

Muslim students denied rental of rooms at Montreal Schools

Two Universities claim secular sanctuary

by K Brookland

Two Montreal engineering schools refuse to rent space to Muslim students to pray.

As the holy month of Ramadan began Wednesday October 12 it was reported the students would have to pray in the stairwells of Ecole de

Technologie Supérieure (Ets).

The reasoning of Ets is that they are secular institutions and do not need to accommodate religious practices.

Farid Ghanem, a former student at Ets and more than 100 other Muslim students have taken their case to the Quebec Human Rights Commission.

The two-year long dispute should end soon as the human rights commission is expected to rule on the

issue within the next few weeks.

Ghanem left Ets to do his PhD elsewhere, partly because space would not be rented for prayer. "We felt that we were not accepted here and it was hostile," he said.

On refusing to rent prayer space to Muslim students, Ecole Polytechnique's communications director Chantal Cantin said, "We are a secular institution and our mission doesn't include religion. It's education and research."

Cantin went on to point out that Polytechnique is short on space.

Montreal human rights activist Fo Niemi said, "Being secular doesn't mean one has to ban religion; it means our institution shall have no official religion."

Niemi said other universities are providing prayer rooms but he is still worried by what he sees as religious intolerance in Quebec's educational system.

With files from CBC webnews

"Try supporting a child on only one dollar a day," - Arsenault

Healing Haiti continued from page

to speak french. The native tongue in Haiti is creole, which is a French language derivative. Although it is still difficult to communicate, he was able to convey basic information while learning rudimentary creole.

The students who travel to Haiti spend a lot of their time at orphanages. The teams assess children at each orphanage and then return with the necessary medical supplies. Many of these children are lacking in human interaction and Arsenault tries to provide them with as much stimulation as possible.

"People that are disabled are often generalized," says Arsenault, and many disabled children end up in these orphanages.

Arsenault admits the number of children that require treatment can be overwhelming. "You have to have the skills to prioritize and pick those who can benefit most from our services," he says.

Arsenault won't have room to bring his textbooks or many other personal effects. All of his personal items have to fit in his carry-on luggage. The teams checked luggage consists of hockey bags full of medical equipment and wheelchairs that have been donated or purchased through fundraising efforts.

Most of the medical supplies are donated by individuals or through corporate sponsorship. Fundraising is largely to cover the cost of transportation and accommodations. There will be a bowl-a-thon November

13 to raise money for these costs.

The clinic has moved next door to the guest house the team stays in. Last year, they had to leave the clinic before nightfall to commute back to the guest house for fear of crime. "Being white, you're often stereotyped as being rich, but it's because we are," Arsenault said. "The average salary in Haiti is around one dollar U.S. a day. Try supporting a child on one dollar a day."

With the country locked in political turmoil, riots and violence can occur spontaneously. "We got out [of Haiti] with about two weeks to spare, and then everything erupted... I may not be able to go because of the unrest."

"It is very unstable. One of the biggest things that Dr. O'Connel

[of the Healing Hands organization] recommended was that if you could have one quality that you could bring with you it was to be flexible... If you're looking forward to going to an orphanage and there's a riot we have to cancel. You have to be able to not get down and just take another role."

Despite the dangerous conditions, Arsenault relishes the opportunity to apply his skills on foreign soil. He would like to go back in March with another team that includes another UNB nursing student, Steven Sparkes, but is unsure if he'll be able to take more time off of school. He even hopes to travel to other countries. "My dream would be to do a six month stint with Doctors Without Borders."

NEWS SHORTS

Concerns and voices raised at SU address

by Meg Folkins

On Thursday, October 21, the Student Union held an open meeting to address the recent funding cuts to UNB's clubs and societies.

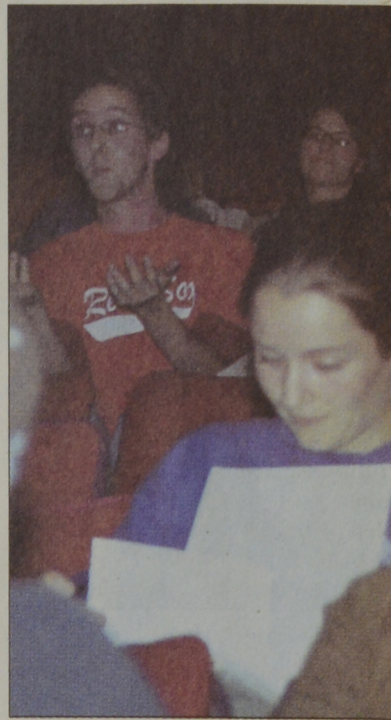
SU recently announced the cut of \$60,000, causing concern for many members of UNB's eclectic Clubs and Societies. The meeting was held to address these concerns as well as to inform, in detail, the basis for such a decision.

Turn out seemed poor until just before the meeting was set to begin, when students began to arrive in large numbers.

The meeting started with a slide show detailing the basis for the decision to make the cut. The executives presenting were interrupted on more than one occasion by students who were interested in 'getting to the point'.

