

# Hardest working man in Res Life

by Josh O'Kane

This year, residence life has a new director of its operations. Meet James Brown, an English Ph.D. from York University who's ready to make some new changes.

Having 25 years experience as both a longtime student and university employee, Brown brings a lot to the table at UNB.

So who is James Brown? Well, he's not as famous as the other James Brown that so many people outside of UNB probably know. Does he feel good?

"A couple years ago, [the entertainer] James Brown started going to jail; that doesn't feel too good, or work so well," he explains. But the name works well as an icebreaker.

"Sometimes for an icebreaker in the first class, we go around the table and have everyone tell something about themselves that will help us remember their names, and forward class discussion so people will know one another," says Brown. "People are free to do anything, to reinforce to the class of their identity. What I often do, is I sing 'I feel good!' And they do the 'dalananananana!'"

But James Brown is more than just a director and 'entertainer.' He's also an active triathlete, with much experience in running, swimming and cycling.

"I swam in some Ontario championships in my teens. I ran marathons for many years; I did a couple dozen in Toronto, Ottawa. As I've gotten older, running has become harder on my body, so I switched to triathlons to spread the stress around," he explains.

Activity is something Brown takes to heart. "I do most of my training on my bike. I brought mine with me to Fredericton, and I use it to commute back and forth. In Toronto, I was about 12 miles north of York, so that would have typically been about 20 miles each day to commute."

Brown, however, is not just here to show off his athletic prowess. He's here to make residence life something everyone can enjoy.

"I ran housing at York for almost five years," Brown says of his experience. "At York, I had the operation and administrative side, but York doesn't do residence life nearly as well as UNB. The school doesn't put nearly as much attention into the residence community, which is one of the things I love at UNB."

In his final two years at York,

he built a 428 bed suite-style residence. "It's a similar plan to the residence we're putting up here," he says. It will be a combination of double and triple rooms, with each one containing its own common living area, washroom and kitchen.

Brown's respect for UNB is very high, and he wishes to get the word out about how much he appreciates UNB: "It is not as well known inside of UNB as it is out what a wonderful residence system this is. I want to make sure that's well understood within UNB."

An example of his appreciation for UNB's facilities is the McConnell dining hall. "I want students to know how well the renovations are in McConnell, and how beautiful it really is. It compares very favorably to those in Southern Ontario," he explains. "But typically, UNB students haven't been to Southern Ontario."

Aside from his work with residences, he also teaches a Clear Writing course for the English faculty. Does his job keep him busy?

"Learning the residence operation as well as settling in Fredericton, and teaching my course, fully occupies my time." Despite all that, he has still managed to find time to have fun at UNB.

"I went out for the rowing team. I learned about it when I first came [to UNB], went to tryouts, and was successful in getting on the team," Brown says. "I had an absolutely

fabulous ball," he said of his first time rowing.

Other plans for the residence system he has begun to implement are regular outings to see Theater New Brunswick plays. For the first expedition, "Here on the Flightpath," the university viewers actually got to sit down and have dinner with the director and actor, Norm Foster, as well as attend a function afterwards to meet the cast and crew.

Another effort will be annual surveys of residence life itself, including the food, to be able to make things better for future occupants.

"How was your residence experience on a scale of 1-10? What can be done next year to make it better?" he cites as some potential questions. "We can bench mark against that first year, and try to improve against that point."

Brown also plans on implementing an "International Hall" in Mackenzie House, starting in the 2006 Fall term.

"It started as an initiative in September; I spoke to Mackenzie in early October. I explained the idea to the Don and House President, and then they had a large meeting with the house to explain the idea."

And the results? About 80 per cent of the house voted, and of them, 80 per cent voted in favour of the new initiative. As of now, plans include 32 beds and 16

rooms set up for the program.

"We will set up programming around cultural diversity, learning from one another, cultural sensitivity, and probably do some cuisine around the world kind of program," says Brown.

The hall will be vertically integrated around a stairway; the rooms close to the stairway will be part of the hall.

