

NEWS SHORTS

compiled by Graham Cox

Security of Information Act not so secure

The Security of Information Act, used to allow the RCMP to raid the homes of Juliet O'Neill and Scott Anderson, may not be up to the standards dictated by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. O'Neill and Anderson are the reporter and Editor-in-Chief of the Ottawa Gazette who published information on the Maher Arar case that was considered by the government to be secret. The Information Act makes it illegal to report any information the government has taken steps to "safeguard." Civil Liberty groups are considering assisting any challenges of the act because they believe the language in the act is too general and thus open to abuse. The act was part of the changes made in the Canadian justice system in response to the September 11 attacks in 2001.

In a related story, Maher Arar has launched a lawsuit against members of the US Administration for the way they dealt with his deportation to Syria. Members named in the lawsuit include Tom Ridge, John Ashcroft, and FBI Director Robert Mueller. The lawsuit was launched with the help of the American Centre For Constitutional Rights. Arar will be represented by one of their lawyers in the trial. He stated that he still holds some blame for the Canadian government and may sue if he is not satisfied with the current investigation into the events that led to his deportation to Syria and alleged torture.

No weapons of mass destruction in Iraq

There have been admissions made by the hard-lined chief pentagon weapons inspector David Kay that there are no weapon of mass destruction (WMD) in Iraq. President Bush and Prime Minister Blair in the UK are facing a revival of questions about the reasons for the war. US Secretary of State Colin Powell, who gave the presentation to the UN before the war about weapons in Iraq to convince countries to join the US and Britain, now also believes that there may never be evidence of WMD found in Iraq.

Prisoner swap to take place

A prisoner swap is taking place this week between the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah and the Israeli government. Germany has been mediating the process which involves Israel releasing 435 prisoners, the bodies of 53 soldiers killed when Israel occupied southern Lebanon, as well as some Palestinians in custody. This is in exchange for the promise of information on an Israeli pilot named Ron Arad, a businessman taken by Hezbollah, and the bodies of three Israeli soldiers.

Uninsured drivers face fines in Fredericton

Fredericton Police are reporting an increase in the number of uninsured drivers on the roads in the capital city. The CBC is reporting that the police force believe that high insurance rates are the main issue. The increase was noticed after the introduction of the new Traffic Enforcement Programme launched three weeks ago by the local police force. Fines for driving without insurance is \$600, which is less than what some pay for insurance. This is leading some to worry that people may be risking the fines instead of getting insured.

Crimes against humanity examined

Ex-UN Peacekeeping Commander Romeo Dallaire has told the UN Tribunal that the west is culpable for the genocide that occurred in Rwanda. He stated there was an unwillingness to intervene as well as a "feigned ignorance" of the severity of the situation by the countries in control of the troops. Dallaire commanded the UN peace keepers in Rwanda before and during the genocide in April, 1994 that claimed nearly half a million Tutsis and their supporters. The Tribunals are trying suspects who allegedly engaged in crimes against humanity during the genocide.

Reformists rejected from being elected

The Iranian Guardians Council has rejected moves by the Parliament to allow reformists to be elected into Parliament and have moved to stop some current reformists from being re-elected. This is a continuation of the battle in Iran between the elected Parliament and the Council which is appointed by the head religious figure Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The Council holds more power in dictating the changes in law than the Parliament does.

Growing divide between 'have & have-not's'

Former US President Clinton addressed the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland. Clinton's message to the forum focused on the growing divide between the "have and have-not's" of the world and to build the large-scale "mechanisms" that will allow aid, specifically AIDS medicines, to get to the Third World. Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan had a similar message in his address criticizing the unilateralist and protectionist policies of some western nations focusing on farm subsidies. The World Economic Forum is a gathering of politicians, trade ministers, and leading business intellectuals to examine the effects and future direction of the world economy.

Learning about the Majority World

by Bruns staff

The International Development Association (IDA) invites the campus and community to join in celebrating International Development Week (IDW) from February 1-7.

International Development Week is celebrated annually all over Canada, with the intent of providing Canadians with an opportunity to gain knowledge about life in Third World or Majority World, as some prefer to call it.

