



Irene Torres and the Sugar Devils play at Lady of the Lake on Friday. Photo credit Holly Kalyniuk. Full story on page 4.

## BUSU GETS IT DONE!

### BUSU enacts change come hell or high tuition

ALEX MURRAY & WHITNEY HODGINS

OUR STUDENT UNION held an open meeting last week to enact changes at the board level.

While technically legal, ideally this should have been done at an AGM — which, to their credit, they attempted not once, not twice, but three times. As quorum proved difficult to achieve most of the time, they could not really change anything. When asked about pushing through these amendments without an AGM, BUSU VP Matt May told the Quill, “If [students] don’t like it, they can show up to an AGM.”

During the meeting the Education Director, Mature Students and Parents Director, and the Racialized Director presented reports. They are working on a new constitution with students who are out in

the field, working on finding space for kids with suicidal parents and, promoting multicultural week.

The new business discussed was as follows, the following motions not being passed:

- Amendment to Bylaw 200 and 1020. Bylaw 200 should read “whereas the Residence Director should be residing in residence for the entirety of their term”. Changes to 1020 read “whereas students living in residence are better able to represent students living in residence.”

- There was a friendly amendment to say that Bylaw 200 should actually read “for the regular academic session” instead of the entirety of the Residence Director’s term. These changes were also applied to the bylaw 1020 changes as well.

The following motions were passed.

- Regarding the Canadian Federa-

tion of Students Manitoba Annual General Meeting, be it resolved that BUSU pays for 12 people to go at the cost of \$360.

- Regarding the State of the Province Luncheon: The cost is \$27.50/person and only two people who are NOT from BUSU are allowed to go.

- Regarding multicultural week, be it resolved that BUSU pays the Racialized Director \$250 to help pay for the group (The Bahottis) that came to take part in the multicultural week’s events.

- By-law amendment: be it resolved that by-law 1070 be changed to read as follows: “whereas there is not stated that anybody other than the Returning Office can touch ballots during ballot counting”, and “whereas it is often times an incredibly tedious act for a single person to count the entirety of the ballots of an election.”

- By-law amendment: be it resolved that by-laws 1060 and 1070 be changed

to read as follows: “whereas the campaign expense and advisory committee is not an active committee” (1060:3) and “whereas it is confusing to have references to a committee that is not used” (1070:13)

- Motion to amend by-law of Racialized Director to read as follows: “Whereas the position of Racialized Director shall assist in narrowing and eliminating the racialization process on campus, and only individuals who have identified or experienced racism and racialization and are not derived from homogenous societies where racism is not prevalent, are eligible to be nominated. This deters those who may try to take advantage of the system and prevents those who may identify with deceit who in particular come from homogenous societies.”

- Policy amendment to section 2511, which reads as “Whereas BUSU executive were elected — *continued on page 3*

## WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE AGM

Moving into the future, the women's collective gets a new council

WHITNEY HODGINS

**WOMEN OF ALL STRIPES** came together recently to take part in the Annual General Meeting for the Women's Collective. Free pizza and soda was served to all.

The Women's Collective council is currently a group of four women who believe in bringing free services to women on

campus and holding events for all, including Take Back the Night and Erotic Bingo. Some of their services for all women on campus include free pregnancy tests, free male and female condoms, sanitary pads and tampons. They also sell DivaCups for \$35 apiece.

The members of the current council, who have been running the collective for

the past year, will all be graduating or leaving this year. The Chair, the Treasurer, and the Secretary positions were all filled for next year's council. This leaves the Collective in the hands of a fresh new set of leaders, who will bring not only the old ideas back from the year before, but will also have some new ideas to put forth as well. §

## PSAC 55601 AGM

No, that alphanumeric combination is not the cheat code to pass all your exams

CARISSA TAYLOR, SENIOR REPORTER

**ON THURSDAY, APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>,** the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) Local 55601 elected a new executive at their AGM. The local's new president is Roque Lacroix, the new vice president is Bailey Kacsmar, the chief steward is now Xisra Winder, the treasurer is Ariane Shairp, and the secretary is Derek Booth.

