

Students organize for journey to Quebec City

Jenn Thomas

The Brunswickan

Last weekend, thirty-five representative activists from the Atlantic Mobilization for Global Justice, or "MobGlob", met in Moncton to strategize and organize for the upcoming Summit of Americas this April in Quebec City.

The Atlantic MobGlob is a coalition of various activist groups including student, labour, and environmental, through out the Maritimes raising awareness and voices against the harmful impacts of corporate economic globalization.

The gathering began by collective decisions on the goals of the gathering, the agenda and how to carry out an effective protest. The 'practice what you preach' atmosphere demonstrated effective equality in action. Participatory democracy, consensus and decentralized rotating roles of direction made the gathering successful and proofed that so called idealistic theory is only idealist because it is said to be.

There was discussion on respect for a diversity of tactics in order to iron out differences within the movement itself. "Establishing space to openly, non-confrontationally talk about respecting diversity of tactics is essential for this movement," said an activist from Prince Edward Island.

"You don't have to specifically agree with every single action or tactic used, but to disrespect them is tactical suicide," said an activist from Halifax regarding the controversial tactics used in Seattle at the

World Trade Organization Demonstrations and the way they were portrayed in the mainstream media.

The Summit of Americas is taking place April 20 - 22, the middle of exam week, making "Academic Amnesty" among the most pressing issues of the weekend. Academic amnesty is a student campaign requesting exams be deferred for students wishing to participate in educational events and demonstrations surrounding the summit in Quebec. Students at Concordia University in Montreal, as well as Saint Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia have so far won academic amnesty. Various schools and Universities through out Canada, including UNB and STU, are actively seeking academic amnesty. "We stand in solidarity with efforts across the country to acquire academic amnesty," says Hailey Tallman, Vice President External of the Student Union for the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax.

The coalition also strategize and shared past experiences on community outreach and education on various issues and impacts of economic globalization. Logistical issues such as transportation, housing, legal and medical needs were also discussed. Solidarity, strategy and street tactics were the fulfilled goals of the weekend.

"Sock the Summit" a New Brunswick focused gathering will be held February 23-25 in Alma for both educational and regional strategizing for all levels of involvement on the issues of surrounding economic globalization. For more information contact mobgleb@punks.org.



Members of the Fredericton and area group SAAEE, (Society Against Animal and Environmental Exploitation) joined other groups across Canada last Friday, to protest the cruel practice of trapping and farming animals for fur fashion. Last week's 12th National anti-fur Protest's message was "Have a Heart - Don't Wear Fur."

City passes anti-smoking bylaw

Fredericton City Council has passed a new smoking by-law which bans smoking in certain public places within city limits.

Effective immediately, there will be no more smoking in retail operations, shopping malls, convenience stores, hotel lobbies, elevators and corridors, banks, washrooms and other public spaces.

Beginning March 18th, City Hall will require all eating establishments - except those with 24 seats or less - to designate 50 percent of their space as non-smoking.

By next year, all eating

establishments must take steps to become 100 percent smoke-free.

The by-law exempts bars, pubs, taverns, bingo halls and pool halls from the smoking ban, mainly because these places are frequented by adults and not children.

Bowling alleys can still permit smoking on their premises but only in an enclosed designated smoking area.

The City had originally considered allowing restaurants until 2003 to go 100 percent smoke-free but shortened the compliance date to 2002 because of public pressure.

Under the smoking by-law,

enforcement officers will monitor the situation and citizens can call City Hall to file a complaint if there is lack of compliance.

Lynn McNutt, a spokesperson for the New Brunswick Lung Association, still maintains the new smoking by-law does not go far enough.

She said the Association's goal is to have a 100 percent smoke-free environment and argued there is no safe level of second-hand smoke.

But McNutt did hand some credit to City Council for speeding up the time frame by 12 months for eating establishments to go smoke-free.

1,000 names on petition

Continued from Page 1

a reasonable manner both popular and unpopular ideas-is not limited to professors," Lowy said, shortly after the Concordia University Senate voted unanimously to support exam deferrals or other alternatives for students wishing to attend the Summit.

"It also applies to students, who, in addition to acquiring the information and the skills that prepare them for employment, have an opportunity at university to explore different points of view and experiment with ideas."

"Those students who today oppose the dominant political and social perspectives of the majority of Canadians (including most of their fellow students and professors) may well be among society's leaders tomorrow," he continued.

"At a time when many young people are uninterested in public affairs, do not bother to exercise their votes in elections, and focus exclusively on their own personal interests, universities have a responsibility to assist their students to become engaged, critical participants in the social process," Lowy said.

CORRECTION

A headline which appeared on page 3 of the February 9th edition of The Brunswickan should have read "Director of Student Affairs resigns at STU."

We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

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ONSTAGE PRESENTS



Onstage, Council of the Arts Fredericton opens the 2001 concert season with Tafelmusik, Canada's orchestra on period instruments, at The Playhouse on February 20 at 8:00 p.m.

Tafelmusik Tickets available at the Playhouse Box Office Adults \$30.00

It was once said that you can have your cake and eat it too - well, show up at the Bruns staff meeting for elections and the AGM today. You may just get a slice.

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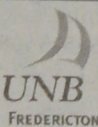
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