

A nice, legal way to share your music

EDITORIAL
SEAN PATRICK SULLIVAN

Since September, the Recording Industry Association of America has sued 1,445 people for illegally sharing copyrighted music on the Internet. This includes a 12-year-old girl (whose mother helped her settle her case for \$2,000) and a 71-year-old grandfather whose grandkids had downloaded some songs, along with hundreds of others who regularly use file sharing services like Kazaa.

Their crime? Downloading music and allowing others to access and download those songs. The average settlements found for those sharing 1,000 or more songs is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$3,000 – an excessive, ridiculous amount to ask for from people who might use Kazaa because they can't afford to buy music from a record store.

When the lawsuits started appearing we Canadians laughed, knowing the RIAA had no jurisdiction in Canada. Unfortunately, it's time to stop laughing.

Earlier this month, the Canadian Recording Industry Association announced it has filed court orders with five internet service providers (ISP) to seek the identities of 29 file swappers. See, all the CRIA or RIAA can find is the user's IP address (essentially, a numeric code that identifies the computer on the network) – it's up to the ISP to give the name and address.

It's taken a while because Canadian copyright law is murkier than that of the United States. For us, downloading music from Kazaa or Morpheus or whatever is perfectly

legal. A few years back a levy was attached to all recordable media (something like 60 cents per blank CD), which is to make up for losses in copyrighted material. In short: we can download all we want, as long as it's for personal, noncommercial use. You only risk prosecution if you're sharing that music.

The CRIA is facing a few obstacles, though, most notably new privacy laws brought into place earlier this year that might not allow ISPs to release information about their users. It's in the courts now, and will probably take a while to be sorted out.

There is, however, an excellent way for us on campus to share music, completely legally. It's called iTunes.

See, we at *The Brunswickan* are very faithful Mac users. We know that Apple computers are much better than their PC counterparts, and this extends to Apple's software. The latest port to Windows is the iTunes MP3 player, an elegant, beautifully-thought out piece of software that simplifies everything about music management on a computer. Best of all: you can share songs over a network.

Right now it seems as if there are only a dozen or so iTunes users on campus who are sharing their songs. Download it at www.apple.com, and click "Share My Music" and "Look for Shared Music" in the Preferences pane. You'll instantly have listen-only access to the music libraries of others on the campus network. If 100 people share their music (maybe averaging 500 songs each, that's 50,000 available songs).

It's easy and completely legal. If you're on campus and listen to MP3s on your computer, you should have done it a long time ago.

The lesser of a bunch of evils

Want a review of the SU candidates? **Nathan White** doesn't hold anything back

It's election time on campus, time for about 20 per cent (if we're lucky) of students to take the two minutes required to make their choice for next year's Student Union executive.

Judging by last week's sparsely-attended lunchtime debate/speech session, no one cares, so here's a quick rundown on what we know about the candidates. Maybe it will get you off your MSN long enough to make a few mouse clicks.

President

Nick Ouellette's got a nice website, but he's promising the world and then some. I'd prefer my school to be built on zero "pillars of plaid," but this guy's got IX of them and counting! You can't just say yes to everything – there actually is a budget and other members of council to deal with, but that doesn't seem to be a problem for this would-be student despot.

Charles Fournier can't be doing too well, judging by his desperate last-minute campaigning. Forward with Fournier? More like forward into a distortion of reality. The "environmentalist" has littered the computer labs with little pieces of paper (that aren't even cut straight) and has posters all over the place preaching his stance on residence life (psst, most of next year's residence students aren't here yet, Chuck). I hope you'll be recycling all those posters yourself.

If you think we're going to show favouritism to Brunsie Greg LeBlanc, you're wrong. When the curious candidate poked his head in to see what was up for last week's election special, News Editor Carole Morris quickly covered up the proofs, sending him the message that he'll get no more than a pat on the butt and a "go get 'em" from us. His top idea is online discussion forums, and the idea is great in theory, but if no one participates already, how many are going to go online to do so? Part of his platform is also "more articles in the *Brun*" and "frequent interviews with CHSR," which is strange because he should know better than anyone that both are independent media outlets over which the SU president has absolutely no say.

