



Alexisonfire rocked out at the Elk's Club

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Men, women sweep basketball extravaganza

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The top memorable events of 2003

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Out with the old, in with the new



Brendan Doyle/The Brunswickan

While it may look like a Christmas tree throwing competition, this person is actually recycling their tree at Odell Park.

Taking a look back at local issues

A list of the top Bruns stories in 2003

compiled by Skip Thompson

The first in a series of Student Union-hosted forums is held with UNB's president Dr. John McLaughlin in January. Though issues like safety, tuition, and international differential fees were discussed, it seemed as if student apathy was the real issue: less than a dozen of the university's 8,000-plus students showed up. On the other end of the apathy spectrum, hundreds demonstrate against the US-led invasion of Iraq in a giant puppet-led protest in front of City Hall.

The University Women's Centre opens its doors on February 12th, after

almost a year of debate over the need for the resource centre. Hundreds again protest the invasion of Iraq, and UNB makes headlines by being the first campus in the country to offer on-the-spot admissions to Ontario high-school grads.

In March, computer equipment worth \$26,000 is stolen from the Eaton Multimedia Centre, following a similar burglary in October where close to \$40,000 of equipment was stolen. Though the matter is investigated by city police, the perpetrators are never caught.

During the summer, the university's Campus Plan is released: a long-term initiative to improve the campus. The plan, which will take upwards of 50 years to complete, will, among other things, make the campus more

accessible to pedestrians.

September saw a former UNB Saint John student arrested on terrorism charges in Toronto. The 24-year-old Shazad Kurram Toor was detained on suspicions he was part of an al-Qaeda sleeper cell, and later deported on immigration charges. He was one of 19 people arrested. As well, a part-time UNB employee is fired and a student suspended after allegedly wrecking havoc with the university's computer network.

More than 2,000 New Brunswickers rally outside the legislature in October to protest same-sex marriages, just a couple of weeks after former Alliance leader Stockwell Day and outspoken MP Svend Robinson visited Fredericton to argue opposite sides of the issue.

In November the SU comes under fire after the surprise ousting of then-VP executive Peter MacDonald, who was released by council after weeks of suspension. Students cried foul in letters sent to *The Brunswickan* over the secrecy involved, demanding the union reinstate MacDonald and rework its bylaws to prevent a similar incident from happening in the future. Matt Clark, then vice-president finance, also resigned. Though MacDonald was not reinstated, the bylaws are in the process of being revised.

During December, Dalhousie University in Halifax began threatening rowdy off-campus students, anti-Ritalin crusader Charles Leblanc reaches 10,000 signatures on his petition and heads home, and rapper Chuck D calls Americanism "pimping."

Changing Canada's political system

Campaigning for proportional representation

by David Shipley

Canada's political system is leaving women, minorities, and small political parties behind.

At least, that was the message delivered by Doris Anderson, president of Fair Vote Canada, a multi-partisan citizen's campaign for voting reform in Canada. Anderson was a guest speaker at a public information session hosted in Saint John by the New Brunswick Advisory Board on the Status of Women.

Anderson is campaigning across Canada for proportional representation, which she believes will not only improve the state of democracy in Canada but it will also give "smaller parties, minorities, and women" a fair shot at having their voices heard.

"In countries where there is a proportional representation system there are numbers of women in government that we would give anything to emulate," she said.

Currently Canada's electoral system operates in a winner take all fashion, with the candidate who has the most votes in a given riding becoming the representative for the riding and the party with the most representatives forming government. This is known as the past the post system and can lead to situations where a political party is elected with a small majority of the popular vote forming a government with little or no opposition party.

This has happened several times in NB including the Liberal win in 1987 which gave them all 58 seats in the legislature with only 60 per cent of the popular vote.

Proportional representation, on the other hand, is a system where the party with 60 per cent of the vote would get 60 per cent of the seats. Candidates can be selected for office in a variety of ways, with the most common being a list put forward by the party during elections.

It is in the change in how candidates are selected that Anderson sees the biggest opportunity for women.

"Riding associations tend to be more conservative than the Canadian public within their nominations," she said.

By using a list of candidates instead of riding association nominations Anderson believes women can avoid "the dirty politics of riding associations."

