

THE BRUNSWICKAN

CANADA'S FIRST OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

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We are a founding member of the Canadian University Press, and love it so. We are also members of U-Wire, a media exchange of university media throughout North America. We publish weekly during the academic year with a circulation of 10,000.

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We usually will not publish letters containing attacks of a strictly personal nature. The Brunswickan reserves the right to edit for length, spelling, and grammar. The Brunswickan reserves the right not to publish any letter. Letters to The Editor must be less than 300 words in length, though exceptions may be made. All submissions must contain your name, student number and a phone number. ID will be checked when submissions are dropped off at the editorial office of The Brunswickan, otherwise verification will be done by phone.

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This issue is dedicated to:
Kristen MacDonald

Please recycle this newspaper

Women's Centre not open enough?

by Anonymous

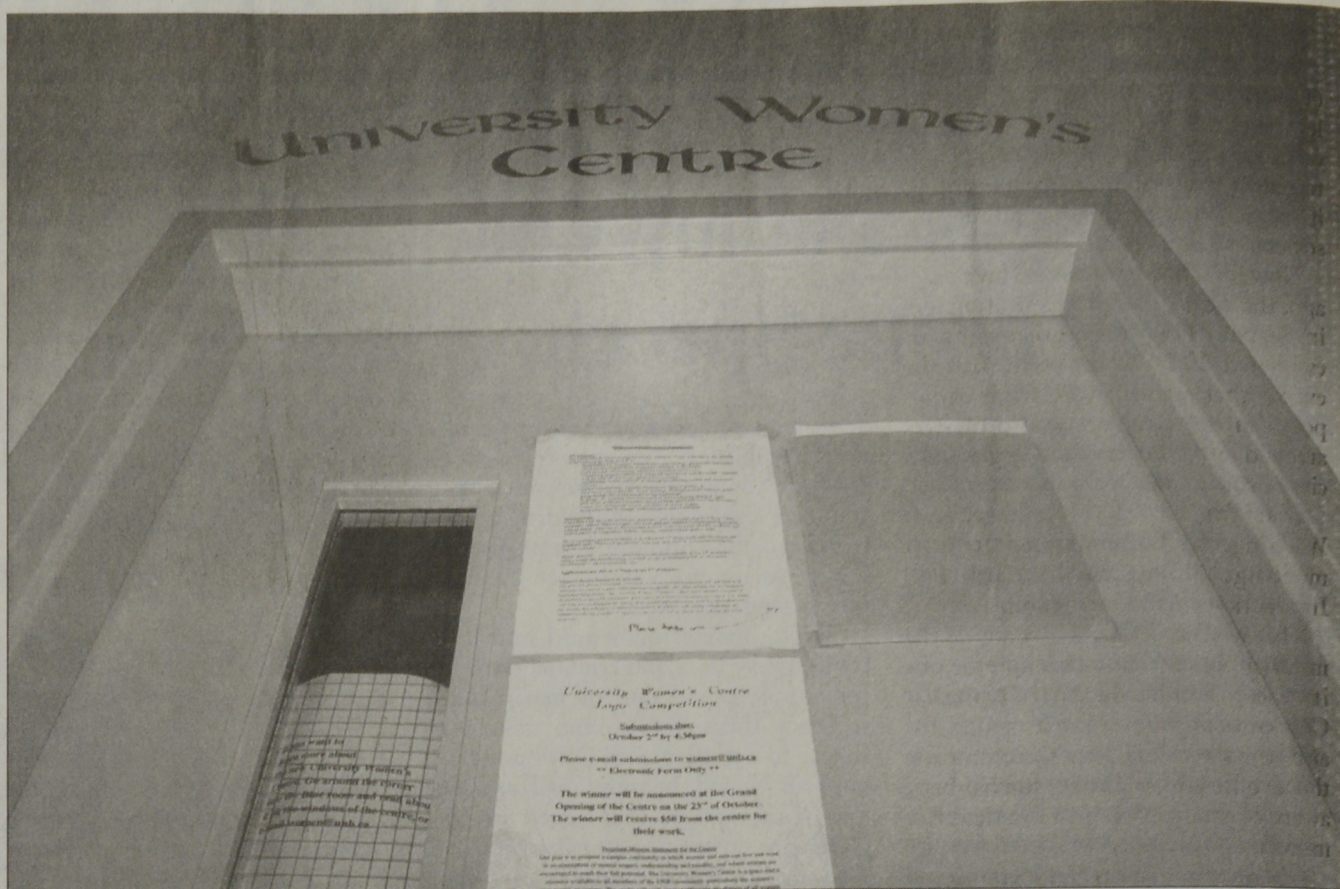
Proposed Mission Statement for the UNB Women's Centre (ss is present for the advertisement for UNB Women's Centre Coordinator): *Our goal is to promote a campus community in which women and men can live and work in an atmosphere of mutual respect, understanding and equality, and where women are encouraged to reach their full potential. The University Women's Centre is a space and a resource available to all members of the UNB community, particularly the women's community on campus. The centre will work toward affirming the dignity of all women and empowering them to control their own life choices. We will strive to address the needs of all women, staff, faculty and students on campus by offering a variety of supportive services, as well as educational, cultural and social programs.*