As for Steven Johns, his pamphlets are equally as ugly as Fournier's, his strategy at the debate seemed to be to give "clever" answers (read: weird and annoying) and he doesn't seem to know the difference between CFS and CASA, the two major national



student lobby groups. That's kinda one of those things you might want to brush up on before running for PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT UNION. He said he'd like to meet to talk about that during his "first week" but I have a feeling it won't get that far, considering his campaign slogan, "Larger than Life," sounds like an elitist Backstreet Boys song. Johns has also suggested that each member of the SU executive would have a column in the *Brun*. That's five SU columns a week. Sorry, bud, but this is an autonomous publication. If you want to publish a weekly PR rag, you'll have to do it on another budget.

VP Student Services

Lynette Manderson, give me a break. The most ironic thing about her campaign is that she said we should take a look at the "maturity of the candidates," yet her campaign slogan is "Pick the Chick." Wow, you're really blazing a trail for equality there, Lynette. Lose the pink shirt and pink posters.

But the other guy, Neil Cole, didn't even turn up for the debate and can't

string a sentence together, so I think he's got some issues. Manderson does have a good idea with stork parking, and is definitely the better candidate, it's just too bad she doesn't campaign on experience rather than the colour pink.

VP Executive

Jeff Matheson's campaign slogan is "I want to listen." Matheson is "very social," and mentions bars and going out more than once in his bio. That's code for "give me a steady paycheck and an excuse to stay in university for another year." When is he going to have time to listen?

I can't find much to make fun of competitor Desmond Lockhart for, so I'm assuming he's an axe-murderer, or has mafia connections. The guy has some really good (and relatively inexpensive) ideas on a wide range of issues, but he seemed a bit bored on stage last week. Maybe he's so confident in his ability that all he has to do is roll out of bed and show up. I will give him this, though: his answers were honest, and he was the only candidate who didn't just say yes to everything he was asked.

VP Univ. Affairs

Don't know much about either of these two, but although Jeff Brewer is promising "ACTION" and advocating everything, Wei Zhang has actually been a Vice President at UNB Saint John and might have a bit more realistic point of view.

VP Finance

Adam Baker is up against some tough competition here in No. We've all known No for a long time, and use it every day, although I'm not sure it would be as active on the union as an actual person. Also, No has been too lazy to put up any posters, and didn't show up to do a speech last week.

Don't know how to vote? Well, if you don't know how to get into your e-services and click "Voting," you probably don't deserve to be in university, so that's no excuse.

The Brunswickan would like to stress that these are all in good fun, and no ill-will is intended. After all, politicians have to get used to this kind of thing, right?

Voting and dead guys

MUGWUMP
BEN CONOLEY

With the Student Union election underway, I'm looking forward to the end. Yeah, I want to know who won, and who's going to have that nice office upstairs from mine, with a computer that works and a huge desk. But what drives my curiosity even more is the voter turnout.

The bi-election held this spring saw a whopping 162 votes come in out of an eligible 7166, or 2 per cent.

Mind you it was a bi-election, and not the real deal promised this week. I wonder though, if the turnout for this is going to be much better. I've only seen a few of the prospects running around campus this week, and during the speeches no one mentioned any ways to get more students to vote, which would be great to see in a platform.

I'm not a big fan of on-line voting; it's not "in your face" the way voting stations are. If it has to be done online though, I suggest setting up supervised temporary e-voting stations throughout campus where students would be encouraged to sit down and vote in an already booted and ready system. Make it easy to vote.

Also, while at the speeches/debate last week, a great question was posed, but not answered correctly by any of the candidates. To paraphrase,

someone asked, "Answering simply 'yes' or 'no,' have any of you ever been to a Student Union meeting?" Not one candidate answered "yes" or "no." What I heard a lot of however was "No, but blah blah blah." This coming from a panel in which every single person is campaigning on their desire and promise to listen.

Right: listen. Now onto something completely unrelated:

A woman in France this week married a dead guy. Christelle Demichel, of Nice, France, married Eric Demichel, who had died 17 months earlier in a car crash.

Now I understand love and symbolism and all that, but this is unnecessary. You don't marry dead people – they're dead.

I'm expecting a fax from the Conservative Party of Canada tomorrow which will outline why homosexual marriage is wrong because it will open the floodgates for other weird types of marriage, like marrying dead people. Forget the pedophiles.

