

UNB Campus News Shorts

by K Brookland

UNB dean honoured

Dean of Graduate Studies Dr. Gwen Davies has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Davies, also an Associate Vice President of Research, a professor in the department of English literature at UNB Fredericton, and an author, will be recognized at a ceremony held in Ottawa in November.

UNB SJ celebrates 40th birthday

UNB Saint John is celebrating its 40th birthday this September from the 10th to the 12th.

The Saint John campus is inviting the UNB community, associated alumni, and others to join the festivities.

Popular Saint John band The Hill Brothers kick things off the 10th. The Saint John Campus plays host to a dinner theatre Saturday the 11th. The event promises to be an entertaining performance capturing the history and people of UNB Saint John.

A family day held on campus will conclude the weekend of activity on September 12th.

To register for any of the events or to view the schedule of activities, visit www.unb.ca/alumni/celebration2004 or call Mary Duffley at the Alumni Office at 506-648-5906.

WU Center hosts national PST research conference

UNB and the National Research Council Canada Institute for Information Technology will host Canada's national privacy, security and trust research conference, PST2004, at the Wu Conference Centre from October 13th to 15th.

The program will feature five keynote speakers, the presentation of 25 academic papers, a panel discussion, and several social events.

Visit the PST2004 conference web site at pstnet.unb.ca/pst2004 to view the program and to register.

If you register before Wednesday, September 15, you will save 20 percent on the conference fee.

Students with children: LEAP

Beginning Wednesday, September 15, the Faculty of Kinesiology will begin an eight-month, multi-disciplinary program called LEAP (Learning, Eating, Activity Program).

The program is designed to help children aged six to 12 who are struggling with being overweight, with obesity, or obesity-related concerns such as Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, sleep apnea, and others.

Children will be given counseling in the areas of fitness, nutrition, health, and psychology. Physician referral is required for entry into the program. For more information, contact Paula Buyting at 452-6172 or leap@unb.ca.

LEAPing kids: physical activity classes

Bi-weekly physical activity sessions start October 4th and will be offered to children aged six to eight and nine to 12 years old.

The program aims to improve their physical activity skills in a fun and supportive environment. Participation in the classes will focus on basic motor skills to help children develop their confidence in physical activity, and not on competition or sport. Enrolment is limited to 12 children per session. Contact Campus Recreation at 453-4579 for registration and information.

Raising a healthy and active child

Behavioral issues, bullying, self-esteem, body image, nutrition, and exercise will begin this seven week session of evening classes that starts on October 18th.

For further information on the programs, or to register, call 453-4646 or contact Melanie Doerig at mldoerig@unb.ca.

Don't forget your parking pass

2004-2005 UNBF parking permits can be purchased at the UNB security office, located in the basement of the Wu Conference Centre. They accept cash, debit, cheque, credit card, or payroll deduction (for staff and faculty only).

A 12 month permit costs \$125, while an 8 month permit is \$90 for faculty or staff, and \$60 for students. A 4 month permit is \$60 for faculty or staff, and \$40 for students.

Fee payment at UNB south gym

The Financial Services Office will be handling the fee payment aspect of fall registration in the South Gym beginning Friday, September 3rd, and continuing until Friday the 10th.

Consequently, the front counter at the Financial Services Office is closed and will reopen for business on September 13th.

New UNB web addresses

The web address (URL) of the on-line Undergraduate Calendar officially changed July 22nd, with it was moved from the Electronic Text Centre to ITS. The new address is www.unb.ca/calendar/undergraduate/.

The Graduate Studies Scholarships and Awards page has been changed to www.unb.ca/calendar/graduate/awards/.

If you have any questions concerning the change, please contact the ITS Help Desk at 506-453-5199 or e-mail helpdesk@unb.ca.

Almost a year in the making, the new Economics Department web site is more user-friendly, contains more detailed information, and promotes the significant contributions of the department in teaching, research and service. You can access the site at www.unb.ca/arts/econ/.

For the Photo Identification Schedule for September visit www.unb.ca/its/imaging/products/photoid_sched.html.

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Gene doping at the 2008 Olympics?

by Vanessa Paesani

Arriving with the advent of gene therapy is the potential for use of this technology to enhance athletic performance. While it was not a concern during this summer's XXVIII Olympic Games in Athens, there are concerns about the possibility of "gene doping" by athletes as early as the 2008 Games in Beijing.

In Germany, the birth of a baby with a genetic mutation stimulating muscle growth has given hope to many people worldwide, particularly those stricken with muscular dystrophy (MS). This mutation blocks the production of the protein myostatin, responsible for limiting muscle growth. A boost in muscle production in patients with MS could help combat muscle deterioration.