All students who work for Brandon University and are not part of an existing Col-

lective Agreement are members of PSAC. This includes student assistants, markers, tutors, research assistants, student ambassadors, and students who work at the help desk, bookstore, or cafeteria.

The PSAC collective agreement, which can be found on the Human Resources page on the BU website, outlines rates of pay, increases, and worker selection process. Those in attendance at Thursday's meeting expressed concerns. One of the biggest issues was that the collective

agreement lists flat wages for employees at each level, where before it had been a range. The range gave more flexibility to supervisors to pay more or less, taking into account the level of education and experience. There were also comments about the language used to describe the duties to be performed at each wage level, as they don't encompass the duties of some workers on campus. §

## SERC 101: THE FEMALE CONDOM

Wait, there's two kinds of condoms?

AMANDA VAN WEERT, SERC

**Q: I AM INTERESTED** in using a female condom. I have heard it may give me more protection against STIs. I don't know much about how effective they are in preventing pregnancy and how available they are. Can you give me some information?

**A: THE FEMALE CONDOM,** also known as the internal condom, is a polyurethane (latex free) pouch that looks like a large male condom with a flexible ring at each end. The smaller ring fits inside the vagina and keeps the end of the condom against the cervix while the outer ring hangs outside the vagina and covers the vulva.

It is a barrier method of birth control and stops the sperm from getting into the woman's cervix. It will prevent pregnancy 79-95% of the time, depending on whether you use it correctly, so using dual protection such as the pill, patch, or IUD is a good idea, especially when you first start using a female condom.

Female condoms offer protection against sexually transmitted infections including HIV, and they offer more protection from genital warts and herpes because they cover more of the external genitalia. Another upside is that a female condom can be put in up to 8 hours before sex, and can be used for anal sex as well.

A couple important things to remember are that more lubrication inside the condom is often required to keep intercourse friction-free, and you or your partner should guide the penis into the entrance to prevent it from sliding down the side of the condom into the vagina. Using a male condom at

the same time is not recommended, since the friction of the two condoms against each other may damage them. It is always a good idea to practice inserting the female condom before using it as protection.

You can buy female condoms at pharmacies, but they are much more expensive than male condoms. Because of this cost, it is probably a good idea to first get a female condom free from your local community clinic, the SERC office, or your public health nurse, so that you can test it out and see if it is a contraceptive method you feel

comfortable using.

Go to [serc.mb.ca](http://serc.mb.ca) to get more information on how to use the female/internal condom. §

Check out our website at [www.serc.mb.ca](http://www.serc.mb.ca), or visit our office at 161 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Be sure to like us on Facebook too.

The information provided in this article is not intended as medical advice. Should you have any questions, please contact your health care provider.

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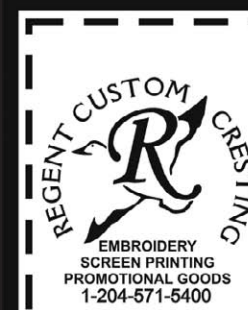
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Well, nearly anyway

HOLLY KALYNIUK

**D**ARKNESS WILL DESCEND upon Brandon University in less than a week when exam season begins. The late nights of frantic, caffeine-fueled cramming will undoubtedly commence (if they haven't already), but are all-nighters really the best way to get that A?

Even though studying all night may seem like the most sensible way to fill one's brain with knowledge last-minute, it isn't the best way to retain information. Despite your best efforts, sleep deprivation actually impairs memory and cognitive

function, making early studying the most effective method of storing and retaining information. Lack of sleep also weakens the body's immune system, which explains the rampant sickness surfacing across campuses during peak stress seasons. Various hormonal imbalances also result from sleep deprivation, resulting in weight gain, gastro-intestinal discomfort, or even kidney failure. Sheesh.

The application of caffeine fails to help the situation, as caffeine disrupts normal water absorption processes and creates dehydration. Excessive quantities of caffeine can also cause anxiety, stomach problems, and irregular heart

rhythms.

