical."

He went on to say that one particular moment was minute in the grand scheme of things. Down With the Butterfly is still a growing band with so much to offer and they're bound to encounter lots of significant moments before their career is over. Being nominated at the ECMAs is just one of them.

Regardless of what happens, the band isn't performing for the hope of winning, they are just there to play their music and let people hear what they have to offer.

"We are modest people, we don't expect to win."

FRIDAY
afternoon
Trivia

Social Club

\$9.75
Buckets