At UNB's International Development Studies, people critically assess the effects that development has had in the Majority World.

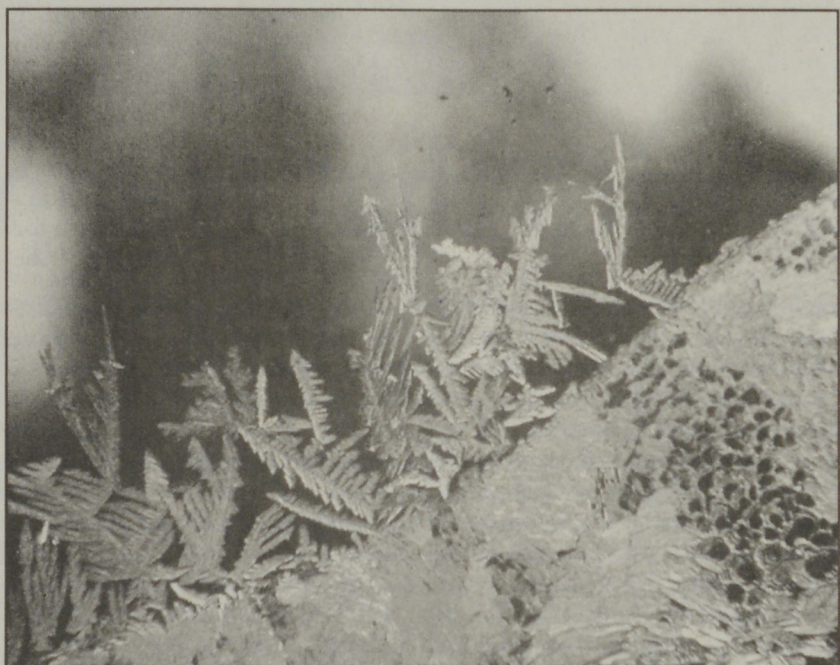
By doing this, they hope to gain meaningful knowledge about North and South relations and strive to become true "global citizens". The 2004 theme is "Celebrating Canadians making

a difference in the world."

In the spirit of International Development Week, the IDA will be hosting some activities. They'll be kicking off the week on the evening of February 3rd with a pizza party and social gathering. During several noon-hours that week, the IDA will have a booth set up in the SUB Lobby.

Cesar Morales, an IDA member, and his band "El Sabor Latino" will perform Friday February 6th at our major event at the Cellar Pub & Grill from 2:00 - 5:00pm. IDW should be a great time- keep an eye out for posters around campus that will have more specific information as the week approaches.

For more information on the IDA activities, people can email idaxec@hotmail.com. The IDA is the student organization affiliated with the International Development Studies (IDS) program at UNB.



Heather Hickey/The Brunswickan

"Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers today; and give us not to think so far away as the uncertain harvest; keep us here all simply in the springing of the year." -Robert Frost

Thinking about a career as a professional accountant?

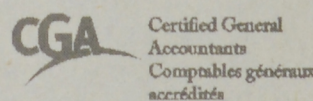
Think CGA

All students are welcomed to attend a CGA information night.