While research has focused mainly on this mutation as it occurs in mice, the birth of this German child suggests that the mutation functions in a similar manner in humans. As early as 2002, Kathryn Wagner's group from the John Hopkins University in Baltimore found that mice with this genetic mutation have a significantly higher muscle mass and show less evidence of muscle replacement by fat and connective tissue (the process of

muscle degeneration), seen in mice with the disease.

The German "superboy" has people wondering whether gene therapy blocking myostatin production will give daring athletes an unfair advantage. Myostatin-blocking drugs are already on the market from such companies as Cytodine Technologies, boasting a \$79.95 method of "naturally increasing the number of muscle fibers in your body."

According to an article this year in the New England Journal of Medicine, gene therapy has immense potential to cure a number of diseases, including Alzheimer's, cancer, and arthritis; the technology is still in its infancy with most human research being purely experimental.

Gene doping poses a great risk to athletes, as well as gene therapy patients, because little is known about its long-term effects. The shot for the gold could cost a career, even a life.

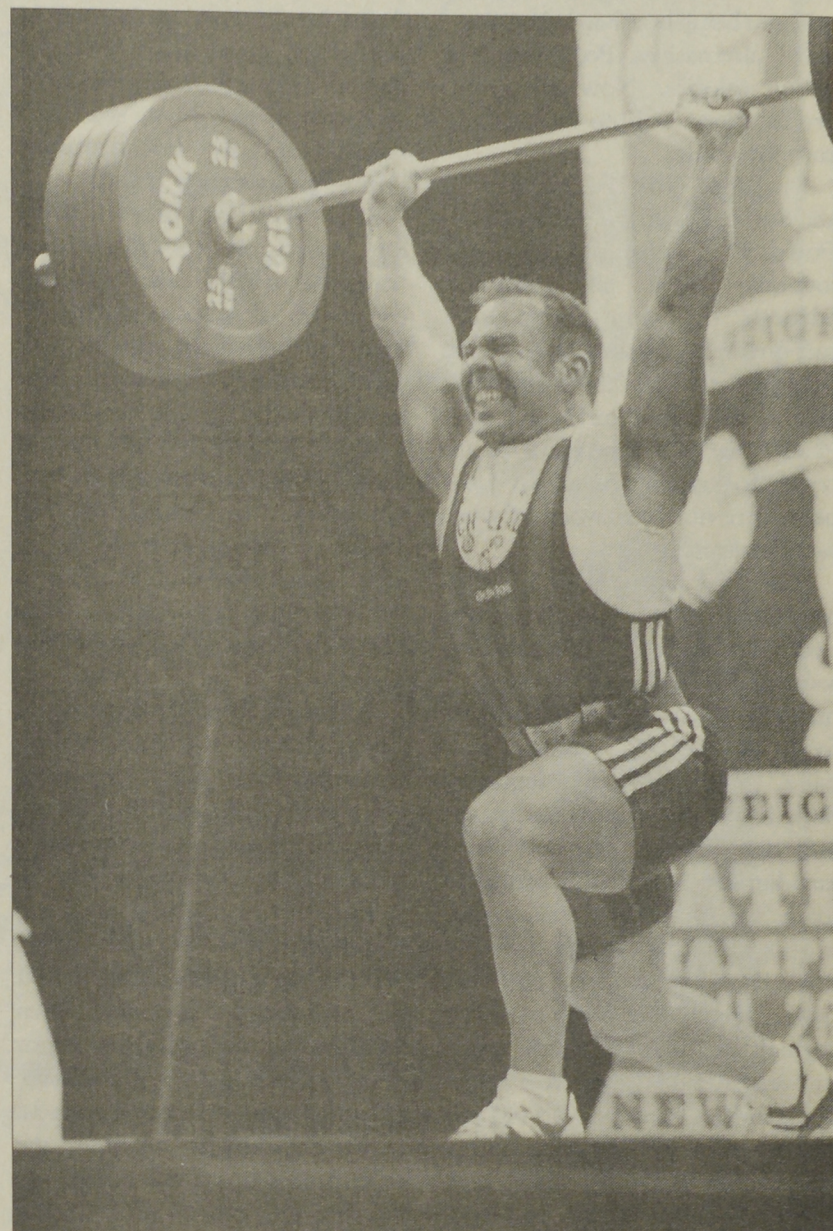
The fact remains that the only human disease successfully treated by gene therapy is immunodeficiency disease (SCID), an affliction leaving the patient extremely susceptible to infection due a low immune defence (think back to Bubble Boy).