Chronic sleep deprivation, not an uncommon occurrence on university campuses, can have lasting health effects. Specialists report a link between prolonged lack of sleep and conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, digestive issues, stroke, ADD, depression, and mood disorders.

If your hands are tied and staying up all night long is the only way, keep your body and mind refreshed and energized through regular napping. A ten- to twenty-minute nap is ideal for a swift boost of alertness and energy, while 30 minutes can cause grogginess after awakening

before the restorative effects become apparent. For improving the memorization of facts, power down for a 60 minute snooze, and a full 90 minute cycle of sleep can improve emotional and procedural memory, as well as creativity, providing the extra inspired edge your final paper requires.

In the end, it's important to listen to your body and respond to the signals you receive. Sleep is necessary, and you will eventually need to crash to make up for lost REM time. And when the haze of exams pass and the summer sun is the worst of your worries, reward yourself with sleep. Nothing will feel better. §

## BUSU GETS IT DONE!

Continued from front page

to fully represent all students and whereas sitting on other clubs executives can cause conflicts of interest." A friendly amendment was made that it reads as follows, "executive members who hold any type of executive position on any other collective or club shall not sit on the SGPA."

The following motions were referred to the bylaws and policies committee.

- By-law amendment: be it resolved that by-law 2500 be changed to read as follows in the miscellaneous section: "that documents be posted and periodically updated, that documents be posted on a website group space, and is accessible, and the official space should be kept in clean order which should allow for meetings between members to take place."

- A motion for the bylaw and policy

committee to investigate, which reads as follows: "whereas directors have portfolios with extensive duties and areas of interest which may be in excess of the capabilities of one director therefore impeding the functioning of council and the best interests of student constituents."

Quorum was lost at 8:50 pm and the meeting ended soon after. §

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# CHEERLEADING WITH SHELBY (SORT OF)

Shelby gives us the scoop on the splits

SHELBY STEELE

IN 2013, BRANDON UNIVERSITY re-established the cheerleading team, having spent a few years without one. In November, the team coach, Lisa Boyle, held try-outs and put together a team consisting

of mostly women, with two men. It wasn't until 2014 that the team began performing at Bobcat games to show off their athletic talent.

If you think that cheerleading is not an athletic pursuit, then you need to see them perform for yourself; I guarantee that you will change your perspective on

it after watching these cheerleaders bend in ways that you would swear are painful, and seeing a girl being flung into the air with the risk of greatly injuring herself or those catching her. These are not the sort of Hollywood cheerleaders who just stand there looking pretty: they put work into each component of cheerleading to bring

them success.

Flexibility is a key aspect in this type of cheerleading. These girls, and boys, work on many different areas of the body to increase their flexibility, including doing splits. Have you ever done the splits? Yeah. In addition, physical fitness also helps these cheerleaders to continue to work hard. Making time to keep up with exercising is important for university sports such as cheerleading. Every member on the team must be extremely

focused on working hard for the team.

During practices, the team works on flexibility and sequenced cheers. As well, the team forms stances in which they proceed to hold up one of the girls, so she stands on their hands (as seen in the photo), or they throw one of the girls into the air and catch her. Both of these exercises can be dangerous, and injuries can occur. At times the girls fall or the other team members are unable to catch her completely; nonetheless, they all have the courage to keep practicing.

The coach, Boyle, explained her plans for 2014-2015, which include the expansion and development of the team. They plan on entering competitions and being more involved with the school and community. In the spring try-outs will be held, as well as a camp for training that will take place in the summer. If you're interested in joining, but are not sure if you have what it takes, don't worry! No experience is needed. The only requirements are to be a hard worker and putting in a lot of effort, with a love to work with other people and work as a team. So keep a look out for try-outs in the spring and you could be on BU's cheerleading team! §

Photos by Shelby Steele.



## IRENE TORRES AND THE SUGAR DEVILS

Missed their show? Then you missed out!

HOLLY KALYNIUK

ON FRIDAY, APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>, Irene Torres and the Sugar Devils (<http://www.the-sugardevils.com/>) set Lady of the Lake a-groove during the establishment's celebration of seven years of live music.

