

Going from Cs to Bs to As

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the centre to help them deal with their learning disabilities, said the centre does a fantastic job.

Hamilton, a second-year St. Thomas University student, said he just started using the centre this year and the results have been amazing.

"I was spending insane hours doing projects where [other] people who would stay up and party the

night before would get them done and get an A," he explained.

Hamilton said that since he began using the centre, he hasn't been seeing C's or D's on his assignments anymore; he's been seeing B's and A's.

"I think [the centre] benefits a lot of people - it benefits the professors, the students, their parents and their roommates," he said.

Philip Sim, a third year arts

student at UNB, thinks the university should invest more money into improving the centre, making it equal to the learning centres available at both Queen's University and Algonquin College.

"[If UNB's Learning Centre] is getting smaller and they can't provide the services, it'll make it that much more difficult for me to pass," said Sim. "I came here knowing that there is a centre here and that it's critical for me to achieve success at UNB."

In terms of the differences between UNB and other post-secondary institutions, Sim thinks the Learning Centre should be expanding its services; there needs to be more funding.

"The centre's fantastic, in terms of what they're doing with a limited budget. I've graduated from other institutions and their centres are a lot larger, they seem to have a lot more equipment, and it's surprising for a university that's been heavily marketing itself in Ontario, that they want to attract Ontario students, it's surprising how small [the facility here] is," Sim added.

Both Hamilton and Sim are worried the centre won't receive enough money from grants to continue providing the crucial services.

"[For] a lot of people that we talked to, retention was a big issue. They could totally see themselves not making it through university without being able to get the help they need for their studying," said Hamilton.

According to Latchford, funding for next year is still uncertain because the centre runs on grants and April marks the end of the grant's fiscal year.

"We have some money but not enough to carry out the program that we did this year so I have to go back out and try to get more [funding]," she said.

According to Latchford, people need to realize the significance the tutoring, proofreading and other

services the centre provides before more funding will be secured.

"I think there may be some misunderstanding about centres that help people get through [university]," said Sim. "There are different disabilities."

With 300 registered students, the Learning Centre does cater to a wide variety of disabilities, including physical challenges, such as visual impairments and mobility impairments, as well as non-visible challenges such as learning disabilities like ADD and dyslexia.

The centre also provides helpful learning aids, including programs that can read textbooks out loud, and print spoken words on the screen. They provide peer tutoring, proofreading, and note taking for students who are in need of these services.

Although the centre is in need of further funding, Latchford said she received positive news from the technology committee on campus. Funding for new computers will be coming the centre's way this year. This will help improve the resources at the centre. Latchford's job is to find funding to keep the tutoring services available.

According to Hamilton, the students just want to have the same opportunities as everyone else on campus. With funding for next year, they will have access to the educational tools needed to succeed.

"We just want things to go on as they have in the past so we can get the same services next year," said Hamilton.

"I would hope that people will see that persons or students with disabilities have a right to be in post-secondary education, [and] to be here they need support, in order to level the playing field, they need accommodations and support so they can be a student just like everyone else. I think [people] need to see that it can happen with adequate funding," said Latchford.

Gaining experience through charity work

Labatt continued from Page 1

work force while working for positive change.

This year, the program aims to help 130 Canadian university students and is anticipating financial assistance from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. The program also relies on UNB's own LPIA "campus crew" - one of only two such crews in Atlantic Canada - to get the word out to students about the program.

Marianela Ramirez is UNB's campus crew coordinator and is in charge of promoting LPIA to students. She feels the program's major strength is that it affords young men and women the opportunity to participate in community affairs while still earning money to put towards their education.

"A lot of people want to volunteer and do something good for the community, but they're in school, or they need a job, or don't have time," Ramirez said. "This program gives them the chance to do something good for charity but also get paid."

The campus crew has been involved in organizing several promotional events and campaigns around campus, including putting up posters, distributing LPIA merchandise, brochures about the program, and making announcements at venues such as the Cellar and during varsity hockey

games at the Aitken Center. And Ramirez's work has apparently paid off: the buzz is starting to circulate.