Student Union executives in attendance were Adam Baker, Jeff Brewer and Jeff Matheson. Adam Baker, Student Union VP Finance, fielded the bulk of students' questions.

Many groups seemed hostile toward the SU, however the SU seemed confident in their decision, saying



Brendan Doyle / The Brunswickan
One student shuffles through the SU-provided 30-page pamphlet while other concerned students look on.

that the cut is a result of years of not having reevaluated the Clubs and Society's funding.

Trick or Eat hopes to scare up some more grub

by Bruns Staff

It's almost time for you to "Trick-or-Eat."

UNB is going to take downtown Fredericton by storm this year. The annual Halloween food-fundraiser will be on Sunday, October 31st. After you've had your own fun on Friday and Saturday night, the organizers hope others will help to make life a little cheerier for those in need.

According to UNB's Meal Exchange coordinator, Stephanie Yorke, the team hopes to collect hundreds of pounds in food donations.

"We're excited about the event and hope to raise awareness about an important social issue that is affecting more and more students and local individuals," said Daisy Coleman, chair of STU's Trick-or-Eat committee.

If you want to participate go to the front entry of the SUB at 5:30 on Halloween. You'll be signed in, assigned a route, and sent out to go door-to-door collecting donations of dry goods. The collecting will be done in groups, so if you bring a few friends you can travel with them. Collection is expected to end around 8:30.

Famed No Logo author to speak at St. Thomas

by Kyle Smith

This year's speaker at the Dalton K. Camp lecture is famed journalist, film producer and author Naomi Klein.

The author of the book *No Logo: Taking Aim at the Brand Bullies* recently spent some time in war-torn Iraq and will be speaking about her latest book, *War and Fleece: How Economic Shock Therapy Backfired*

in Iraq.

The lecture will take place in the STU chapel on the second floor of George Martin Hall, Thursday October 28 at 7:30 p.m. While the lecture is free and open to the public, seating is limited to a first-come-first-served basis.

Klein, who was born in Montreal, is a leading activist in the fight against commercialisation and child labour. Her book *No Logo* has been translated into over 25 languages and won the Canadian National Business Book Award in 2001.

As well as being a famous author, Naomi Klein also writes a syndicated column for *The Globe and Mail* and has written for other famous publications such as the *New York Times*, *The National*, *The Village Voice* and Britain's *The Guardian*.

Klein has not limited herself to print, she also has gained renown for her work in the documentary *The Take*.

The Take is an in-depth look at the economic crisis that hit Argentina when almost half the population was laid off and the individual efforts to turn lives around amidst horrible hardships.

Klein's lecture promises to be one of great interest, and everyone who can attend is encouraged to come and hear her speak.



Special to The Brunswickan
Naomi Klein

Students to be reimbursed says Res. Life

McConnell continued from page 1

be completed by Sunday, according to Craighead.

Although McConnell Hall is now open, some students are still upset over the issue.

An email was sent to all Tibbits Hall and Lady Dunn residents addressing their concerns about the issue.

Tibbits and Lady Dunn residents

are expected to be partially reimbursed due to the concern over the temporary tent facility students had been eating in.

In the email it was also stated that a \$3,000 donation will be made to Dunn/Tibbits for a joint project of their choice benefiting the houses.

A donation was also made to Joy Kidd house residents, who were also said to have been disrupted during the tent's occupation.

"I don't think there's a word to describe it," - Bed-Push participant

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Hortons and McDonald's, [and] Sodexo donated sandwiches and water to keep our energy up."

Neville House participants Kris Gohm and Ryan MacIsaac agreed it was a time they'd never forget.

"I don't think there's a word to describe it," explained MacIsaac. "I

think [Women in Transition House, Inc.] was a good fundraiser for an all-male house because it gives a positive message...that men are aware of the situation and are willing to change it." "[The event] makes people aware of what is going on in their community and [allows] people the chance to give back to their community," commented Gohm.

The Bruns word of the week: Will-o-the-wisp n.

1. Ignis fatuus 2. Any elusive or deceptive object. adj. deceptive; fleeting; misleading.

UNB blood drive



Meg Folkins / The Brunswickan

UNB Education student Keith Eagles was one of the many who participated in the blood drive held at the SUB last Monday, Oct. 25.

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International and Canadian Halloween Celebration

The International Students' Advisors Office and SPARC
Invite all students to come celebrate the spirit of the festive season in a
Halloween Get Together

Place: Amumni Memorial Lounge
Date: October 30 (Saturday)
Time: 6:30 p.m.

The program includes a Halloween Theme based scary movie followed by the 'Pumpkin Carving Contest'

Snacks will be provided
For more information please contact the International Students' Office at 453-4860
(Room 18 Alumni Memorial Building)

THE BRUNSWICKAN
Annual General Meeting 2004

The Brunswickan would like to remind all staff and board members of the annual general meeting scheduled for Wednesday November 3, 2004.

The meeting will take place in room 35 of the Student Union Building on the UNB campus at 12:30 p.m.

Elections for the positions of News Editor and Staff Board Representative will also be held at the same time.

All are welcome.