Hitting the corner stage at 8:00 pm among a mixed crowd filled with casual chatter and the sipping of Caesars, the group started the night with "Coming Home" off their debut album *In the Details*, which was released November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Most of the music they played throughout the evening was from *Details*, with the exception of a few covers to demonstrate the group's innovation, creativity, flexibility, and exceptional jazzy style.

While the venue was perfect, the group's volume, prominent vocals, and energetic instrumental seemed out of place at times, given the patrons present and the secluded location of the stage, but slower songs perfectly complimented

Lady of the Lake's cozy, relaxed atmosphere. Enriched by their talent, Torres and her instrumental accomplices were lively yet comfortable, passionate, and fun. Given my lack of musical knowledge, I can't comment on the technical elements of their performance other than noting their synchronicity, and yet each musician's talent was beyond evident and beautifully displayed in various instrumental and vocal solos throughout the performance.

The group's next stop on tour was Winnipeg's The Cavern on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, where they hit the stage at 10:30 pm. Irene Torres and the Sugar Devils are scheduled to perform in other Ontario locations in the coming weeks, including Peterborough, London, and Wallaceburg.

The Lady is celebrating seven years of live music by hosting musical guests throughout April, including Dylan MacDonald, Katy Macdonald, Reigh Kilbride, Tom Bwoden, Alannah Zeebeck, and Carey J.

Buss. Times and dates are located on the calendar on their website (<http://www.ladyofthelake.ca>).

Irene Torres and the Sugar Devils can be followed on Facebook and Twitter, and *In the Details* is available on iTunes. §



'None of the above' sweeps student election; executives scramble for solution

TRAVIS FAUTEUX, THE LANCE

WINDSOR (CUP) — Outgoing executives for the University of Windsor Student Alliance (UWSA), representing over 10,000 full-time undergraduate students, are scrambling to make decisions that will determine the fate of the union after the association's 2014 General Elections resulted in a vacancy of all executive, board of directors, board of governors and senate positions.

Just a week before voting began, a group of students concerned about the lack of involvement in the elections — in addition to concerns about the election process itself — began a crowd-sourced, out-of-pocket campaign to encourage students to vote "no" or "none of the above."

By the time the polls opened, the

group's Facebook page had accumulated over 1,000 'likes,' which appears to have translated into a vacant incoming executive.

The question has now become "What now?"

Current UWSA president Rob Crawford said that there is work to do in the next month to ensure students are not dramatically affected in the fall, but all is not lost.

"I've met with our general manager and we've come to the conclusion that a lot of the operations that the UWSA does over the summer can be completed by our full-time staff," said Crawford. "In terms of having Welcome Week and doing those events ... we have our director of student life who can organize all those things."

"It does mean that the work load is going to be a lot higher for them, but it

doesn't mean that we aren't going to be able to put on a Welcome Week and continue to offer our health and dental plan, or the other services we offer out of our office," said Crawford.

Holly Ward, chief communications officer for the University of Windsor, has already stated that Welcome Week activities would still be provided by the University of Windsor, should the UWSA be unable to fulfill those duties.

Omar Shahid, outgoing vice-president of finance and operations for the UWSA said that, financially, the UWSA will struggle to get traction during the summer without a board of directors.

"My understanding is that we cannot do anything financially because there is no board [of directors]," said Shahid. "Let's say a club wants to ask for club funding ... they can't because there is not a board

to approve it. The same thing goes for the Homecoming Music Festival or the frosh week.

"We can't really do anything [now] unless we have an emergency meeting everyday."

As for the students involved in the 'None of the Above' group, work to reform the UWSA by-laws and elections policies may be on the horizon.

Adam Bednarick, the fourth-year international relations student who founded the group, said that he is expecting more work ahead, but he is proud of what has been accomplished.

"I'm sure there will be quite the appeal process and what-not to get through, so we have to get through all the paperwork first," said Bednarick. "There are some challenges ... so we're going to make sure students' voices are heard."

Bednarick said the elections results were a surprise.

"We were in shock," he said. "We thought we would do well, we thought we would have an impact across campus, we just were shocked at the level of impact that we had."

