

THE BRUNSWICKAN

volume 137 issue 21 • the university of new brunswick in fredericton • www.unb.ca/bruns • 25 february 2004

News



Engineering students celebrated the program's 150th year at UNB. **Page 3**

A&E



No need to rescue the Joel Plaskett Emergency. **Page 7**

Sports



Men win two games, clinch AUS playoff spot **Page 8**

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Weather

Today: Variable cloudiness; Hey Mah! What's for dinner? Go up your nose and pick a winner!; High -2, Low -11.
Thursday: Cloudy periods; If I could only have on thing for the rest of my life? That's easy... PEZ, cherry flavored PEZ, no question about it; High -5, Low -14.
Friday: Cloudy periods; Hey man... what are we doing? Oh, we're breaking it down; High -1, Low -14.
Saturday: Light snow; If you ever catch on fire, try to avoid looking in a mirror because I bet that will really throw you into a panic; High 0, Low -10.
Sunday: Cloudy; I'm the badass of the classroom, I guess that means you've got a badass classroom; High 1, Low -9.

Quote of the Week

"There's no sadder sight than a young pessimist." - Mark Twain

Marijuana bill draws criticism

Conservatives, Marijuana Party denounce Liberal plans

by Sean Patrick Sullivan

Legislation to decriminalize marijuana possession was reintroduced into Parliament earlier this month, but both friends and foes of the drug are criticizing the bill.

The legislation, first introduced in March of 2003, died when Parliament adjourned in November, and spent some time with a special committee before being brought back to the House.

Since its last reading, the bill has been amended to reduce penalties and eliminate jail time for those caught with one to three marijuana plants.

Robin Ellis is the proprietor of the Friendly Stranger and Cannabis Culture Shop, an activist organization dedicated to changing the laws surrounding cannabis use. He says they're a little frustrated.

"Obviously the government's realizing that people want change, but I don't think they're cluing in at all to the magnitude of this issue

and how seriously it needs to be addressed," he explained.

"The bill really does little other than remove the criminal record for small-time possession. It doesn't resolve or rectify the situation in any way, shape, or form."

Under the new bill, possession of 15 grams or less of pot would be a ticketing offence, carrying fines of \$100 to \$400.

Possession of one to three plants would involve a fine of \$500 for adults and \$250 for people under 17 years old. Currently, the penalty is a maximum fine of \$5,000 or a year in jail.

The official opposition is critical as well, but for different reasons.

"The issue of marijuana is much more complex than this legislation deals with," said Randy White, a Conservative MP who has been at the forefront over the legalization debate.

"The decriminalization bill has some serious flaws in it," he said. "Either they don't understand or choose not to understand the consequences of what they're doing."

Officials from the Justice

(SEE MARIJUANA, PAGE 3)

Feeding hungry Frederictonians

UNB & STU participate in Meal Exchange program

by Carole Morris

Between 250 and 450 meals are served every day at the Fredericton Community Kitchen. It's estimated that 137,000 people in New Brunswick are hungry, 168,000 in Nova Scotia, 20,000 in PEI, and 1.6 million in Quebec. With statistics like these, student-run non-profit organizations like Meal Exchange are trying to help people who can't afford nutritious meals.

Leah Campbell, the coordinator for Skip a Meal at the University of New Brunswick, hopes this year's Meal Exchange fundraiser will be a success.

"I would like to see at least 800 students [participate]," said

Campbell. Forty-five campuses across Canada are participating this year, with each group donating the money/food raised to their local community kitchen.

Campbell has been involved with Meal Exchange since UNB embraced the national program three years ago. The first year she was involved, she was amazed at the amount of donations Skip a Meal brought in.

"We had about \$2,500 worth of food donated to the Fredericton Community Kitchen," she said. "The tables were stacked high with food, and [the staff at the kitchen] were really excited about it."

The way Skip a Meal works is simple. Students who live in residence and wish to participate agree to skip dinner on a specified night. This year, it's March 10th. The

(SEE HUNGER, PAGE 2)