It seems to me that although the proposed mission for the UNB Women's Centre is to provide a "resource available to all members of the UNB community," it is catered to women only. Of course, it is a Women's Centre! My point exactly.

Through use of only one issue, gender constructions in the context of educational institutions, experienced by both men and women, I will attempt to undermine the relevance of a centre catered to women only.

I once read an essay titled "Masculinities, Sexualities, and the Student Body: 'Sorting' Gender Identities in School." It is within this piece that author Kevin Davidson explains how the dominant "hetero-masculinity" is constructed, understood, and performed. As Davidson did, many male students today struggle in "negotiating and resisting hegemonic masculinity."

How this hegemonic masculinity becomes naturalized through everyday actions within institutions is perfectly illustrated via a poster which I came across in the SUB last year. It read, "Man Day!" Curious, I stopped to read the



Stephanie Brunet/The Brunswickan

Author says both male and female students should have an open space to discuss gender issues.

poster, and learned all about the "manly" events which it hosted. The evening consisted of several events, amongst them including: a football game on tv, table-top hockey, "Simpsons," and discussions regarding cars. As Davidson, I question the place that "unconventional gender behaviour" has in institutions, much like UNB. It is without a doubt, despite several efforts made by the university, that gender performances policed by peers, are very much regulated today in school communities.

To perpetuate marginalization and promote revolution against the oppressive aspects that such a poster fosters, it seems to me that perhaps a UNB Men's Centre should be constructed?

Now, ladies and gentlemen, consider the likeness of the presence of the following poster in your SUB: "Woman Day!" Watch "Felicity," learn new hair styles, and discuss current fashions! Of course, such an event would never become a reality. The events which accompany each "gender day" are mere social constructions as to the preferred activities which accompany each gender; however, they are fanciful at most. Certainly, women experience such gendered lessons, and I therefore support the proposed support services offered by the UNB Women's Centre.

In order for a university to even begin to respond to the prevailing attitudes and social practices of sexism within school communities, it must be aware of the fact that gender (read: men and

women) is experienced and lived in multiple, complicated, and sometimes contradictory ways. Omitting feelings of marginalization and oppression among all students (read: men and women) is key in providing a safe, protective, and comforting learning environments for all students, free from the sometimes harmful social constructions of gender.

I do not propose construction of a UNB Men's Centre. I propose that rather than construction of a "Women's Centre," the Student Union Building should house a "Intervention Centre." Give male and female students a venue to explore gender issues of personal interest within a safe environment, and I promise you that the outcomes will over-succeed the proposed missions stated by the UNB Women's Centre.

The price of a pretty campus

UNB's janitorial contracting lamented

by Brendan Hemens

I applaud our university administration's initiative in restoring, improving, and beautifying the infrastructure of our campus. The many changes that have taken place over the summer and during my years here as an undergraduate support my belief that intellectual pursuit is more comfortable in an environment of beauty and comfort.