Elizabeth Weir, the leader of New Brunswick's NDP Party said that she has seen the number of women in the provincial assembly decline over the last four elections. "We have the lowest level of representation of women in the legislature since 1987. I wasn't even elected then, and now four election campaigns later and we're back to before I started," she said.

Weir has worked on numerous international democracy projects and has seen proportional representation implemented in numerous countries.

"I've done a lot of international democracy work and virtually every country had a form of PR. It's very flexible, we should fashion it to our particular needs," she said.

Anderson believes that unless something is done about Canada's electoral system we will continue to see less and less youth involvement in politics.

"Young people are not voting; only 25 per cent bothered to vote in the last federal election. They are losing faith in our political institutions."

UNB nursing students to bring helping hands to Haiti

Providing artificial limbs, wheelchairs

by Carole Morris

After fundraising more than \$50,000 in 2003, Marc Arseneau and Stephen Sparkes are ready to go to Haiti. However, it's not for a vacation.

Last year, the two University of New Brunswick nursing students decided to get involved with Healing Hands for Haiti, a non-profit organization aimed at providing medical care, rehabilitation and training services.

Because Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere, the majority of the population doesn't have access to medical care, safe drinking water or a sufficient amount of food to feed their families. More than half can not read or write. For a Haitian with a disability, life becomes even more of a struggle. That's where Healing Hands for Haiti hopes to help.

The organization provides artificial limbs, braces, wheelchairs and antibiotics. They teach Haitians how to look after themselves and use their new prostheses. The majority of the medical equipment is donated and travels to Haiti with each volunteer.

This is the second year Canada has participated in the program and the first time that nursing students will have the opportunity to get hands on experience. Both Arseneau and Sparkes are excited to be participating in Healing Hands for Haiti and are the only nursing students from Canada going this year.

"I've learned so much already just from preparing for this trip and talking to the other 30 health

professionals... I think it's going to be a good experience," Arseneau said. Sparkes said he hopes to gain more knowledge-based nursing experience.

The two university students have attended Team Canada meetings where they've discussed what they will likely see in the impoverished country and how they will be able to help Haitians.

Sparkes and Arseneau will help assess each person coming to the clinic with a disability, visit the local orphanages, and gain valuable nursing experience.

"Me and Steve's role is basically support worker/nursing student/construction [labourer]," said Arseneau. "We're kind of a jack of all trades."

"I think I'm prepared to function physically, I don't think it'll be that much of a shock, however, I think that some of the things we're going to see could be quite disturbing," said Sparkes.

"I expect to see people from all ages, from infants to the elderly, with amputations, stroke victims, anyone with accidents, and lethargic people," Sparkes continued.

"In some of the orphanages, the kids are just in a giant room sleeping on the floor, there are no beds, no mosquito nets," said Sparkes. "We're hoping to help out quite a bit."

"I'm really interested in humanitarian work right now so this [trip] has really solidified that for me. It's going to be a good eye-opener," said Arseneau.

Both Sparkes and Arseneau agreed that just by preparing to go to Haiti, they have a greater appreciation for their own lives.

"We have a meal everyday, a roof over our heads, proper clothing, and shoes. There are countries out there that are less fortunate than us," Sparkes said.

Healing Hands for Haiti began in 1998 with the dream of Dr. Jeffrey Randle, a US physiatrist. He wanted to someday travel to Haiti to do humanitarian work and mentioned it to his co-worker, Susan Gleason. Since she already had experience directing small non-profit organizations, she set the project in motion and helped make Randle's dream a reality. Randle, Gleason and 12 other medical volunteers raised

\$70,000 the first year, took a 10 day trip to Haiti, and treated more than 200 patients.

Sparkes and Arseneau, will be traveling to Haiti January 17th and will return on the 24th. Other members from Team Canada will be

arriving as early as the 13th of this month.

Throughout the year, medical teams from all over the United States will be arriving in Haiti, hoping to improve the Haitians quality of life.



Submitted to The Brunswickan

A girl from Haiti learns to walk with a new prosthesis.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

OUR NECESSITIES NEVER EQUAL OUR WANTS.
 -BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

HAPPY NEW YEAR Sat Jan 10

Party Hats
 Streamers
 ... and more

Open Nightly at 8:00 P.M. Friday Afternoon at 2

COLLEGE HILL SOCIAL CLUB
 For Members & Guests Only