How computers get fixed at UNB

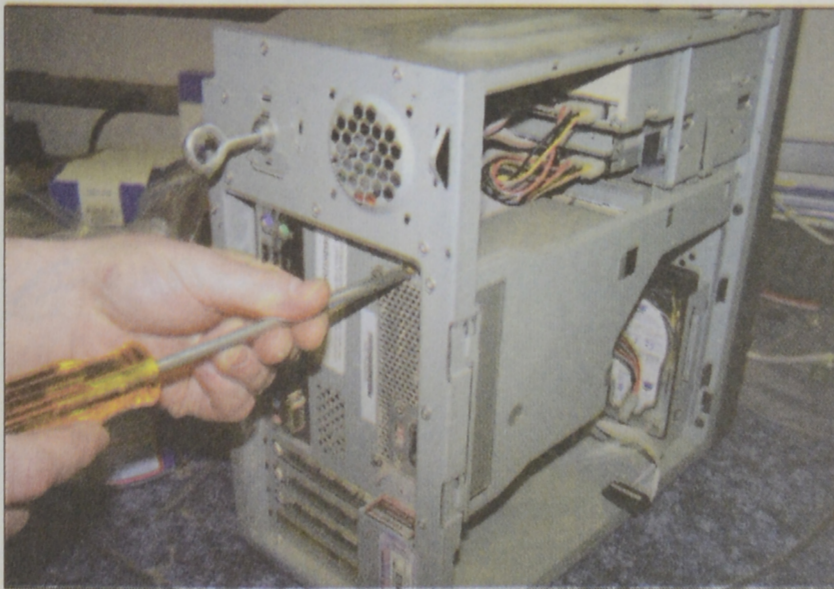
The inside story on UNB's micro repair shop

by Sean Patrick Sullivan

A giant printer sits on a table, its insides scattered about. Tools are everywhere, and random pieces of computers are strewn around the room. A storage room in the back holds boxes with dozens of hard drives and hundreds of mice and cables. Above my head, a mouse is lodged in the wall.

For Ivan Baird, it's a lot like having a messy bedroom. It looks like a colossal mess, but really, everything is exactly where you want it.

Baird is a technician in UNB's Micro Repair Shop in the ITS centre. Its small size and hidden location betray its importance: the three technicians working inside are responsible for the upkeep of 95 per



Meg Folkins/The Brunswickan

If they can't be fixed, they're smashed, then trashed.

cent of the computers on campus: more than 8,000 machines, by Baird's count.

On a Friday afternoon, seven

(SEE REPAIR, PAGE 2)



Brendan Doyle/The Brunswickan

Participants gasp as they strike the freezing water during Bridges House annual Polar Dip.

What's a little frostbite?

Bridges House takes the chilly plunge again this year

by Lindsay McDonough

As each participant leapt to their fate, the crowd's cries of dismay and looks of horror ensued. What better way to spend a dismal Saturday in February than to jump into a pool of below freezing water and ice? For Bridges House residents, this is precisely the reason the "dip" is one of the most exciting and anticipated events of the year.

As the crowd shuffled together on a big mound of snow, the only thing visible at the time was a sea of colorful bathrobes, shorts and towels. However, there was more than just beach apparel present, including some very interesting and unique outfits. One of the crowds favourite "costumes" at the event was a guy in checkered suspenders, a black golfing hat, bow tie, sandals and the words: "Pat for Sport Rep" painted on his bare chest. Other ensembles included three guys dressed in head-to-toe camouflage, a guy with a black wig and goggles,

five girls in Hawaiian outfits and a few random participants with underwear on their heads.

Bridges House Proctor, Kevin Wood, a.k.a. "Limbs", surprised everyone as he went to take his exhilarating plunge in nothing but a pair of skimpy, tight grey briefs.

While participants waited in line, a couple of first year students gave their thoughts on the affair. "Everyone has to try it at least once...[it will be] an experience I'm sure I'll never forget," said Bridges

(SEE DIP, PAGE 3)

Library money stolen

Police investigate incident, theft suspicious

by Eric Paradowski

It was a spare key that let a thief into a locked cabinet at the Harriet Irving Library's circulation desk. Inside the cabinet was \$700 that the thief stole at the beginning of the month.

Employees coming into to work the following morning noticed the missing money and reported it to UNB security and the Fredericton police department.

With no sign of forced entry into the cabinet the thief must have had a key to get inside, said UNB security official Reg Jerrett during an interview.

The key, however, is only available to Harriet Irving Library (HIL) staff and Jerrett said this suggests that the

theft was committed by an employee.

HIL library director John Teskey could not comment on the matter.

The investigation is now in the hands of the Fredericton police department and media liaison Sergeant Gary Arbour said they already have suspects in mind.

Over the course of the investigation, Arbour said the police will keep in touch with UNB security.

"We always work in partnership with UNB security, with information and in partnership at all times."

In light of the recent theft Jerrett said UNB security will be working with the library in "tightening up their security around the handling of money," and that this will also serve to make the campus as a whole more aware of the issue.

Thursday Feb 26, \$1.50 Shots/Mixed Drinks from 9-11

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