Bednarick said his group will be digging into the by-laws looking for "weaknesses, irregularities and any faults that may exist" to recommend changes.

"I think it's a sign of the times, I think, clearly, students are voicing their dissatisfaction, and I think in the long run it could end up being a good thing for the University of Windsor by offering a chance for rebirth," said Crawford.

Crawford is encouraging students to attend the Annual General Meeting.

"If we reach quorum [two per cent of members] students. If we hit that, students can actually push forward constitutional amendments at that meeting that would become official," said Crawford. "That's the time of the year where drastic changes can happen." §

## BUSINESS DRAGON: DISTRACTIONS

By: DAKOTA BICKLMEIER



## FREE BBQ

Last week. You missed out.

WHITNEY HODGINS

BUSU HELD a free BBQ on March 31<sup>st</sup> in the courtyard from 11:00 am - 1:30 pm. It was free to BU students and faculty as they passed by on their way to another class or meeting. The feast started out with 200 hot dogs and by 1:00 pm they had sold out and there was nothing left but the chips and soda which were also provided. §

## GREENING THE BALCONIES AND BACKYARDS OF MONTRÉAL

Making gardening accessible for those of us with thumbs that are not green

ÉMILIE WILSON, THE GREEN STUDENT

MONTRÉAL (CUP) — David Symon and Oskar Newsam founded Marché Vivant in the spring of 2013; it has since grown into Installation Vivante, allowing the duo to bring fresh vegetables closer to the kitchen counter. Finding a job straight out of university is often a major source of stress for students, but there are some

who choose to create their own careers. Symon and Newsam have dedicated themselves to making personal vegetable gardens more mainstream and easily accessible in Montréal.

As young as their company is, they already completed about two dozen jobs last summer. Each project takes a day or two to complete, starting early in the morning and working through the day. However, their success has not come without a few

challenges and a lot of hard work.

"Our biggest challenge has been working with other people, like having employees who are twice our age and way more experienced," Symon explains. "It's been challenging to get things done in a respectful manner for everyone."

They have also been working on how to be taken seriously in the professional world as "kids" in their early twenties.

"Being able — continued on page 6

Are you apathetic? Do you care?

CARISSA TAYLOR, SENIOR REPORTER

**T**HE UNCONTESTED RACE for student union president and the vacancy of the vice president internal position are symptomatic of the perceived apathy on campus. For the last five years that I have been at Brandon University, there have always been vacant positions on BUSU council. The apathy extends beyond BUSU though, and it doesn't come solely from students. It's a surprise to no one that many of us are stressed out with our many burdens: school, work, volunteerism, or even just trying to maintain some semblance of a social life. We live in a society that is increasingly pressuring us to be able to dictate our life plans, whether that is a career, a marriage or family plans, or even the geographical location in which we want to live. We will, without a doubt, be asked often what we plan to do with our degrees after graduation. We are judged if we do not have a clear image of what that is.

A consequence of being pressured early on to define our life plans and goals is that we tend to specialize quite quickly. When most students look at options for volunteerism, they look at the choices in a very purposeful way, weighing what will be most beneficial to them when applying for jobs in a given field, or professional programs that take extracurricular activities into account. Every commitment has a conscious intent behind it, instead of just

## MAKING MONTRÉAL GREEN

Continued from fifth page

to prove ourselves has been a big challenge, which we've met successfully," said Symon.

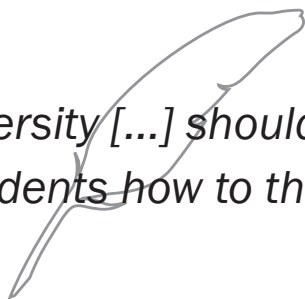
Installation Vivante has been making gardening accessible to anyone with a little bit of green space, planting gardens in small backyards, balconies and window boxes. Clients can also choose to plant more elaborate gardens that host fruit-bearing trees, such as mulberry, cherry and apple.

