

THE BRUNSWICKAN NATIONAL NEWS

FROM UNIVERSITY NEWSROOMS ACROSS CANADA

Parties promise change in Newfoundland

Premier Roger Grimes sets fall election

by Nadya Bell

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — Premier Roger Grimes called an election last Monday, ending nearly two years of speculation. Newfoundlanders and Labradorians will elect a government on Oct. 21.

The Liberals, Conservatives, and NDP held press conferences at the provincial legislature later that day to unveil their parties' platforms—each claiming its party would bring change to the province.

The Liberals and Conservatives sweated in crowded conference rooms and played rock-style Newfoundland music to an enthusiastic crowd, while the NDP's conference was quick, casual, and without fanfare.

Grimes unveiled the Liberal party's "Take a Closer Look" campaign,

focusing on the province's successes over the past few years. He promised these changes would continue under another Liberal government.

Recent economic growth, decreases in taxes and university tuition, and population numbers indicating a net in-migration of people in the province were hailed as successes of the Liberal government.

"We have risen above those who have said we'd never succeed. Our province, Newfoundland and Labrador, the best province in Canada, is succeeding today," said Grimes. "The government that I lead has embarked on an agenda of change that challenged the status quo."

Investment in healthcare and education are at the center of the Liberals' platform, as Grimes claimed that everyday life issues were more important for his party than mega-projects for industry.

The Liberals outlined a tax break for post-secondary graduates working

in the province, no matter where they graduate. The first \$100,000 earned by a post-secondary graduate will be free from provincial income tax.

The party also plans to increase the accessibility of student loans for middle-income families by reducing the parental contribution by 40 per cent.

No tuition reductions were included in the platform, but there was a commitment to provide sufficient operating grants to the university so tuition would remain stable.

In contrast to the "core values" message of the Liberal party, Danny Williams' Conservatives focused on providing clear leadership and economic development for the province in their press conference—held directly after Grimes announced the date of the election.

The opposition party's "Real Leadership: The New Approach" campaign made it quite clear they stand for a change from the Liberals,

representing a fiscally conservative style of government and an end to government spending "giveaways."

"This team presents a stark contrast and a strong alternative to a tired and weakened government that has been in office almost 15 years," said Williams.

Williams also called for a more aggressive approach to intergovernmental relations, new industry to stop out-migration, and a focus on secondary processing.

"I can assure you that we will grow our economy by creating an environment that allows businesses to set up shop and expand, create meaningful employment for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians," he said.

The PC blue book contains some controversial changes for Memorial University. These include updating the Memorial University Act and doubling the student representation on the university's Board of Regents

to four members.

The Tories also plan to introduce "an effective mechanism for regularly evaluating the financial and program decisions of Memorial University." This would likely take the form of an external audit of the university, something Williams supported at an informal meeting at Memorial two weeks ago.

Both the Tories and Liberals proposed changes to the student loan program, and maintain a tuition freeze for Memorial.

Without an official room to hold its conference, Jack Harris led the New Democratic Party in a shorter performance in the lobby of the Confederation Building, unveiling his party's "Real Change" slogan.

Although the NDP platform book was not ready, this did not bother Harris, who felt voters were familiar with his party's solid ideological base. His party's policies include creating a public auto insurance program and

increasing minimum wage.

Compared to the other parties, post-secondary education received little attention from the NDP. Harris mentioned that student debt load should be eliminated but didn't go into greater detail.

The NDP does not have a full slate of candidates yet, although they are hoping to have 48 by the election. Even so, Harris's message was aimed towards increasing the number of NDP members in the house, rather than forming a government.

"[The people of the province] haven't yet looked to us to form a government to deliver those things, but I think they're ready to accept that having more of us there will make a difference," said Harris.

"Real change will not come from simply flipping the Liberal-Tory coin," he said.

Recent polls show the Tories leading the Liberals, with the NDP in a distant third.

