

THE BRUNSWICKAN



NATIONAL NEWS

FROM UNIVERSITY NEWSROOMS ACROSS CANADA

Challenge privatization of universities, panel urges

by Roberto Rocha
The McGill Daily

University students must move to resist the increasing privatization of Canadian universities, a panel advised an audience at McGill University last Wednesday.

Putting the brakes on the growing corporate presence at post-secondary institutions was the subject of a critical discussion entitled Whose University? Democracy, Privatization and Corporate Power, sponsored by McGill's student union and a student organization called Grassroots Association for Student Power (GRASP).

David Bernans, researcher for Concordia University's student union, addressed the conflict raised by the use of public institutions by private companies for personal research.

"Formally, educational institutions are public property, but they conduct research for the benefit of the private sector," he said. "Universities are hothouses for potentially revolutionary ideas. Research

that fuels new developments in telecommunications and biotechnology originate in the public sector."

Bernans argued that as corporate funding becomes a lifeline for universities, research and discussion critical of private involvement is systematically suppressed.

"As the privatization and commodification of public education and research gains momentum, universities are also developing extraordinary capacity for the repression of new ideas, augmented by the post-September 11 mentality that prevails in North America," Bernans said.

Bernans cited the widely publicized 1998 case of Dr. Nancy Olivieri at the University of Toronto. Olivieri was fired from her research position after warning her patients about the dangerous side effects of an experimental drug manufactured by Apotex Inc., a company that has millions of dollars invested in U of T.

What Bernans termed the "university chill factor" is a level of intimidation of faculty by universities which threatens their careers and reputation.

He capped his speech by asking the

audience to recognize the ties binding the current war on terrorism and what he says is the censorship of activism.

"The war on terrorism is a war on anti-corporate activism," he said. "If we are against the multinational corporations that take over public education and health care, we must also be against the U.S. government's international intervention on behalf of those multinationals."

"And as we have been warned by George Bush Jr., if we are against intervention, we are with the terrorists. So you're either with Pratt & Whitney or with bin Laden."

Erika Shaker, education project director at an think tank for the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives in Ottawa, addressed the faulty rationalizations that allow corporations to enter the public realm.

"Corporations say that privatization enhances education... and justify it by saying that a flawed public system demands a private one," Shaker said.

A champion of education as a human right, Shaker denounced tuition hikes as decreasing the accessibility of education.

"There is no just system of education

that confines its admissions on the basis of privilege, not right... If education is not affordable, it reinforces socioeconomic inequities," she said.

As corporate funding of universities becomes increasingly prevalent, so does private involvement in academic life.

"Universities benefit from tying graduation to employment," Shaker said, warning of the dangers of making universities recruitment grounds for businesses.

"It has come to the point that funding by corporations to schools is considered 'strategic philanthropy,'" Shaker said.

Political science professor Sam Noumoff concluded the discussion by touching more closely on the effects of privatization on the educational process.

He argued that in the absence of selfless philanthropy, government cutbacks and an outstanding debt, McGill is left with few options for funding.

According to Noumoff, corporate presence in universities erodes objectivity and distorts what students are taught, where more emphasis is placed on

technological sciences and not the social ones.

"There has to be the same energy, the same commitment, the same passion," Noumoff said of the fight against university privatization.

"But it also has to maintain a degree of analysis, of looking through the cracks in the system."

Geomatics

Continued from Page 2

geomatics engineering in Fredricton has a 100 percent employment rate for graduates and consistently earns the highest research ranking given by the university.

President of the African Students Union here at UNB, Ng'ang'a would like to invite all to join the group for African Cultural Night on March 16 which takes place at the Sub Cafeteria. To learn more about the African Students Union visit the web page at:

www.unb.ca/GGE/Research/OceanGov/main.html

UNB student receives national scholarship

by Andy Kolbeck

Sheila Levesque, a fourth-year geological engineering student at the University of New Brunswick, is the 2002 recipient of the Women's Association of the Mining Industry of Canada Foundation Annual Award.