However, I am distressed that our administration sees fit to pay more attention to the bricks under our feet than the quality of life enjoyed by those who clean them. Our janitorial staff, working at a wage of less than \$7 an hour, is guaranteed to live in poverty unless they happen to be married to someone with more resources. Do hiring practices specify this as a criterion? Those who have remarked the parade of uniforms over the years know that UNB contracts its janitorial services to private companies. Even though the longer-serving janitors might not change, their

employer and wages do as a result of who offers UNB the lowest bid.

At one time, janitors were university employees, and were better paid. It was normal for the children of janitors to receive half-price tuition, a practice that ended when their jobs were turned into contract positions. Ironically, the children of professors still receive this discount, even though they are in a better position to afford full tuition. Greater paradoxes exist.

UNB allows staff \$45 per day, tax free, for food and miscellaneous expenses when travelling on university business. This is in addition to normal salaries, mileage if vehicle use is involved, and hotel charges. Yet, at current pay rates, the administration expects the janitorial staff to exist entirely on less than \$60 a day. That's all they get for food, lodging, taxes, clothes... every single item they need to live.

By accepting such low pay rates from contractors, UNB marginalizes as many as 60 people across campus, bargaining their humanity in return for the money to buy pretty landscaping and a new logo. I have met janitors unable to provide their children with the opportunities

many of us take for granted, unable even to keep themselves in healthy lodgings. Is it any wonder that staff turnover is so large, depriving our university of the very human face it desires so eagerly to promote in our calendars and web pages?

Let me estimate - if we double their wage (and even that's a pittance!), it would cost an additional \$10 an hour with normal wage benefits. For 60 staff, eight hours a day, five days a week, 52 weeks a year, I come up with about \$1.25 million. Over 6,500 full-time students, that would be an additional \$192 per year. How much of our tuition went towards these cosmetic improvements? How much should go towards ensuring a minimum quality of life for those human beings with whom we share our lives?

I would happily pay an increased tuition and sacrifice some aesthetic improvement so I could sleep at night, knowing that I didn't obtain my education on the breaking backs of those who weren't as fortunate as me. I pray that the administration wakes up to the existence of these lives they diminish every day, and start counting souls rather than counting beans.

Trick or Treat?

University to monitor students' off-campus activities?

by John Campbell
UNBSU VP Executive

I always thought Halloween was at the end of October but I guess I'm wrong! So come everyone, dig out your face paint, cut some holes in your bed sheets and get ready...there's some scary stuff going on at UNB.

The university is currently undergoing a review of the Student Discipline Code. So what...right? Well, the long and the short of it is, because of things going on in our community, students have been cast in a very bad (and undeserved) light. A consequence of this is that the university is now under pressure to start disciplining students for their off-campus behavior.

What does this really mean? Well, if some people in Fredericton had their way, fines you receive from the city would show up on your university financial statement, or even your transcript. So, for example, if you don't pay that parking ticket you got downtown, then you wouldn't get your marks, or the next time you go to pay tuition, you may see that noise violation fine there waiting for you.

Now, these are some pretty extreme examples, but I think you get the idea of what could start happening. I understand that the citizens of Fredericton are concerned with the well-being of our community, however, I think that getting the university to enforce municipal by-laws is simply abusing the relationship that UNB has with its students.

As students, we come to UNB for an education. We pay good money to be here, and like any other service that we pay for, we expect to be given the opportunity to gain a quality education. Although a university plays a big role in society, there is a line where the university's responsibility for its students ends.

The question is where is that line? Is it at the gates of UNB? Is it the city limits? Should 'the line' be rigid, or allow room for some discretion? These are questions that need to be answered by students and the administration.

Your UNB Student Union will be trying to answer these questions over the next few months, but in order for us to do that, we need to know your opinion on the subject. If you would like to have some input on this, feel free to come in and see either myself, or Kate Whitfield, the SU President, and we can sit down with you and talk about it. You can also send us an email on the subject at unbsu@unb.ca, or give us a call at 453-4955.

