

Meal hall still improving

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rush hour delay at McConnell is just "one of those kinks you have to work out when you open a new facility." "We are taking steps to address the entrance point at McConnell including changing the swiping device on the computer so that students may enter faster."

"We will also be adding another 125 seats to the top floor once the senior and dining rooms are completed over the next two or three weeks."

According to a survey on Sodexo implemented by the Student Union last Wednesday, one of the few things that students did agree on was the friendly and helpful service of the staff.

Julian Renaud of Harrison House

said, "I think the staff are even more outgoing now than they were before because they're more enthusiastic about the new facility...and there aren't as many disgruntled students."

"I think [the staff] are still getting used to the whole Ultimate Dining thing, but I think they know the food is better and we're a lot happier, which makes them feel that they're providing good service to us," said Allison Kenna of Harrison House. "Craighead assured us that the food would only get better because the staff isn't used to [the new system]...I've noticed daily improvements since the opening."

Students may access the survey online at www.unb.ca by clicking on the "Sodexo Survey" tab at the bottom of the page.

Don't steal from education for health: Lacroix

Investment in post-secondary necessary for future healthcare, university rector says

by Megan Thomas

OTTAWA (CUP) -- If the federal government siphons funding from education to ease the deepening healthcare crisis, Canada will fall even further behind knowledge-focused nations like China, says a Quebec university rector.

Canada needs to rethink how it is spending public money to ensure the future of post-secondary education, Robert Lacroix, rector of the Université de Montréal, told about 50 people at the National Press Club in Ottawa Nov. 4.

"I am not arguing that we should take from health to give to education," said Lacroix, who has been active in higher education policy for 30 years. "I am not the Robin Hood of higher education."

But if not enough resources are invested in post-secondary education now, health services will suffer in the future, Lacroix said.

"All I am saying is that we have to rethink how we balance our public finances in order to guarantee quality education for today's students," he said in his bilingual address.

Lacroix said China and Italy have surpassed Canada in research productivity recently, and that by 2008, South Korea will also surge ahead. This trend is alarming right now, Lacroix said, because Paul Martin's minority government

has been vague about support for key research funds, like the Canada Research Chair program that enables universities to attract and retain experts.

The government trend towards tying research money to commercial partnerships must also be closely monitored, Lacroix said, or the spirit of innovation will be lost.

Commercialization becomes a problem if the government starts expecting universities to find private sources to make up for disappearing public funding, said Robert Best, vice-president of national affairs for the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, after Lacroix's talk.

"It is very important that the federal government stays the course," Best said, referring to public support for research in Canada.

But Best also said sustaining funding for research won't matter if the core operating expenses at universities aren't covered.

Federal funding for operating budgets of universities is doled out in a social transfer to each province, which then decides how much of the money will be invested in universities and colleges. This means if the federal government wants to dedicate more money to education in the transfer it will run into "jurisdictional issues" with the provinces, Best said.

Because of this, the federal government is more likely to provide support through research funding than to tinker with the distribution of the transfer payment, Best said.

Having a minority government in power also makes bringing attention to

the problem difficult, Lacroix said in an interview afterwards.

"The problem is people really think that investing in research, investing in the quality of education, investing in creativity, is not necessarily the best way to increase the vote of people for your party," Lacroix said. "So, for a minority government it is not easy."

"It is a short-term government, looking at short-term problems, and short-term solutions," Lacroix said, adding the Liberals are more concerned about "what is happening in the political market."

Lacroix said because of this, universities must convince the public, and the media, that investing in education should be a priority. He said this has been done much more effectively in the United States where research has been "valorized" in public opinion.

"Universities have a tremendous responsibility to explain to people the importance of this kind of investment," Lacroix said.

Bob LeDrew, manager of media relations for the University of Ottawa, agreed with Lacroix, saying universities must show the public they are doing meaningful things with the money they get from government.

"There is a sense of duty," said LeDrew in a phone interview. "We receive great sums of money."

LeDrew said the University of Ottawa tries to engage the public through everything from advertising to community outreach programs. It is important to show that universities are not "ivory towers" that don't interact with the public, he said.

Bi-election

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The Science Rep seat was won by Sephora Tang. However, Tang informed council that she would not stand for the position. It is expected that the only other candidate, Theresa MacMillan, will fill the position.

Aside from General Councilor Positions, one other position was contested. Three candidates, Jason Goldlist, Ann Lockhart, and Kalin McCleskey ran for the position of Student Senator. Lockhart won the position.

Voter turnout was improved from two per cent last year to 6.43 per cent in this election.

Ryan Pollard, the Chief Returning Officer for these elections, says an improvement is apparent but not encouraging.

All victors will be presented before council tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the SUB, room 103.

NDP

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The loss turned into a win, Gallant says, as she has been working within the party ever since. She sees the strong support of youth as being advantageous to the provincial party.

"I am running for Vice President of the provincial party, Val Colden was elected Female Member at Large and Cameron MacLean was appointed youth representative," said Gallant, listing off recent youth accomplishments.