Demonstrators demand troops leave Iraq, Afghanistan

1000 mark third anniversary of al-Aqsa intifada

by Stephen Hui

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Shoppers gawked and tourists reached for their cameras as over 1,000 people marched against war and occupation in the streets of Vancouver on Sept. 28.

The rectangular route began and ended outside the Vancouver Art Gallery, where demonstrators listened to speakers who told them the ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq continue to kill, and the occupations of those countries and Palestine must end.

"Now they are trying to get Canada into this war, and Canada should maintain its stance," Dr. Ali Mihirig, a Muslim community activist, said of the United States-led war in Iraq.

Demonstrators kicked off the hour-long march through the city's downtown core with the chant: "Troops out now." Traffic backed up



Stephen Hui / Canadian University Press

SFU student Charlie Demers speaks out against war and occupation.

for blocks as they carried their placards down Robson Street, a shopping mecca for tourists. Outside a Canadian Forces recruiting office, demonstrators paused to watch street

theatre that depicted camouflaged soldier as puppets killing civilians.

"Occupation is a crime," said Bill Saunders, president of the Vancouver and District Labour Council. "And

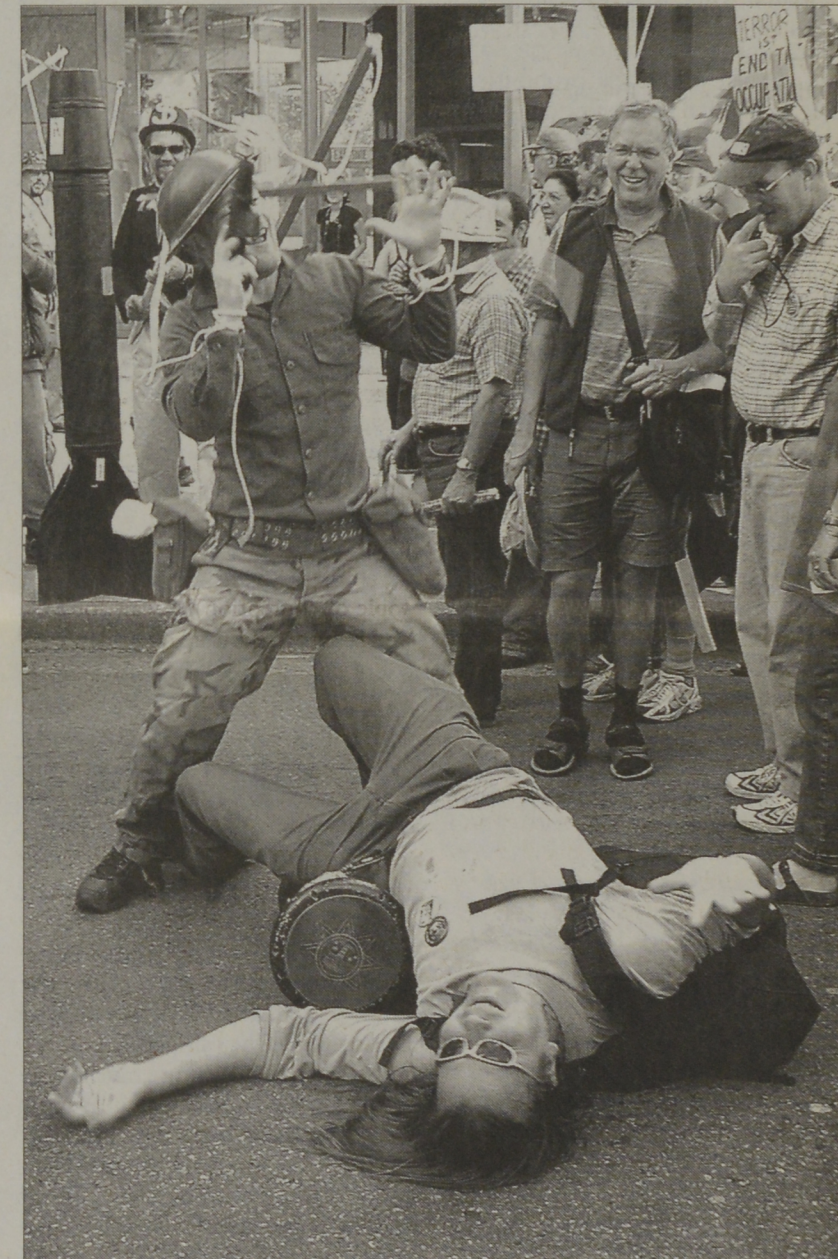
if you're confused on that point, just consider for a minute if we had foreign troops in this city, and they were walking around with guns and the ability—without reference to any law or process—determine your life or your death."