Valued at \$1,000 the award recognizes superior academic achievement in metallurgy, geology, geophysics or related studies in earth sciences. The award is open to fourth-year students across the country studying in any one of these disciplines.

"I am very honoured to receive this award," said Ms. Levesque. "It gives me the courage to work harder to achieve my goals."

"After I graduate, I would like to do

environmental work," Levesque says. "Maybe try to design ways to solve water contamination and landfill problems."

Other than this award she has also received University of New Brunswick's Class of 1939 Scholarship, an Alumni Undergraduate Scholarship, the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists Award, and the George Cedric Ferguson Memorial Engineering Bursary. Levesque has also been named to the faculty of engineering Dean's List each year she has studied at UNB.

The geological engineering program at UNB in Fredericton is offered jointly by the departments of geology and civil engineering. Students have the option of three programs - geoenvironmental, geotechnical or mineral resources - and graduates are eligible to become professional engineers.

Tibbits Hall collecting food for Community Kitchen

by Stephanie Brunet

The UNB community should prepare to give on January 28th to February 2nd.

Tibbits Hall residents will be collecting donations for Fredericton's Community Kitchen and Emergency Shelter once again.

This is the sixth consecutive year the residents of Tibbits have collected for those in need in Fredericton. The winter months are hardest on the patrons of the Community Kitchen and the Emergency Shelter and Tibbits' drive comes at a time when Christmas stocks are running low and donations are badly needed.

The Fredericton Food Bank admits this is one of the greatest times of need for donations, as the cold months leave people more dependant on its services. Kitchen manager Mike Hobson says, however, there is always a need for donations and since Christmas the number of drop-offs have significantly diminished.

The kitchen offers lunch and supper to approximately 200 to 300 people a day, 365 days a year. Hobson says, "the donations offered by Tibbits and the UNB community make a big difference, and that it is anticipated each year."

They will accept any form of non-perishable food, and would also greatly appreciate the donation of organic foodstuffs such as potatoes and carrots for stews. Hobson also wants people to be reminded that Christmas and food drives such as this are not the only time to donate to their shelves, but all year round.

The other facility which Tibbits' efforts will be aiding is the Fredericton Emergency Shelter, which is also always in need of donations.

The shelter houses between 34-39 males and 11 women a night. The needs at the shelter are not limited to food - though they serve breakfast and after-hours meals - but for other basics such as toiletries (like shampoo). Socks and mittens are always needed at this time of year as well. Their greatest need right now, however, is durable blankets and towels. The administration says that secondhand is as good as brand new.

Donations will be collected in the lobby of Tibbits hall between Monday,

January 28th, and Saturday February 2nd. The lobby is always open and is located behind Joy Kidd House on the uphill parking lot off Mackay Drive on campus.

As well, on Saturday, February 2nd, Tibbits will conduct a door-to-door food drive at homes in the areas bounded by Priestman, Smythe, King's College and Regent Streets.

Co-organizer Pamela Della Torre looks forward to another successful drive this year. The drive managed to deliver a few vanloads last year and Della Torre is hoping people will be equally as generous this year.

Opportunities abroad information sessions

by Chris Weagle

Thinking about going abroad? There will be information meetings on Monday and Tuesday, February 4-5 in Tilley 28 from 11:30 to 12:30 for students interested in working or studying abroad.

