Student Union Roundup

New Year's Lowdown

by John Campbell
UNBSU VP Executive

Happy New Year everyone! I hope that everyone had a long, stress-free holiday season, and are ready to get back at it! Hope you got the marks and all the presents that you wanted over the break.

Well, the first week of this term is done, and your Student Union is back at it, trying to serve you the best we can. Over the next four months, we will be working hard for you as we continue to provide services, representation, activities and entertainment for you.

Here's the low down on what we're up to over the while:

• January 10th. Looking for part time work over the winter, and a full time summer job? We're looking for a Chair for our Orientation committee. Applications are due January 10th!

• January 13th, 12:30-1:30 in Tilley 102. There will be an open forum with Dr. John McLaughlin, President of UNB. Dr. McLaughlin will be on hand to answer your questions, and listen to your comments.

• January 15th. Looking for a part time job? We're looking to hired a CRO for our elections. Applications are due on January 15th?

• January 29th in the Ballroom, come see Sam Roberts live in concert. Tickets are available now from the Paper Trail in the SUB.

• February 4th to the 18th. Want a position on the UNB Student Union? General elections nominations open of February 4th and close on the 18th.

• February 8th. Watch out for Snow Odyssey, our annual Winter Carnival! Take a break and come

• February 22nd and 23rd, get ready for our Annual Red N'Black Revue. It's our long running campus variety show that features lots of campus talent!

• Tuesday nights at 5:30: room 103 of the SUB are Student Union council nights! Have something to say? Want to find out what's going on? These meetings are open to the public. Drop by and see what your union is doing!

Believe it or not, there's still more! We're still working away at running all of our services, lobbying the provincial and federal governments on a number of topics, and representing your best interests on and off campus.

If want to know more about anything, drop us a line at unbsu@unb.ca, or drop by the office in room 126 of the SUB.

Ramblings of a madman

Attack of the clones

by Nathan White

According to self-proclaimed human cloning company Clonaid, the first human clone, a baby named Eve, was born on December 26 and is alive and well, with more clones on the way. This announcement could cause major shockwaves in the science community, and affect the very moral fibre of society as a whole. Or it could just be an elaborate hoax to draw attention to the Raelian movement, the religious group behind the company.

If the latter is true, then this column serves merely to fan the flames ignited by a bold fraud. While Clonaid originally insisted that their claim would be proven with a DNA test, they now say that the family is having second thoughts about allowing the test.

"As you may understand our main concern now is the baby's health as well as its safety," says the company's website, and while this compassion is commendable, it leaves the question on millions of minds unanswered, causing many to become sceptical.

So instead of making predictions about the societal impact of human cloning or the moral implications of humans "playing God," let's first take a closer look at what's really important. Is human cloning really possible? For now, this question has likely the same answer as "Can Clonaid be trusted?"

Exactly how reliable can a company headed by the bishop of a cult be? According to the group's beliefs, life on earth was created by alien humans, a race called Elohim, a word they claim has been mistranslated to "God" in The Bible. They go on to claim that Jesus' resurrection was actually an advanced cloning technique performed by the Elohim.

While their claims of hoping to offer eternal life through advanced cloning techniques (eventually they hope to clone adults directly, and copy personality and memories) seem a bit far-fetched, the company seems to have some attainable visions. For example, they hope to improve the lives of homosexuals, people with AIDS, or other people with complications producing children sexually by allowing them to have children they are genetically related to.

The Raelians certainly are an interesting bunch. Most of you are probably snickering at the mere mention of their beliefs, but remember, many great thinkers (Galileo and the Wright Brothers come to mind) were once laughed at for suggesting ideas that, at the time, seemed ridiculous.

Assuming this ever does happen, there will be lots of things to argue about. Is human cloning morally wrong? Have we finally crossed the line between advancing science and "playing God"? Will the process cause unforeseen and terrible defects? Will people use the technology for evil purposes? Should laws be made to suppress the technology? And, hey, the irony of the first human clone being created the same year that a certain science fiction movie portrayed an enormous galactic army of clones could create some interesting George Lucas conspiracy theories. A debate on cloning could rage forever, and probably will if Clonaid's claim is proven to be true.

However, until that time comes, I will remain sceptical. In 100 years, cloning may be a normal part of society (and yes, it probably will end up being used for evil purposes), but until Clonaid comes up with the hard evidence, it is more likely to be written off as a joke by some crazy religious fanatics.

Just a thought...

Stress freaking you out?

by Joanne Barr

It's that time of year again; when nerves are frayed and tensions run high. For university students, the first term is over but classes have started up again with new resolve to "do better." It's a time when students and faculty alike can feel stressed.

In the October edition of *The Oprah Magazine*, there was an article on stress relief. Oprah Winfrey explains how breathing helps her keep her mind, body and spirit connected in a stressful world. She asks, "Ever notice how often you unconsciously hold your breath?" She maintains nothing is more effective than a deep slow intake of breath and its release for surrendering what you can't control.

Winfrey admits, "What I know for sure is that your breath is your anchor, the gift we've all been given to centre ourselves in this very moment. None of us is built to run nonstop. That's why, when you don't give yourself the time and care you need, your body rebels in the form of sickness and exhaustion. So stop. Go mindless. Breathe. Let go. And remind yourself that this very moment is the only one you know you have for sure."

Other ways of easing stress include taking a hot bath, having a full body massage, practicing yoga, going for a walk, writing in a journal, listening to music, guided meditation, reiki and sometimes just talking to another human being.

If you are experiencing difficulty and need an objective listener, there are many people on campus who are available to help... professors, staff, counsellors, and chaplains.

There are also places to go when you need "time out." One place, which is new to the UNB/STU campus, is the University Women's Centre. It is located in the SUB and it's open to anyone. Drop in and *relax*!









