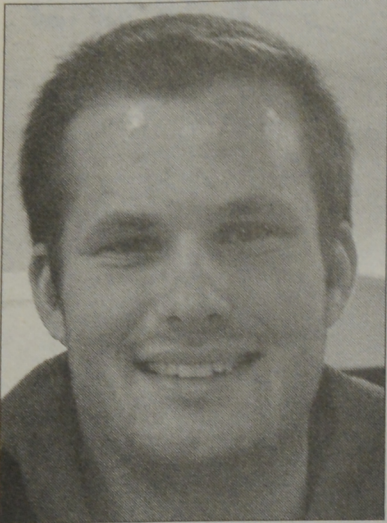


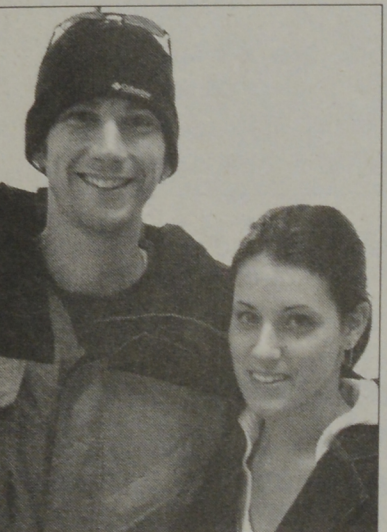
VIEWPOINT

by Tobi Bailey

Does the new smoking ban provide incentive to quit?



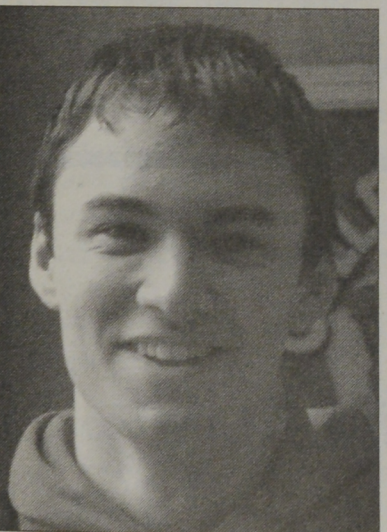
"I think it does."
-Blair Bridger



"I don't smoke. Dying is an incentive to quit."
-Jason Winchcombe



"Yes, not being able to smoke near buildings is a good thing."
-Robyn Donaldson



"I'm not sure. Don't start - there's your incentive."
-Devin McLaughlin



"Yes, because there are less places to smoke, but people still do smoke on campus. It's just healthy."
-Sarah Reid

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parking crunch

I would like to express my sincere empathy for all those at UNB and STU who day after day endure the frustration of attempting to park in the crammed lots of this campus. When we consider this problem in the widest context available we can get a better picture of how much the "parking crunch" is really costing us economically, socially and environmentally.

Research out of the University of Colorado at Boulder suggests the average cost to acquire land for, build, and maintain just one paved parking space in North America is roughly \$18,000 to \$19,000. Parking lots are an extremely expensive amenity to facilitate transport on and off campus.

Socially, we have to look at what is in the center of our university. Just a few steps north of our student Union Building and east of Tilley Hall, the rough geographic centre of campus, lies a dirty parking lot always full of CO2 belching cars. I would like to see the day when our centre is a symbol of

the pride we have in our University and the brilliant minds that are fostered here - not how we got from point A to point B.

Environmentally, the consequences of car culture are so enormous and complex, it's hard for anyone to fathom let alone stomach. We have only just begun to experience the effects global warming and habitat loss have unleashed on our planet and something has got to change if we expect our children to live comfortably into old age.

We need more constructive solutions than parking in the Aitken Centre Lot. It involves a shift transport priorities. Right now our transportation priorities on and off campus rank Automobile, Bus, Bicycle, Pedestrian. There will never be a solution to the parking crunch until we start driving less and walking, cycling, and riding more. A user-friendly bus system would help and so would bike lanes and more safe pathways. There is a lot of work to do if we are to overcome this problem. My question is if the great engineering faculty here at UNB is up to the challenge?

•Charles Fournier - Secretary, UNB Environmental Society

Thank you

On behalf of the Twentieth Annual Take Back the Night March Committee, I wish to thank the media, community and our many partners who made our twentieth Take Back the Night March a success. Without all of us working together, our weeklong series of events marking the twentieth march would not have been such an achievement.

As many of you know, the Take Back the March is a way for women to reclaim the streets from male violence against women. We not only reclaim the streets, but we also publicly make known our commitment to end violence against women whether it takes place in the streets, the workplaces, schools or our homes.

To our many partners for this year's Take Back the Night March - the media including CHSR, The Brunswickan and The Aquinian, Menswork Network for Change, the NB Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre on Family Violence Research, UNB - the Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Centre wishes to thank each and every one of you. Without your commitment, this week would not have been possible.

• Liz A. Lautard - On Behalf of the Twentieth Annual Take Back the Night March Committee

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UNB takes baby steps with smoking policy

10 metre rule is ineffective and a waste of effort

by Matt Reinhart

UNB has recently "taken another step in the continuing evolution of its policy on smoking" in order to "ensure a healthier smoke-free environment for all those who live, work and visit the UNB campuses." The UNB smoking policy, which can be viewed at <http://www.unb.ca/health/policy.html>, indicates that "smoking will not be permitted in any University building, within a ten meter perimeter of any University building, or adjacent to any ventilation air intake."

While I'm sure this might initially seem like a good policy to non-smokers on campus (a group of which I proudly consider myself a part), there is one significant question that still looms in my mind: Why did a Canadian university use the American spelling of metre? No, wait - that should be: How are we possibly going to keep people from smoking within 10 metres of buildings on campus?

For those of you who might be new to the scene here at UNB, smoking hasn't been allowed inside university buildings for the past ten years. Last year a survey was conducted

to determine students' standpoints regarding the issue of smoking on campus and whether further steps ought to be taken to make UNB smoke-free. This makes a fair deal of sense considering the progressive stance New Brunswick has adopted towards the elimination of smoking in public places. According to this survey, two-thirds of the participants supported a total ban of smoking on campus.

So, what did we end up with? An imaginary fence that nobody pays any attention to.

This 10 metre rule was already put into effect independently by the faculty of nursing at MacLaggan Hall in 2002, and people ignored it then just the same as they're ignoring it now. People can still frequently be seen smoking just outside campus buildings, despite the signs prohibiting this behaviour, and things will only get worse as the weather gets colder and people will be less inclined to step out into the middle of the freezing wind to catch a drag. Cigarette butts now litter the ground outside of buildings while the "butt stops" mounted on poles a distance away from the buildings are rarely used.

According to the revised document, "The Dean, Department Chairperson, or Director will be responsible for enforcement of this policy." Thus far I have seen absolutely nothing done to enforce this policy. But in some ways I don't really think they're the ones to blame.

Simply put: This change to our policy is futile. Rather than pushing smokers out into the cold step by step we should either ban smoking completely on campus (as the task force responsible for the survey recommends) or leave things as they are. This 10 metre ban is nothing but a waste of time and effort that could be better spent looking into other problems on campus.

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