



Brendan Doyle/The Brunswickan

Not all demonstrators were there to protest same-sex marriage.

## More mothers choose to nurse

Nursing continued from Page 1

great one. "Sometimes you just feel exposed," Hape-Gould said. "People think [making a place more comfortable for mothers and babies] has to be a big deal, but it doesn't have to be anything elaborate. It doesn't even have to be a separate area, just a quiet area where you aren't out in the open," explained Hape-Gould. However, not everyone is supportive of the idea of public breastfeeding. UNB student Bridget Maxwell believes a lot of people are still shocked to see nursing mothers in public. "The breast has become a sexual object and people can't get past that," said Maxwell. "People are not used to the idea that breastfeeding is the natural way," added fellow student Jia Dong

Kang. According to the committee, breastfeeding is the single healthiest way to nurture a baby, not to mention the most economical and environmentally friendly. "It's not a lifestyle choice," said Dr. Gail Storr of the Faculty of Nursing. "It's a health issue." The short and long-term health benefits for both mother and child are well documented. The World Health Organization recommends infants be exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life. In New Brunswick, the number of families choosing to breastfeed has been steadily increasing over the last 10 years. But many mothers still feel uncomfortable nursing in public. Dr. Storr notes that in order to change people's attitudes about breastfeeding, it is important to know the benefits of breastfeeding. She claims we live in a culture where the bottle has become ubiquitous as

a symbol of the baby. We have become a non-breastfeeding culture. The idea of breastfeeding a baby can be a daunting concept. For Hape-Gould, being positive is essential. "People need to go into it with an open mind that they can do it," said Hape-Gould. The important thing is to get people talking about the issues and to provide information and support systems for families. "If you grow up in a bottle-feeding family, the support isn't there," said Doucet. She says support is crucial to success. There are numerous resources available for mothers and families, including Bosom Buddies in Oromocto, the DECH Breastfeeding Clinic, and La Leche League Canada. The UNB Breastfeeding Clinic hosts bi-weekly drop-in meetings for families in addition to other support.

## Rally expresses concern

Marriage continued from Page 1

who feel strongly that marriage should stay as one man and one woman. Several families were there as well, some split over what they believe. "The people of Canada have been hijacked by the courts, and we have become too complacent with things like that," said Susan Hall, a resident of Fredericton Junction. "Marriage predates the church and society and we do not have the right to change that. We saw what happened to Roman society when they did whatever they wanted, and the whole society died out. The same thing will happen to us," she continued. Jonathan Dort was there with his wife and daughter to listen to what they speakers had to say. He said he's neutral on the issue. "By all rights everyone is created equal and everyone has their opinion. I think this rally was needed to make the public more aware of both views," said Dort. Although same-sex marriage is an ongoing and strongly debated topic, steps have been taken by Parliament to include the rights of same-sex partnerships in legal terms. In a vote held in September, the Canadian Alliance's motion to preserve the traditional definition of marriage was defeated by a vote of 137 to 132.

## UNB president pans Globe rankings

UNB below average in student opinion survey

by Sean Patrick Sullivan

The University of New Brunswick has been dealt a below average grade in the *Globe and Mail's* annual University Report Card. The report was included with the *Globe* last Wednesday, and was based on the responses of 26,000 students from 38 universities. The survey asked students to rate their satisfaction with various aspects of their school, and ranks campuses in more than 20 categories. Though UNB ranked in the top 10 for technology resources and courses (registration, variety, and availability), it performed considerably lower in other areas, including quality of education (23th), student services (25th), buildings and facilities (26th) and off-campus life (32th). UNB's President Dr. John McLaughlin said he is quite concerned about how the ratings were put together. Only 305 students from UNB participated in the report card. "Is it a random sample? Forget about the relatively small sample size, but who responds - is it an effective cross-section [of the student population]?" he asked. "I think there are legitimate concerns about the survey." The study has been criticized in the national media because the only respondents were members of a financial aid website, StudentAwards.com.

McLaughlin said the *Globe* still has a lot to learn. "It's a new survey. It's legitimate to try to canvas student opinion, but I think they've got a long ways to go before they've got a rigorous survey that's effectively going to compete with *Maclean's*," he said. *Maclean's* publishes the well-known *Maclean's Guide to Universities* each spring. McLaughlin also noted that UNB has work to do if it wishes to rank higher in national reports. "We're somewhere in the middle of the pack - if we're going to do better with surveys over time, we're going to need more resources," said McLaughlin. He noted that a lot of money has been invested into the library since students raised concerns a few years ago, a fact reflected in UNB's 11th place in library facilities. Student Union President Milan Chotai agrees that there's room for improvement at UNB. He explained that many of the issues raised in the rankings are known by the university, including deficiencies in student affairs and services. "I believe that as the university moves toward a better financial position, we will be able to start fixing these problems," said Chotai. Though he is generally pleased with the results, Chotai doesn't think the *Globe* survey is an accurate representation of UNB. "The only validity to ranking us across the country is that it was done by a group outside by talking to students here, and relating that to what other students across the country are saying."

## Strike woes at community college

CUPE continued from Page 1

done from inside the building. "This wreaks havoc in everyone's life in different ways," she said. "If we wanted to pay for correspondence, we would have." Roughly 6000 students are affected by the strike. Though the colleges say the instructors are available to offer help,

Clark said students haven't exactly been rushing in. "Everyone is worried that if they go in for a while they'll get sick," she said, adding that only one toilet is available in each of the two remaining bathrooms, and supplies like toilet paper and soap are limited. The air is stale and fruit flies hover over the garbage cans, she said.

CUPE Local 1251 represents 533 workers, including correctional officers, councillors, and custodians. The province and the union are in disagreement over wage increases, and as of press time have not shown any sign of returning to the negotiating table.

## Discussing cooperatives in PEI

Cooperative projects improving public health worldwide

by Erin Hancock

To celebrate International Cooperative Week, 26 people from Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Alberta, Ghana and Nepal attended a conference in Souris, PEI last weekend. The conference promoted discussion on recent health issues throughout the world. Issues from

AIDS to health care for seniors were tackled by various guest speakers. Don Landry, who initiated a Tignish community project to provide more health services, spoke about the process of developing the project. "Any community can do anything they put their minds to as long as they recognize the need themselves," said Landry. Landry said outside planners are not necessary if there is community support. Jennifer Melanson from SunRoot Farms in Hants County, NS, discussed starting the community agriculture project. "The program started around the idea of providing healthy foods for the community, but has since expanded to meet the needs of the community," Melanson said. Melanson, along with coworkers, has initiated many educational projects through the farm including self-esteem workshops and social justice. Joyce Humble, an employee at the Capital Credit Union in

Fredericton, discussed her trip with the Canadian Cooperative Association to the Philippines in 2001. "I learned more about cooperatives [when I was there] in a week than I do in a year back home," said Humble. She said the cooperatives are the lifeline in the communities. Humble has since started an initiative to gather eyeglasses to send to Lamac, a community in the Philippines. Jennifer Sloat, from the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation had groups examine the impacts of traveling to communities. Sloat traveled to Fiji to examine tourism and the objectification of people in cultures where tourists travel to. When discussing the impact tourists have on communities, she suggested people should respect the holy places. "Many tourists may visit a Buddhist temple and not remove their shoes; it's important to know about the culture before you go," said Sloat.

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word of the week:

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