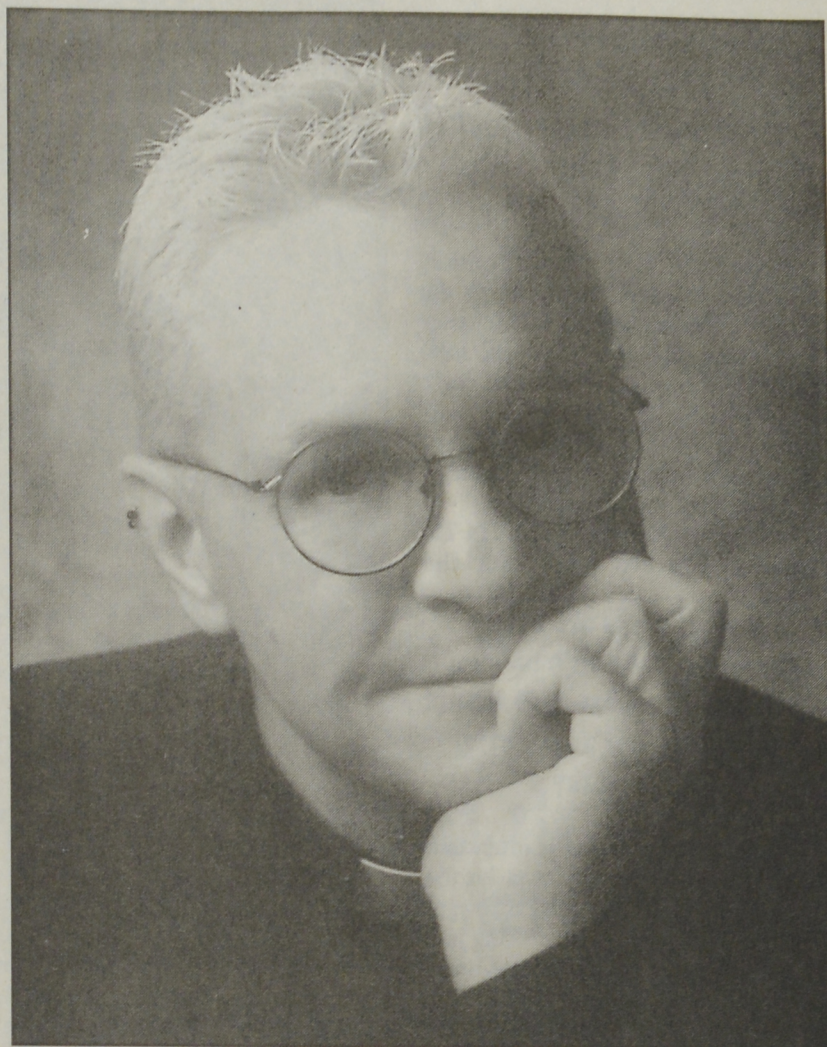
When: January 28, 2004 at 5:00 pm
Where: Tilley Hall, Room 307
Cost: Free

Food and refreshments will follow at The Cellar Pub at the Student Union Building.

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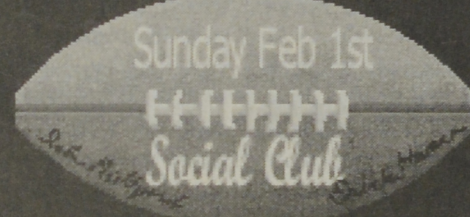
New Anglican Chaplain at UNB



Special to The Brunswickan

Rev'd George Porter has been appointed the interim Anglican Chaplain to UNB/STU. People are encouraged to stop by Campus Ministry February 10th to meet him.

Do you have an interesting life story to tell? Have you recently had an interesting experience or a miserable one? Drop us a line and tell us about it! You might see yourself or a friend in the paper.



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Wednesday

12:30

Room 35

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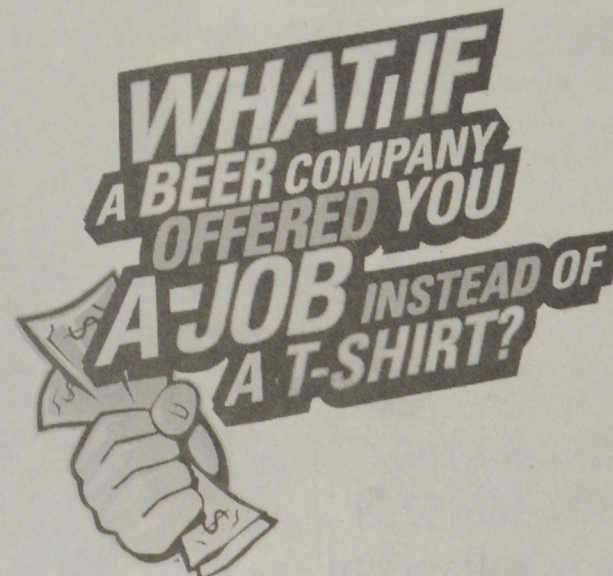


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