

# Student strike strives for solidarity

Groups march in solidarity throughout UNB/STU

by David MacCoubrey

Campus was full of sights and sounds as cold, determined protestors filled the snow-lined paths this week.

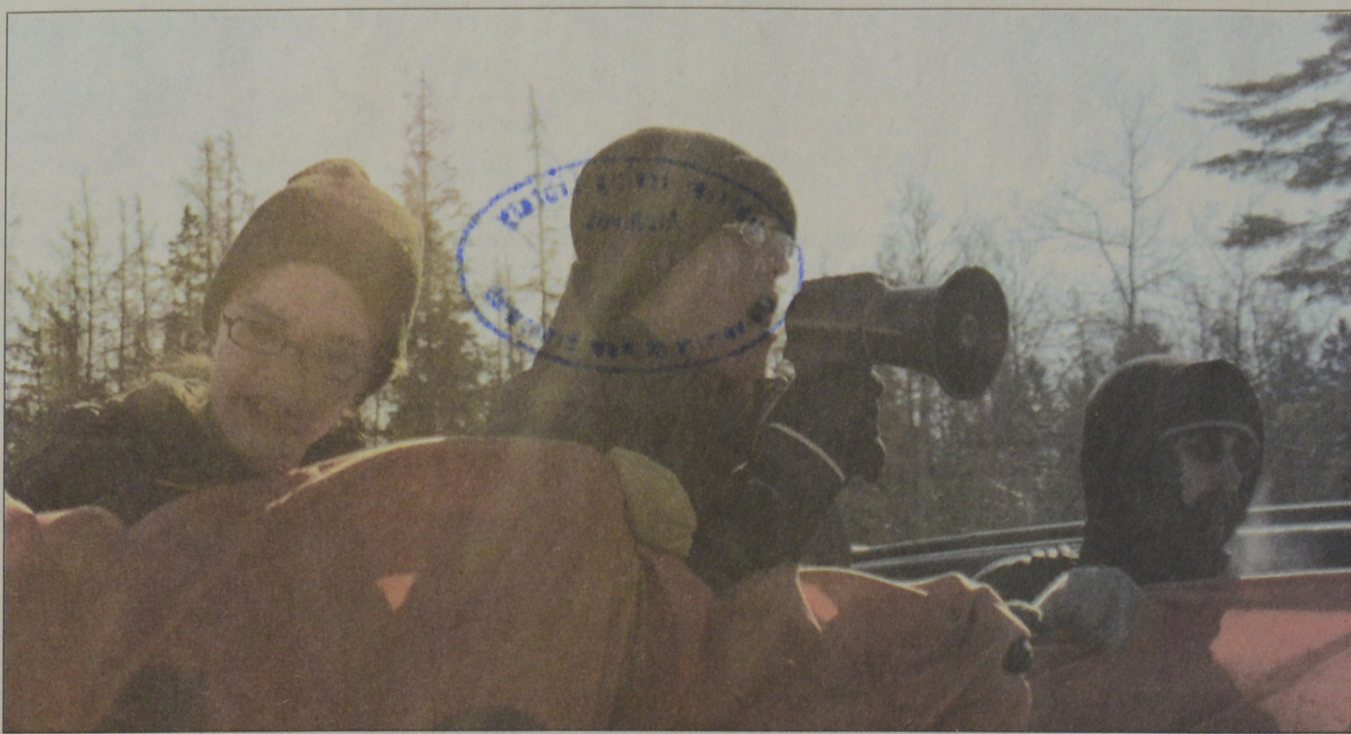
Students representing the University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University met Wednesday at noon, in the lobby of the UNB Student Union Building, to protest the current tensions between the United States and Iraq.

Approximately 60 protestors, accompanied by a drum ensemble, gathered to join in a national student protest, slated for March 5th, 2003. They came out, in solidarity, a week early in order to compensate for March break, occurring next week.

The protest had three goals involving the two universities' administrations.

Shane Martinez, a STU student, alleges that the universities' presidents are meeting with executives from the Carlisle Group. This company has investments in arms and munitions companies involved with the conflict in Iraq, according to Martinez.

Secondly, Martinez stated that the administration for the schools have not made official declarations of peace for the



Emma Hutchman/The Brunswickan

A cold breeze couldn't deter these protestors from speaking out on Wednesday.

Middle East. Those in charge of the protest viewed this abstinence as a serious omission.

Army recruitment at universities was the third focus for the congregation.

The group believes that universities should not allow the Canadian government to enter universities with the

intention of recruiting students. Many universities across the country have policies that prohibit such activities.

Additionally the group questioned the activities of the Fredericton City Council and the Police Force. Allegations of mistreatment of protestors and racial discrimination by the police were made

by Martinez.

As well, he discussed the possibility of Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) involvement in photographing and questioning citizens of Fredericton.

Peter MacDonald, a UNB student, was in attendance at the event. He believes that a pre-emptive war with Iraq is

wrong, which has been demonstrated throughout history. Furthermore he deems there are peaceful resolutions to any problematic situation, such as a recent discovery of long-range missiles in Saddam Hussein's weapon arsenal.