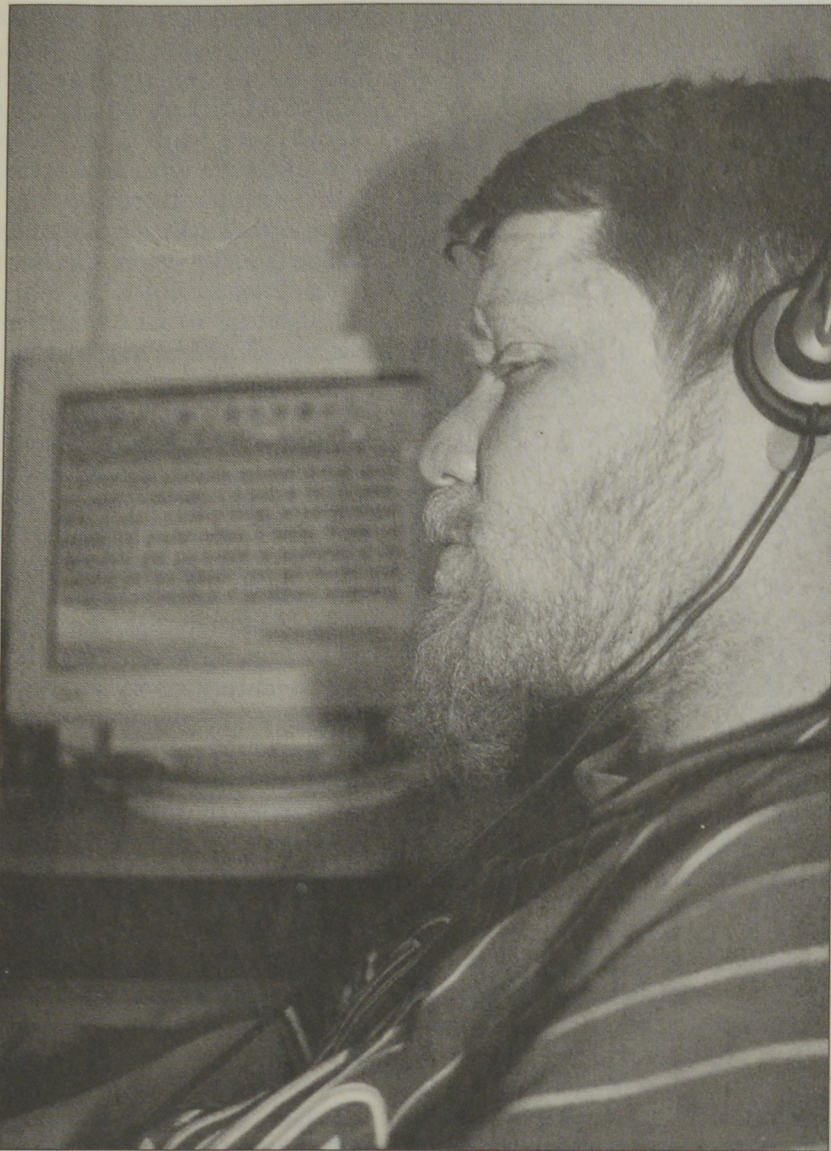
Diana Lockyer, a fourth-year student at UNB, heard about the program through her mother and the efforts of the campus crew. She decided to check it out and spent the summer of 2003 working for the Fredericton Association for Community Living. She created a position tailored to suit her interest, which was to gain experience working with people with disabilities and special needs.

She described her encounters with LPIA as being "an awesome experience because it provides students with a chance to gain experience in something they want to go into."

"The student is basically their own employer," she said. "It's hard work, but it's good work."

This year, applicants to the program also have the opportunity to win a Labatt Future Leaders Award, given to four LPIA students who show exceptional dedication and initiative in their job placements. The award consists of a \$1,500 scholarship, plus an all-expenses paid trip to somewhere within Canada to attend the Social Innovators Summit.

The deadline to apply for the program is Monday, March 29th. More information about the application process is available online at <http://www.lpiajobs.com> or by calling 1-800-334-2627.



Meg Folkins/The Brunswickan

Greg Gillmor, a blind student who uses the Learning Centre, is one of the 300 students who access the facility at UNB.

Malik awaits April court date

Lies continued from Page 1

evening of Wednesday, March 17th after officers from the Saint John Police Force brought him in for questioning. He was interviewed for approximately five hours, after which he confessed to having fabricated the entire story.

"We did find some discrepancies [in his statements] so we had to meet with Mr. Malik again," said Constable Brown, one of the investigating officers.

"As we know today, the stories were fabricated."

According to crown prosecutor Jim McAvity, Malik's story did not match up with video surveillance footage of the areas in which he said he was attacked. Malik was unable to identify or give a solid description of any of the individuals who assaulted him, even though one of the attacks occurred in an open parking lot in broad daylight.

Though apparently attacked twice in one day, Malik had no bruises or marks on his face or torso, which he claimed were the areas of concentration for the beatings.

Malik's future at UNB Saint John is uncertain.



Meghan McCully/The Baron

UNB Saint John's Vice President Kathryn Hamer sits with Cst. Brown and Cst. Henderson at the press conference after Rayan Malik's court appearance.

"We haven't determined what, if any disciplinary action will be taken," said Dr. Kathryn Hamer, vice president of the UNBSJ campus, at a press conference after Malik's court

appearance.

"We've known only for a matter of hours the full details of the situation, it would be premature of us to be thinking about disciplinary

action before we knew all the facts."

Malik will return to court for sentencing on Friday, April 30th and was ordered to surrender his Pakistani passport.

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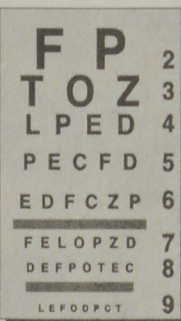
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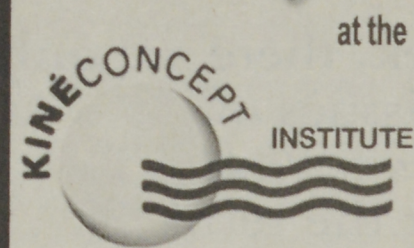
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