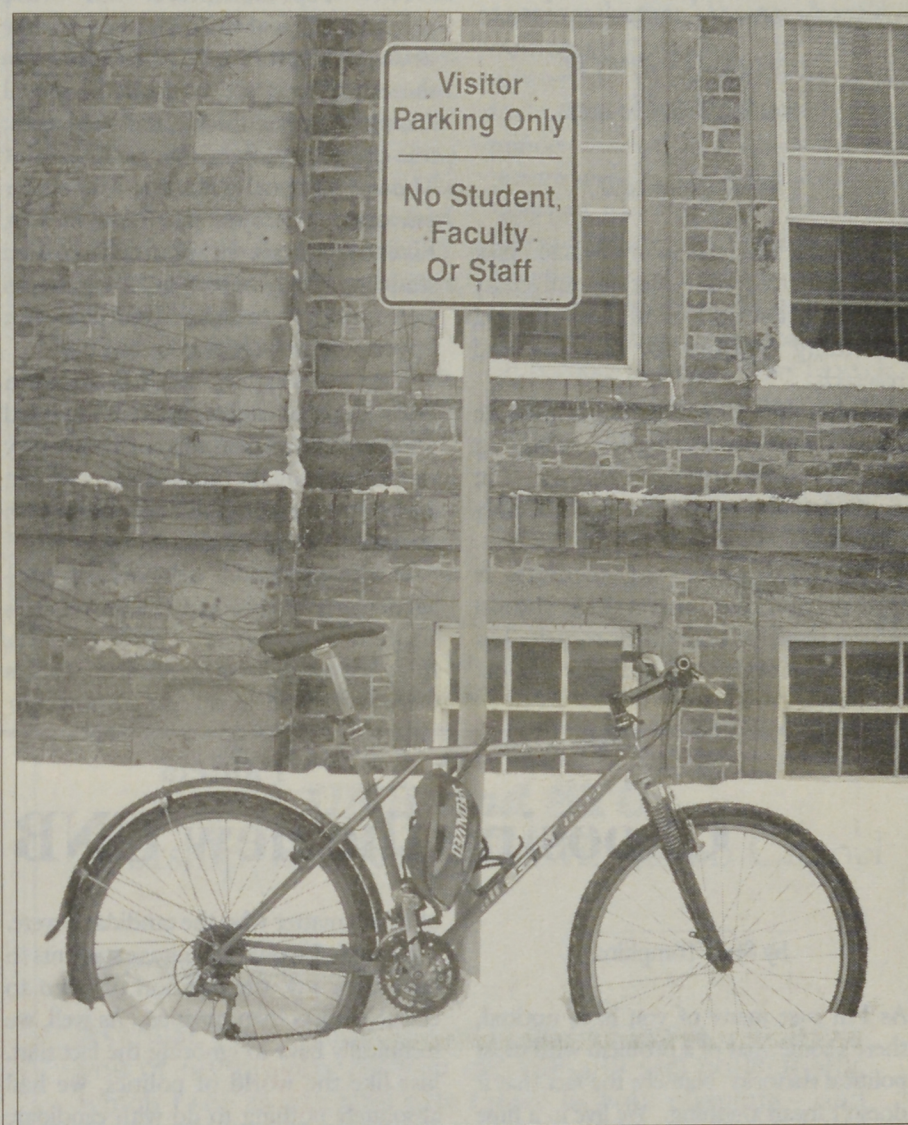
Representatives will be on hand to answer questions about studying at a foreign university or about participating in a study exchange. There will also be information about this year's Intercession Abroad destinations, about internships and volunteer work, as well as international short-term and long-term work. This event will also feature the launch of UNB's new Opportunities Abroad website.

UNB has Exchange Agreements with other universities that allow UNB students to pay UNB tuition fees and then to take their courses at another university for one term or one year. Some of the deadlines are fast-approaching, so be sure to attend if you're interested! Information about UNB exchanges may also be obtained from the following website: <http://www.unb.ca/ric/exchanges>.

Each Intercession, in May and June, the Faculty of Arts offers one or two Study Abroad sessions where courses for UNB credit are taught in other countries by UNB professors who also introduce the students to the life and culture of those countries. This year's Intercession locations are Greece and Mexico.

The University of New Brunswick encourages its students to participate in international educational experiences and

Hardcore biking



Stephanie Brunet / The Brunswickan

For many people, driving in the winter-time leads to worry and/or walking. There is, however, an alternative....

has created the Opportunities Abroad website in order to promote experiences abroad. The website is set to be launched on Monday, February 4, and representatives will be there to answer any

questions concerning internships, volunteer work, and short-term and long-term work options. If you're thinking about going abroad, then make sure you attend one of these information sessions.

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