"Nothing happens behind the barrel of a gun," stated Macdonald. "That is why we are here today."

"I am here today to make a statement against war and to gather information about the situation in the Middle East," said UNB student, Kate Whitfield. STU student Joanna Laskey also echoed this sentiment.

The protestors marched around STU and UNB, eventually stopping at each university administration offices respectively, to make a statement about the topics in question. Unfortunately, the presidents of each school were not available at either venture.

The event proceeded without much hindrance, except for an incident at the STU Cafeteria, when an unnamed student started a heated debate about the validity of having a war protest on a university campus. Words were exchanged and the conflict was resolved without incident.

A helicopter representing CFB Gagetown was also spotted over the protest. According to an anonymous protestor, the pilot was a friend of one of the activists.

## Alliance Quebec Prez charged with assault on McGill student

Montreal lawyer Brent Tyler to appear in court this may

by Ned Richardson-Little  
Quebec Bureau

MONTREAL (CUP) — The president of a Quebec English-rights group will appear in court this May, facing charges that he assaulted McGill University law student Chris Dye and his brother.

The charges against Alliance Quebec President Brent Tyler stem from an

incident in April 2002, during AQ's last presidential election. Dye, then leader of AQ's youth wing, did not support Tyler's bid for re-election.

According to Dye, Tyler attacked his brother who was filming the incident. Several minutes later, Dye claims that Tyler tried to trip him, though he did not fall.

Tyler, a Montreal lawyer known for his many lawsuits against Quebec language laws, has denied any wrongdoing and says he isn't worried by the trial.

"If Chris Dye wants a trial, he'll get a trial. That's my comment," said Tyler.

## Universal bus pass a go for UBC

Third BC university to introduce pass within the last five years

by Kevin Groves, B.C. Bureau

VANCOUVER (CUP) — University of British Columbia (UBC) students looking to take the bus on the cheap have been given their ticket to ride after a recent referendum to bring in a universal bus pass was given overwhelming support at the polls.

Nearly 70 per cent of the 15,502 students who voted in the Feb. 10-14 referendum were in favour of bringing a UPass to UBC, starting next September.

The pass will cost \$20 per month during a standard September-April school year. It will be added to the current \$33.50 UBC student fee, with some exemptions.

In exchange, a UBC student will get unlimited access to Vancouver buses, light-rail transit, and ferry service plus discounted fares for the West Coast Express, a light-rail service to communities on the fringes of the Lower Mainland.

Free access to UBC TREK transportation programs, such as a van service to Vancouver International Airport, are also included in the deal.

"We are most definitely pleased that the UPass passed," said Tara Learn, an executive member of the student union. "We've been working on bringing a UPass here since 1999."

Learn was also pleased that more than 10,000 UBC students voted for the UPass, a record for a university that typically sees less than five per cent of its



Kevin Groves/BC Bureau

UBC student waits for the #10 heading for downtown Vancouver

roughly 37,000 full-time students vote in annual student society elections.

In this case, there was no doubt that the majority of UBC students cared enough to vote, said Learn.

But whether UBC students will actually use the UPass is still open to question, said Dale Dickie, a Vancouver bus driver.

That's because in Dickie's experience, commuters change their transit plan gradually, not immediately.

"So there won't be a change right away," he said. "But when it does happen, if we don't deal with it very well, commuters will go back to their old transit plan."

And while Dickie agrees that buses in Vancouver are reliable most of the time, he said he wonders how Translink, the Vancouver corporation that manages public transit in the Lower Mainland, will deal with the influx of UPass commuters, and make good on a promise

to increase transit service by 30 per cent that was announced last month.

"To do those things, [Translink] is going to have to acquire more buses and increase service to anything that serves the universities and colleges," Dickie said, mentioning the popular B-Line buses that service the Broadway Corridor, famous for being full and lumbering past angry would-be commuters on weekday mornings.

"That would be a good start if Translink is really serious about a 30 per cent increase," said Dickie.

Translink spokesman Ken Hardie said his company is more than ready to meet growing service demands.

"We're getting the equipment to provide additional service hours to lines that serve both SFU and UBC," he said adding that four bus routes that serve UBC will soon have increased service.

(SEE PASS, PAGE 4)

### Brun word of the week: masticate v.t.

1. To chew

2. To reduce, as rubber, to a pulp by crushing or kneading.

(Gk. mastichaein = to gnash ones teeth)

- Funk & Wagnalls

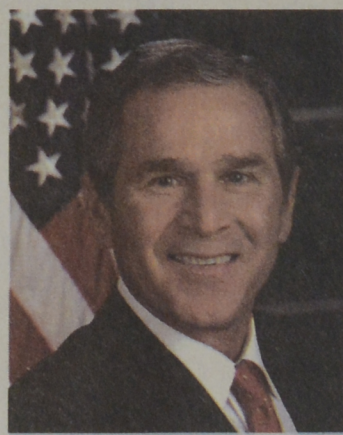
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**Optometrist**

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