Demonstrators observed a moment of silence in honour of postcolonial intellectual Edward Said, who advocated Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation based on equality and justice. Said, a professor at Columbia University in New York, died of leukemia Sept. 25 at the age of 67.

The rally also marked the third anniversary of the start of the al-Aqsa intifada in 2000. On Sept. 28 that year, Ariel Sharon, then an Israeli opposition leader and now prime minister, visited the Jerusalem holy site known as al-Haram ash-Sharif or the Temple Mount with over 1,000 police. The next day, police shot and killed four demonstrators, igniting protests throughout the occupied territories. More than 3,400 people have been killed, including over 2,600 Palestinians and 800 Israelis, since the second Palestinian uprising began.

"The Palestinians have said, 'We're staying, we'll be here'—just like we'll be here in the streets as long as this war continues," Charlie Demers, a Palestine Solidarity Group member and Simon Fraser University student, told the crowd.

Several students from West Vancouver secondary school attended the rally. Damon Ramsey, co-founder of Youth Against Landmines, said the students are fundraising to help clear a minefield in Afghanistan and aim to raise awareness in their school of the impact of war and occupation.



Stephen Hui / Canadian University Press

Anti-occupation demonstrators enjoy some street theatre in downtown Vancouver.

STUDENT UNION
UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

STUDENT UNION
OFFICIAL CANDIDATES LIST
(October 3rd, 2003)

Senate 1-year Seats (2 available)

Dezan, Fane P.
Mercer, Alyson
Moran, Chris
Tigheelaar, Brandon

Senate 2-year Seat (1)
Lockhart, Desmond (acclaimed)

Engineering Rep (1)
Delage, Geoffrey (Yes/No)

Computer Science Rep (1)
Bossé, Paul F.
Orser, Chris

Administration Rep (1)
Pitre, Todd (Yes/No)

Nursing Rep (1)
None

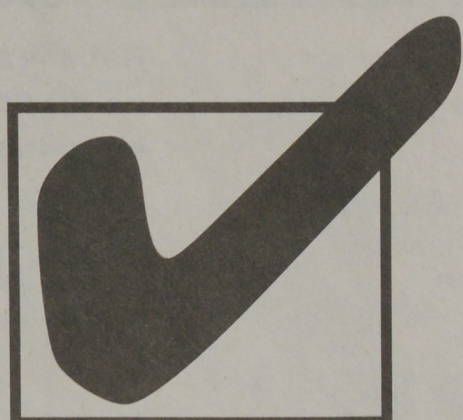
Arts Rep (1)
Shaw, Jennie (Yes/No)

BY-ELECTION
2003

• Voting starts October 9th at 12am and ends October 12th at 11:59pm.

• Results will be made available to the public October 13th.

• Students can access the on-line voting under current student e-services (their is a tab labelled voting).



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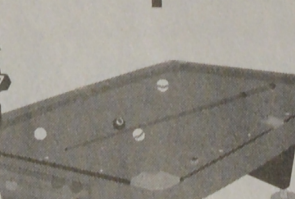


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Sunday Nights

Bar Staff & friends 10 - 2am
Bacardi \$2.00 a shot
Canadian & Coors Light \$2.50



1st Prize \$600
2nd Prize \$200
3rd Prize \$100

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