We'll have to wait and see

whether or not this technology will be used as performance enhancers for Olympians.

For more information about gene

therapy, you can visit the American Medical Association website at and the Gene Therapy Journal site at <http://www.nature.com/gt/>.



Athletes could potentially use gene therapy to enhance performance.

AIDS walk next Sunday

by Sara Nottell

AIDS New Brunswick is holding its 12th annual AIDS Walk Sunday, September 12.

Participants will form teams and collect pledges to raise money for the non-profit organization.

Registration for the walk itself begins at noon in the St. Thomas University courtyard. The walk begins from that location at 2:00pm and ends downtown at Officers' Square.

AIDSNB Executive Director Haley L. Flaro said "in addition to the much needed funds, we hope that members of the student community and the community at large get out to walk together to raise awareness."

Half of the money raised will go towards raising awareness for local prevention, education, and support programs, and the rest will go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation to help fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa.

It is estimated that 40

million people worldwide are currently living with HIV or AIDS. Approximately 56,000 Canadians have been stricken with HIV/AIDS, and in New Brunswick, a new person is diagnosed every month.

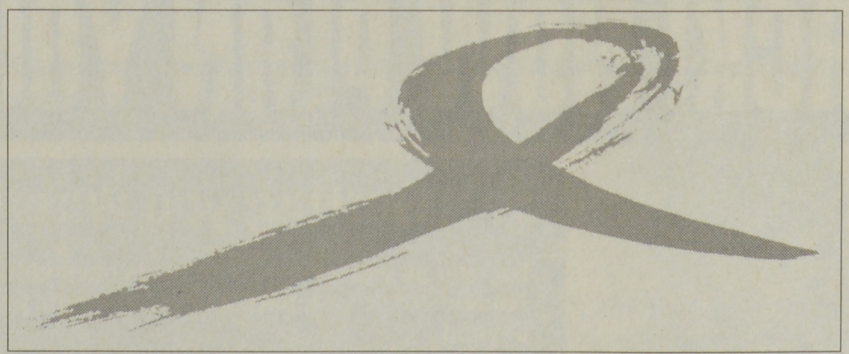
This year's honorary chairperson is Mathabo Mokoena, or "Mama Alice," a 77-year old St. Thomas University student originally from Lesotho.

AIDSNB provides free, anonymous counselling through their toll-free number (1-800-561-4009) or at their clinic on Brunswick Street.

The clinic also provides educational materials aimed at preventing HIV transmission, as well as operating a needle exchange and condom distribution program.

At last year's AIDS Walk, 500 participants raised over \$12,000 to help fund these programs.

To find more information about the services offered by AIDSNB, or to volunteer, visit www.aidsnb.com



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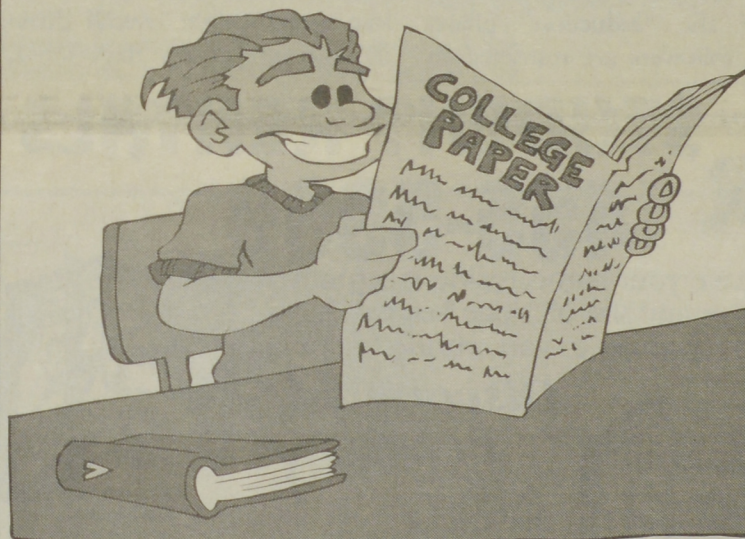
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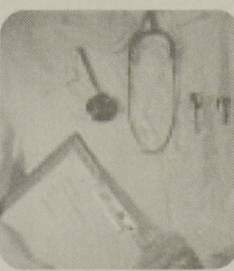
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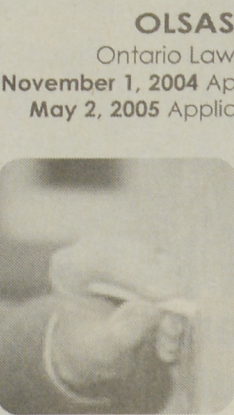
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