There are many widely known benefits to keeping your own garden: having an affordable supply of fresh vegetables, the exponentially greater nutrition levels in fresh food and trusting your food source. Ideally, everyone would have the ability to eat and grow local, organic fruits and veggies — although it has seemed difficult to manage for the average city dweller due to a lack of space or time. The mini-gardens

choosing to participate in campus life.

This all relates to the perception of apathy, because students, like many faculty and staff members, get bogged down by the things that directly affect them instead of looking at the big picture. Getting involved in things like university or student governance becomes a secondary concern in comparison to belonging to things that are beneficial in a more direct and obvious way. It isn't until decisions come down

*...University [...] should teach students how to think.*



from higher bodies that have a tangible impact on individuals that they feel the need to

speak out or become involved.

This is problematic in many ways. It gives those running certain organizations or boards an incredible amount of power, as they are free to do whatever they wish if there is no opposition. Silence reads as consent when in a decision-making setting.

For instance, a lot of people complained to individuals about the student union this year. Every year, people complain about the university administration. But unless complaints are made to the proper people, leaders do whatever they want without being held accountable.

For all who complain, and who are upset they are labelled as apathetic, I challenge you to get involved. There are opportunities to get involved and create change, especially at such a small institution. Student unions should not be back-up plans for those who score poorly on the LSAT or who don't get the job they wanted.

allows for urban produce production.

Not only does planting your own food keep things cheap and convenient, but it's a big step towards leading a more sustainable life. When you buy fruit and veggies from an industrial farm, it's difficult to find a truly sustainable option. Options may be local or organic, but aren't often both.

There are many other factors to consider that are not advertised by the market. What fertilizers do farms use? What water systems could those fertilizers seep in to? What are their irrigation practices?

By helping people keep their own gardens, Installation Vivante is promoting not only local, organic food production, but sustainable water use as well. The window box gardens are self-watering, which is a water saver as well as a time saver; the boxes only need to be re-filled once a week.

It should be something that people get involved with because they care about the job. Besides full-time positions, there are other ways to get involved. Diversify your skill set. Don't feel pressured to choose a path before you have scoped a few different ones out.

I believe that university is a place which, at its core, should teach students how to think. By letting everyone around you make decisions for you, you willingly silence your voice. Not only will being actively involved make your time at Bran-

don University more meaningful, it also shapes you into a citizen who can contribute positively to society. Employers want to know that you can do more than tally numbers or edit documents. They want you to be critical thinkers, creative problem-solvers. So why not take advantage of opportunities while there are still plenty of supports in place, and prove to others that youth cannot be discounted as apathetic? As long as we make it known that we care about choices made, others must take our views into consideration. §



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The self-watering boxes work by having water directed straight to the roots, as opposed to being sprayed on top of the soil and percolating down. This prevents water from being lost to surface runoff or evaporation.

As a student, Symon has some advice for other students who are thinking of starting their own business; "Work really hard, be prepared not to eat much, be prepared not to sleep much. The biggest key is to love every aspect of what you do. Find ways to integrate your personality and what you love into your business."

Symon said for his own business he

wants multiple crews doing custom projects around Montréal and products that people can buy and install themselves (such as the self-watering boxes).

For those wanting to start their own garden, Symon has some tips for plant care; "Be aware that plants are a lot more sensitive than people give them credit for. If you put good energy into them, they'll do better. They're like pets." He also advised playing music, such as classical and smooth jazz, to gardens to improve their productivity — and yes, Mythbusters checked that one. §

# OP-ED: WHY I THINK THE SUDS LEVY IS BS

Will SUDS' problems be fixed with a new stove? Maybe...

CARISSA TAYLOR, SENIOR REPORTER

IN THE PAST, I have been in favour of asking students if they wanted to support SUDS financially, because the fact is that they already do – and in some years, those numbers are significant.

In the BUSU general elections which occurred a few weeks ago, BUSU proposed a referendum question asking students if they would be willing to pay \$5 per semester, or \$10 per year, as a SUDS levy. With a majority of 55.7%, the question passed. Starting in September 2014, you will see another fee charged on your student account.