Column: The ramblings of a madman

by Nathan White

(Editor's Note: This is a new column that will be appearing weekly in The Brunswickan. Nathan can be reached through email at qlevn@unb.ca.)

Off-campus students are taking their lives into their hands every morning. Students living in the neighbourhood immediately west of the university have to cross Windsor St. to get to class every day. Unfortunately, there is no crosswalk for them between King's College Road and Beaverbrook Street.

Dineen Drive, the on-campus street that runs parallel to Windsor, has about seven crosswalks in a similar area. So why the lack of legal crossing areas on the city's side of campus?

Cyril Hawkins of the city's Public Works

Department says that there "should be enough breaks in traffic" for students to cross. Anyone who crosses the street in the morning knows that this is not the case. Windsor while far from the busiest street in the city, does have a fair amount of traffic, especially at prime class times. Couple this with hundreds of students crossing at random places on the street, and there is often confusion about who has the right of way, particularly around the intersection with Albert.

Hawkins says the city has no plan at this time to mark a crosswalk on Windsor St. He mentioned that there are several similar locations in the city.

"We try to channelize (sic) pedestrians to key locations... we can't arbitrarily go and mark them all."

It would seem that a street hundreds

of students cross every day would be a "key location."

Staff Sgt. Barry McKnight of the City Police gave the law's point of view. He said that pedestrians are "allowed to cross the street anywhere... but (must) yield to traffic." If it is too busy to cross, he suggested that pedestrians "go to the nearest crosswalk." In this case, that would mean walking all the way up to King's College Road, or down to Beaverbrook Street, which is obviously impractical.

McKnight said the city pays more attention to having crosswalks near places like elementary schools, and other places where pedestrians "ability to cross the street is not as good." However, he also pointed out that Prospect Street recently had new traffic lights put it, at

least partly due to concern from adult learners at a nearby computer college.

According to McKnight, a pedestrian struck by a vehicle on Windsor Street "could be charged under the Motor Vehicle Act." Although this would not necessarily be the case, it is a sobering fact to think about.

This is an issue for the city's Engineering Department to decide, but perhaps the university and its students should raise the issue. If the university were to suggest two or three "key locations" to connect the west side of Windsor St. to campus, surely the city would paint a few lines on the street. Hopefully they will do this, if not to avoid a serious incident, then at least to better organize the flow of traffic, both vehicle and pedestrian.

of reality television.

Harper then said, "Well, maybe if the Liberal government would pledge more money into our armed forces rather than pledging to spend more on useless, regardless things like Native assistance, education, and marijuana legalization I'd have a way to get there, to get Saddam myself. Also, we should unite the right."

It was Bush's turn to speak next, but since the producers realized he hasn't ever said anything at all comprehensible they just presented a few quotes for him to explain.

1. "When I'm talking about myself, and when he's talking about myself, all of us are talking about me."

2. "I was raised in the West, the West of Texas. It's pretty close to California,

in more ways than Washington is close to California."

3. "We ought to make the pie higher." The host asked Bush to explain exactly what he meant. "I didn't," he replied in a gesture of pure comic genius, I hope.

So Chretien was up next, and hot off the heels of his party's speech from the throne, he had a lot to say. "You can see this is an activist agenda. I used to be an activist." Chretien smiled, seemingly proud of his statement as he walked away.

They ran out of time to do another challenge, but make sure you tune in to next week for part two of *Political Fear Factor* to see what kinds of challenges our glorious leaders will compete in.

Political Fear Factor

Continued from Page 5

ended up asking people if they'd seen Saddam bin-Laden." Confusing. Chretien just followed Bush around as they walked back-to-back through the countryside.

Up next was the ever popular eating challenge. Usually this involves some kind of grotesque meat, such as water-buffalo penises. However, tonight the challenge was for each participant to eat his own words.

This time Harper had to go first, but he was suddenly replaced by Stockwell Day, as Harper realized he didn't have