Marrying a dead guy? What if Mr. Demichel had not wanted to marry his wife? What if he was on his way home to tell her that he had found someone else? What if he was going to say that it wasn't her, it was him?

Whatever happened to consent? I don't want to tread on the dead, but come on.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote NO on referendum days

I will be voting NO when I cast my ballot in this week's Student Union Referendum on the mandatory U-Pass question. I'm voting NO because we do not even know what form the U-Pass will take on for the mandatory \$60 that it would have us pay. Would you pay for something, unless you knew what it was? I certainly would not.

In addition, there are now SU Presidential candidates proposing changes to the yet-to-be defined U-Pass, such as giving exemptions to those who own vehicles. I find this idea absurd! Is my preference to travel by foot (and I frequently do) not worthy of an exemption?

It has also been suggested that by having "improved" transit service, students would be more likely and more willing to choose locations further away from campus to live. I would argue that the majority of students' preference would still be to live close to campus because of the convenience it offers. To be able to just run out the door to the library to grab that book you forgot to get earlier in just 5 or 10 minutes instead of waiting an extra hour for the bus that just went by makes life so much easier. With or without "improved" transit service, there's so much to be said about living close to campus. Oh, and when was the last time you heard someone saying that they like riding the bus?

If you listen to the Student Union, it would seem like city transit has all but forgotten campus, and only comes around once or twice a day. The fact is, it does come around almost once an hour (admittedly there are a few holes). Having the buses come by every hour does not seem like a huge improvement for a mandatory \$60/student. In fact, it appears that this whole thing is being rushed!

The UNBSU needs to slow down, take a deep breath and realize where they are taking us. I would suggest that they do negotiate with the City of Fredericton and the St. Thomas Student Union. Negotiate a plan, figure out what it will cost, and make changes to the routes as needed. Bring that detailed plan back to the student body, let us see what we are buying into and then put it to a vote and let us decide whether we want it. This process will ensure the best deal possible for students so that they will be confident of a YES vote after all this hard work.

But for now, I'm voting NO! I will not give the UNBSU a mandate to charge me \$60 for something that as of now has no substance!

• Justin Keddy

"Choose a dude?"

So it's that time of year again: elections for next year's Student Union are being held. There are many great candidates running, most with great ideas and good campaign strategies. However, being a chick, I was upset to hear the speech

delivered by Lynette Manderson, who is running for VP Student Services.

I have nothing against Manderson, and mean no offense to her. However, her "pick the chick" slogan is just plain dumb. She might be the best person for the job, she could be the worst; I don't know, but she has a horrible campaign strategy. Lynette's bright pink posters are all over campus, with the words "Pick the Chick" below Manderson's picture. The problem is, those posters don't say anything about what she is fighting for. It seems to me she is basing her whole campaign off of the fact that she is the only girl running. In fact, she makes that very clear on all those posters as well.

I'm just sick of women complaining that they get treated differently than men when they do stupid things like this to separate themselves. So why should she get away with using her sex as a way to win? If a guy had posters all over campus saying "choose a dude" I'm sure he would be accused of being sexist. So what is she? In my opinion, she is a person who is looking for some easy votes from female students.

I understand diversity is a great thing to have. But does that mean Wei Zhang should run his campaign off of the fact that he is the only asian person running? No, it should be off of what he can do for UNB.

My point is, people should be promoting great ideas and what they would like to see happen at UNB. It should have nothing to do with your sex.

• Ashley Marr

Remember: U-Pass means a mandatory fee for all students

Recently the Student Union sent out a Special Edition Student Newsletter in reference to the proposed U-Pass.

Since I am a local student who lives on the northside and has a car I have not been following the U-Pass story so I deleted it.

Unfortunately, it was recently brought to my attention that although I never use city transit I will be forced to pay a mandatory \$60 fee if this U-Pass proposal is voted in.

I am very concerned that the vote this week will be an unfair estimate on how students really feel about this idea since it has never been publicly announced that this would mean a mandatory increase in student fees for all students.

I already pay a \$60 parking fee and I will not be happy if this passes simply because students were not made aware that it would effect us all and not just those using transit.

It is my hope that as our student newspaper you will tell both sides of this story and inform students of the affect this would have so we can make an informed decision in next week's vote.

As it stands now I worry that only those who use the transit system will be voting...

• Anonymous

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