According to posters around campus, the roughly \$30,000 per year that will be generated will go toward infrastructure and appliances. It is not clear whether or not that money can also be used to cover a deficit in a given year. And looking at the past – there have been a lot of deficits.

In past decades, SUDS has rarely broken even. The amount of money lost

is often fairly significant: some years, it has been upwards of \$40,000. Who covers this loss? BUSU, using money which the students have paid, which could have otherwise been used for club funding or events.

Additionally, a percentage of the money collected by the KDC building fund levy, which all students pay, is transferred to SUDS at the beginning of each year. SUDS also doesn't pay any rent to KDC as tenants, though other businesses do. So, SUDS will now receive money from its own levy, the building fund levy, and the BUSU levy. I think this is problematic. Where is the money going?

In my ideal world, the implementation of a SUDS levy would have come with additional requirements, mainly removing the transfer from KDC and distancing itself further from BUSU so that students would not be covering SUDS' losses. The reason I had proposed asking students the question in the first place was to find out if they actually wanted to support a campus pub that, like many others across Canada, was

losing money most years.

To top it all off, a student was hired to do a work study project this summer to develop a business plan for SUDS, in the hopes of finding out whether it was sustainable, or if it was a waste to continue investing money into. If it is a lost cause, there is no point in buying a new stove. Unfortunately, when I asked about the results of the work study project (which, by the way, cost roughly \$2,000, and was funded jointly by BUSU and BU), one of the only suggestions was to hang more pictures on the wall to make it more inviting. Personally, I think there is a lot more wrong with SUDS than aesthetics.

Some of the more major problems include inconsistency in both food and hours. There are few establishments where food selection is so inconsistent, and that obviously hurts business. This year, the changes in hours were also problematic. For the majority of time that anyone other than residence students were on campus, SUDS was closed. The rationale was that with the reduction of food card usage,

people weren't eating in SUDS, but in my opinion, SUDS was not doing enough to target possible on-campus patrons.

In regards to on-campus patrons, there are definitely fewer that spend time on campus after classes than there were in the past. A lot of this reflects fewer students living in residence, but it is also symptomatic of students needing to work more to pay for their school and living expenses. This means that, increasingly, SUDS should look at bringing in people with money, including faculty, staff, and community members.

At the very least, memberships for non-students to be in SUDS should increase in price. In case you weren't aware, students, faculty, and alumni are "members" of SUDS, and the others must buy a membership according to the liquor license. It is bad enough that students are heavily subsidizing a business, never mind also subsidizing non-students for more affordable drink prices. §

## OP-ED: BUDGET PROBLEMS

Where does all the money go?

CARISSA TAYLOR, SENIOR REPORTER

HAVE YOU EVER taken a look at BU's budget? If you're a student, faculty member, or staff member, then you can – but not if you're a member of the public, because at some point during this past year, a new security mechanism was put in place which requires anyone wanting to view budgets on the administration and finance page to log in with a BU Novell user name and password. Universities are public bodies, though, so arguably the public should have access to financial information.

I am a student, however, and while I remain a student, I have a lot of questions about the budget relating to ancillary services, which includes but is not limited to residence, parking, food services, and Campus Books. Good thing I can look at the budgets.

Food Services has been problematic for years, but I find it especially worrisome because of the problem of unused meal plan money being absorbed by the university. In the past, students were able to place bulk orders at the end of each term, such as cases of pop, to help them use up great amounts of money quickly. They still paid for their purchases at the same price that they would be sold for in the cafeteria, so the university made money. That option was eliminated in the 2012-2013 academic year.

Scott Lamont, BU's Vice President Administration and Finance says that: "Students pay \$1,875 per term and this is adjusted if a student leaves early for

such University-related reasons, as student teaching outside of Brandon. The total meal plan revenue was approximately \$1.1 million in the last complete year (2012-13). We do not have the amount that is unused on student accounts as a separate figure. However, the combined amounts removed from cards for such situations as students electing to get out of their contracts early, and amounts remaining at the end of the year, for 2012-13, amounted to a total of \$44,600. We estimate that between \$20,000 and \$30,000 was left at year end, or 2-3% of total meal plan revenues."

