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This issue is dedicated to:

Stefan Robak - you saved our ass with
all your petition-signing - thanks.

The Brunswickan, in its 135th year of publication, is Canada's Oldest Official Student Publication.

We publish weekly during the academic year with a circulation of 11,000. We are the largest circulation student newspaper in Atlantic Canada and the largest circulation community newspaper in New Brunswick.

All members of the University Community are encouraged to contribute, however, only students are eligible to become staff members and hold editorial positions.

While we endeavour to provide an open forum for a variety of viewpoints and ideas, we may refuse any submission considered racist, sexist, libellous or those containing attacks of a strictly personal nature. The Brunswickan reserves the right to edit for brevity and even levity. Letters to The Editor generally shouldn't exceed 300 words in length, though exceptions may be made. All submissions must contain your name, student number and a phone number where you can be reached or the submissions will not be printed.

The opinions and views expressed in this newspaper are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Brunswickan, its Editorial Board, or its Board of Directors.

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We are members of U-Wire, and a media exchange of university media throughout North America. We are subscribers to the Associated Press. We are founding members of the Canadian University Press.

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Rocking the boat

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I spoke with the Dean of Education, Dr. Marion Small about these issues. In defense of the department's homogeneity Dr. Small mentioned professors with backgrounds in not only public but adult and private education systems; but there is only one professor in the department with a background in alternative education. There is no course offered on alternative school philosophies or techniques.

As for teaching methods and skills, professors are monitored only by student opinion surveys at the end of each term. Dr. Small believes that because of their expertise, professors should be trusted to be good teachers and the department should be trusted with the curriculum. She believes that students and teachers should have an open relationship, and that with a diplomatic approach our marks will not suffer if we question a professor about their teaching methods.

The Department is receptive to change. There was a major program evaluation in 1999-2000 in which current students, interns, past graduates, administrators, and members of the Board of Education discussed the Education program. Some changes, such as the pre-internship observation week, are just now being implemented. The department is constantly revising its curriculum based on not only

the New Brunswick standards but also other provinces' standards.

As far as gross changes to the curriculum or the department, there are a number of ways you can get involved. There is a student representative position on the Faculty Council, which is chaired by Dean Small. There is a student representative position on the Curriculum Committee, which is chaired by Associate Dean Radford. We also have an absentee Education Association that needs reviving.

The trouble with a sixteen-month program is that it is easier to suffer in silence than take action to promote change. The truth is, Tompkins is right: we are merely procrastinating; the problems we see with our teacher training are not much different than the problems we will face as teachers.

We are in a time of revolution in education with new standards, new curricula, and a new breed of educators who are interested in new ideas. Alternative methods such as the Paideia Principles have been proven to work better than traditional methods, based on standardized test scores. We can learn to "teach for the test," or we can learn to educate for life. As education students, we need to decide in which direction this department is pushing us. If we decide we need change, a few channels already exist - we should at least give them a try.

• Rachel Long

SU ROUNDUP

On October 10th, the poll booths for the UNB Student Union bi-elections will be scattered around campus. Not only will you be voting on the faculty representatives for the Council, but a very important referendum question. The student newspaper, the Brunswickan, is looking to increase the media fee that every student pays in the fall from \$7.00 to \$10.00.

The media agreement that exists between the UNB Student Union and the Brunswickan does not allow us to state a position on the question, simply to host the referendum. I am however, allowed to promote the referendum as a valuable thing to consider - in short, make sure you vote! It is important to have the tally reflective of how the student body feels. It is also important to be involved in the future of the Brunswickan - the oldest student university publication in Canada. By voting, whether yes or no, you are demonstrating the fact that student involvement and awareness of the Brunswickan's situation is important for the future of the newspaper.

The idea of student involvement and participation in UNB events and decision-making processes continues to be a focus throughout my term with the Student Union. This issue around the lack of it seems rather

obvious at times, while a solution is not. The voter-turnout of 10% last March is a huge reminder of low participation rates, so is the few students that attended the recent Forum on Terrorism last Thursday at MacLaggan Hall.

Visibility of the Student Union is tied directly to student involvement and participation on campus. I wonder sometimes how many students know that they pay \$81 in Student Union fees every fall, let alone what the Student Union actually does. We are going to be making a huge effort this year to get out there to the students with the hope that students will return that by being involved. In my mind, involvement can mean anything from simply being aware of the situations on campus, to giving input, to actively participating. It does not mean heading a committee - involvement is taking some ownership of what is yours.

This weekend at the UNB Student Union fall council meeting, your faculty representatives and Student Union executive got together to brainstorm and discuss the key issues that we will be facing this year. The first step in doing this is to define the UNB Student Union vision statement - a statement of what an organization would be in a perfect world. It reads as follows: In representing student interests, the UNB Student Union enriches all aspects of student life with everyone aware and involved.

With this comes the UNB Student Union mission statement - whereas we are the elected body of the full-time undergraduate students of the University of New Brunswick, we shall provide unified representation on matters relating to the diverse interests of our members and strive to be proactive in facilitating personal and professional growth while protecting student rights.

Keep this in mind throughout this year when you hear the words 'student union' and help us work to achieve this objective.

• Kate Whitfield
VP Executive, UNB Student Union

Just a thought...

It's Autumn. It's the time of year when the morning air is fresh and crisp and the dark night sky is alight with a myriad of stars and a golden harvest moon. Throughout the city and the surrounding countryside, the leaves of the trees are ablaze with colour. Shades of rust and gold, vermilion and tangerine are interspersed with accents of sage and forest green. The St. John River valley proudly displays its colourful attire. All along the roadside, vegetable stands overflow with fruit and vegetables gleaned from locally tilled fields. It is the time of year when the earth

relinquishes her bounty. It's the time of Thanksgiving.

The first Thanksgiving proclamation was issued by Abraham Lincoln of the United States of America on October 13, 1863. He officially named the last Thursday in November Thanksgiving Day. In the proclamation he said:

"The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the bounties of fruitful fields and healthy skies. These bounties are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come...It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should

be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people."

Here in Canada we mark Thanksgiving Day the middle of October. Our holiday is associated with the time of harvest as well. It's an opportunity to give thanks for the good that is ours.

Our celebration of Thanksgiving on campus will be held in the Edwin Jacob chapel today at 12:30pm. You are welcome to attend this special service.

• Joanne Barr, Campus Minister



UNB SPECIAL BURSARY PROGRAM



For Undergraduate Students

Are you an undergraduate student that is receiving federal and provincial government aid funding for the 2001-2002 academic year?

If so, you may be eligible for a UNB special Bursary of up to \$1000.00.

To be eligible:

- Students must be undergraduate Canadian citizens, registered at UNB on a full-time basis (*typically four courses each term - only exception is Students with Disabilities whose full-time status will be determined according to federal/provincial student aid guidelines*), and recipients of maximum federal and provincial student aid for the 2001-2002 academic year (*September 2001-April 2002 inclusive*).

To apply:

- Students must submit a completed UNB special bursary application along with a copy of their 2001-2002 *final assessment* indicating their student aid funding.

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are *not* receiving maximum student loan assistance, but, have a definite shortfall for the 2001-2002 academic year, please submit an appeal application with the following supporting documentation.

- 1: *a detailed letter outlining your specific financial situation and*
- 2: *a detailed budget for the current academic year listing your expenses, resources and anticipated shortfall.*

For an application and further information please contact:



UNB Financial Aid Office
Alumni Memorial Building, Room 3
Telephone: (506) 453-4796



DEADLINE: January 16, 2002