"We were the largest delegation at the last convention," said Gallant. "Our delegation was mentioned all throughout the convention. We had a private breakfast with [federal leader] Jack Layton and he mentioned us throughout the convention after that."

THE BRUNSWICKAN

The Editorial Board of The Brunswickan would like to announce to members that a general meeting will be held Wednesday, December 10, 2004 to pass a new constitution as decided at the recent annual general meeting.

The meeting will take place in The Brunswickan's offices, located in Room 35 of the Student Union Building, at 12:30 p.m.

All are welcome. For more information, contact Patrick Reinartz, Editor-in-Chief (eic@unb.ca).

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Nostalgic toys return

Toys, Continued from page 1

videos sold at Think Play. "Having said that, there will be retro throwbacks such as small soldiers; most of which are reproductions," said Randall.

There will also be recreations of metal wind-up toys from 60 years ago and the Shilling line of retro toys.

Think Play will also have available some dress-up clothes, such as super hero outfits and ballerina outfits. "It's an imagination store for all ages," said Randall.

Much younger children are not forgotten at Think Play; there's the LaMaze line of interactive toys for ages three months and up. There are also puzzles and soft toys for toddlers as well.

There are plenty of educational toys and building toys to be had. "Most of the fun toys we found just happened to be educational," said Randall.

For those who want more recent lines of toys, there's Thomas the Tank Engine, Madeline, and Rokenbot systems, among others.

Most importantly, the prices of the toys fit every economic budget - which is not to say there aren't high priced items Randall pointed out - but there are some toys available for \$3 and \$4, priced low enough for children to buy with their own money.

Another thing that makes this store unique is the concept of

combining their marketing strategy with proactively helping community organizations. Board game samples, like Jeopardy and the Scene-It DVD game, will be used for loan-outs to adults for charitable organizations for fundraising purposes.

"Games come with live direction - that's us," said Randall. "We'll come tap dancing in and host the games for the organization's fundraiser," added Smith.

Randall pointed out that not only is there is no charge for this service, but whatever games they sell at the event, they'll give a percentage of that money to the fundraising organization.

Think Play opens this Friday, the 12th of November, just in time for holiday shopping for parents, grandparents, teachers, and of course, children of all ages.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Allan P. Stuart Award for Excellence in Teaching

Attention: STUDENTS, FACULTY AND ALUMNI

The Award is dedicated to the late Dr. Allan P. Stuart and is to honour persons who are representative of outstanding teaching achievement at the University of New Brunswick.

Eligibility: A candidate will normally have taught a minimum of two 3-credit hour courses, or equivalent, during the calendar year in which the nomination is made. It is not expected that the nominees should excel in all criteria listed on the nomination, but they should be qualified in most categories. Individuals are not eligible if they have been previous recipients of the Award.

Nomination: Candidates for the Award are proposed and recommended to the Common Senates Teaching Awards Committee by students, faculty and alumni of the University.

The information required is contained on the Nomination Form, which is available from the Teaching and Learning Centre, Fredericton; the Vice-President (Saint John); the Student Council, Saint John or Fredericton; and Faculty Offices. No one may nominate or support more than one candidate. The form must be signed by two nominators and information should be supplied for each of the criteria listed. The Committee places little value on long lists of signatures supporting a nomination. However, further letters or paragraphs of support from a variety of sources (current and former students, faculty members, alumni, Department Chairs or Deans) can enhance a nomination.

Send nominations to the Teaching and Learning Centre, Eaton Multimedia Centre, Room 125 Marshall d'Avray Hall, UNB Fredericton, or the Vice-President (Saint John) Room 110 Oland Hall, UNB Saint John.

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Looking for technology-related information?

For print or electronic sources, the Engineering Library is located at Head Hall, Room C-15. Our regular hours are:

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What's in the Engineering Library?

Books, periodicals and audio-visual material in support of the teaching and research needs of students and instructors in Engineering and Computer Science, although other parties are welcomed.

The entrance area has an Information/Circulation Desk, Reserves Collection, computer workstations and photocopiers.

Our Study Hall is where students can work on assignments or projects. This room has most of our circulating books (ENG-STACKS), and periodicals (ENG-PER), reference materials, senior reports and theses.

For a quiet place to read or work, students prefer our Current Periodicals/Journals Room.

Why should you come to the Engineering Library?

Our staff specializes in locating information on a variety of topics, whether it be found in books, journal articles, and/or conference proceedings. While many of our newer resources are available electronically, our library also provides access to print copies of books, senior reports, pamphlet file documents, as well as over 300 journals and magazines. If you need help with our catalogues or indexes, staff are more than willing to give individual or group instruction.

The library has ten new wireless laptops with the same software as in the ITS labs. Other services include nine PC workstations, a Kurzweil workstation, three photocopiers and transparency supplies.

To find out more about what the Engineering Library has to offer, please access our web site at www.lib.unb.ca/engineering/ or contact us via telephone 453-4747 or email enlib@unb.ca.