This is still a fairly significant amount of money being given back to the university each year because students do not use the full amount of money they have for their mandatory meal plans. Many students find this problematic. Many students argue that it should be seen in the same way as gift cards, which cannot expire, as outlined in Manitoba's gift card legislation of 2007.

Turning to Campus Books: Campus Books has a longstanding agreement with BUSU that they give BUSU half of their profits each year, and in return, BUSU will not open a competing bookstore. For the last few years, the bookstore has told BUSU that they have not made any money, and thus cannot contribute half of their profit. This deficit began occurring after the participating areas of ancillary services saw a new line item within their budgets: "transfer to operating budget".

For the financial report for the year ending in 2012, that "transfer to operating

budget" line, including the amounts from all four areas, adds up to \$486,706. The university has said that only \$275,000 goes to the general operating budget, and the remaining balance funds the Residence Hall Program Office.

A big concern here is that the amount each area contributes is based on its revenue, rather than reflecting the services that it actually uses. It also means that BUSU may not see income from the bookstore for a long time.

It is worrisome that any profit made appears to be wholly going back to the university, rather than being re-invested into the areas from which the money comes. Instead of upgrades to parking lots, residences, or food services, the university uses the money to help balance their own budget. This model creates huge problems as can be seen in the deterioration of the residences. It also creates the problem of having BU lean on this money as a crutch, especially when this income is very unstable, especially with fewer students living in residence, purchasing books in the bookstore, or eating on campus.

Brandon University's administration will be hosting a budget information session for students on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm in the Louis Riel Room. It is the best time for students to ask questions about these and other issues. §

*What do you think about how the BU budget gets divided up? What do you think about Food Services? Let us know in the comments!*

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## ASK MISS Q

Q:

Dear Miss Q,

I do not know how to budget. I frequently run low on cash by the end of the month, and I'm really, really sick of ramen. What do I do?

Sincerely,  
Scraping the Bottom of a Mr. Noodles Cup

A:

Dear Scraping,

Money's a tough customer. Write down your income: when you get paid, how much per paycheck. If you're periodically employed (a musician playing gigs, for instance), write down a conservative estimate. Write down your expenses: rent, utilities, insurance, car expenses (gas), food.

Hopefully, once you've deducted your expenses from your income, you'll end up with a bit extra. I'd recommend setting some of that aside off the top into a TFSA or savings account, but then divide that up into things like entertainment or eating out. The next trick is keeping yourself to the budget...

Good luck,  
Miss Q

Do you have a question for Miss Q? Email it to us at [missq@thequill.ca](mailto:missq@thequill.ca).

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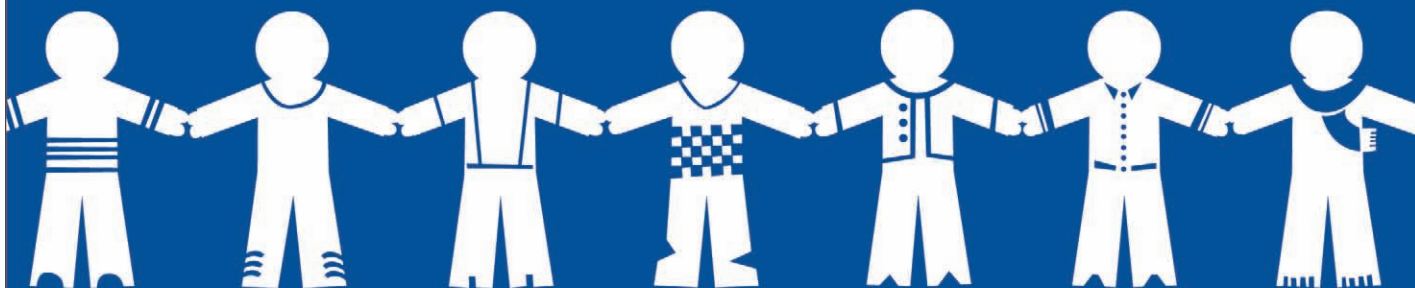
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