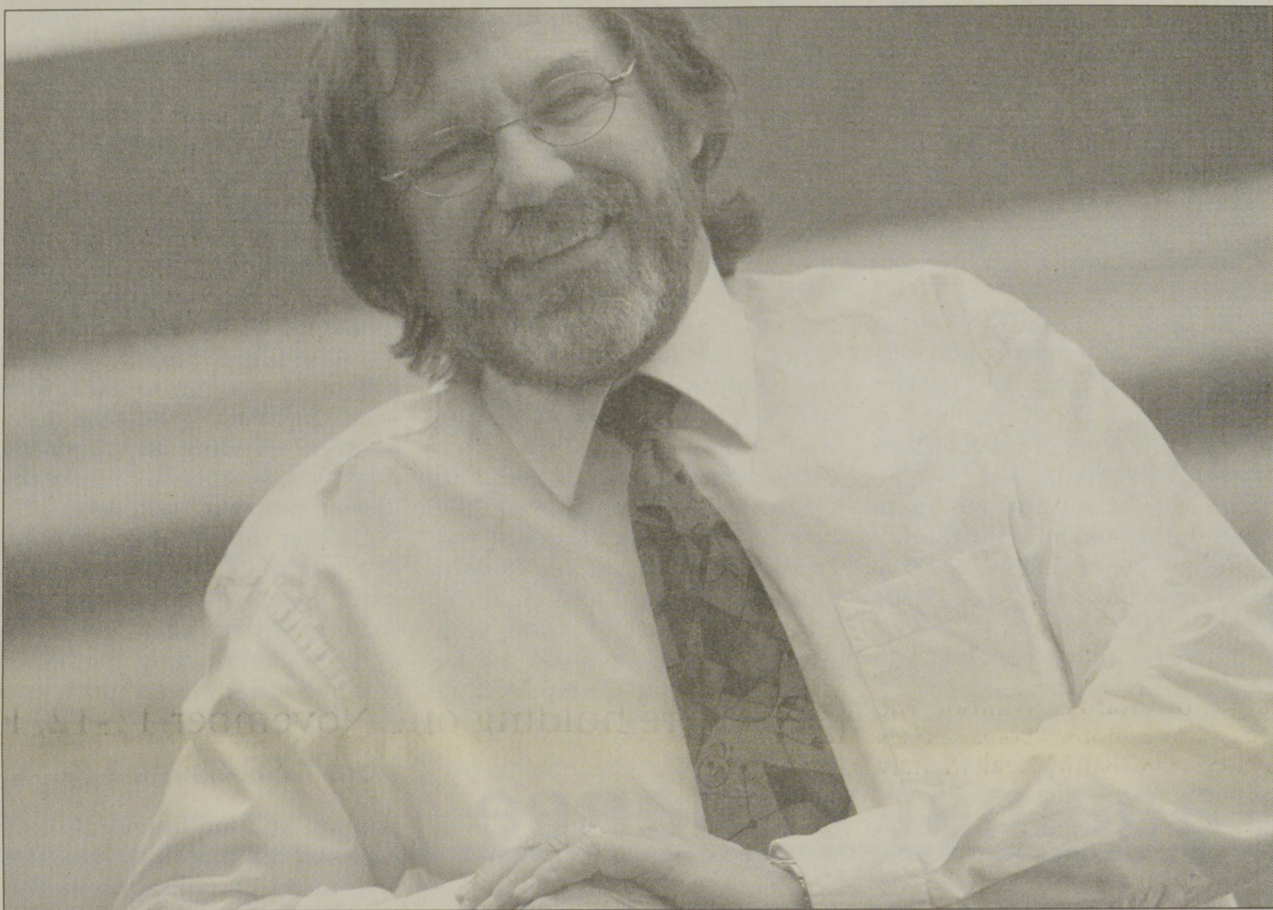
"That will allow some integrity as a hall, but also open them up to the influences of all the other members of Mackenzie. That was actually Mackenzie's idea. The idea would balance the subgroup with part of the larger residence."

One question remains: is James Brown the hardest working man in the residence system?

"The truth is, when I came from York, I was worried I'd be considered a workaholic...But since I started working beside John Craighead, who has to be the hardest working guy in the world, I feel like the poster boy for the work-life balance."

Regardless, Brown certainly has his act together for his new job here at UNB. Since his arrival at the start of the fall term, his headway is already beginning to show. He is satisfied with the job he's done thus far.

"I think those are my main goals for the first year. Other than that, it's to meet everybody on the campus I interact with, and to build my sense of UNB."



James Brown is the new Director of Residence Life.

Submitted to The Brunswickan

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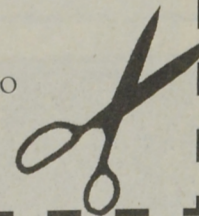
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d. su roundup  
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Please drop off completed surveys to The Brunswickan office in the Student Union Building, room 35.



## N. Korean journalists least free, Canada ranks 21

by Arla Latto-Hall

The Cord Weekly

(Wilfrid Laurier University)

WATERLOO, ON. (CUP) -- In the 2005 Worldwide Press Freedom Index recently released by international media watchdog, Reporters Without Borders, The Democratic People's Republic of (North) Korea finished an unsurprising dead last.

According to the report, the nation's secret police are continuing to send dissident journalists to concentration camps under the direction of Dictator Kim Jong-Il.

On a positive note, the report tied eight northwestern European countries, including Denmark, Finland and Iceland as most free. The top ten countries are all European, consistent with last year's results.

Other trends in the Index include a slide among Western democracies, a rise in African and Latin American press freedom and continued trouble in both Asia and Iraq.

North Korea ranked 167, qualifying it as the least free country for the press. It also ranked last in

the 2004 report. Eritrea (166) and Turkmenistan (165) rounded out the bottom three.

Those at the bottom were described as "black holes", where privately owned media and freedom of the press and expression do not exist. In these countries, journalists are propaganda agents of the government with little to no editorial independence.

The report also contradicts some commonly held beliefs about how long it takes a free press to develop. Although authoritarian leaders claim democracy takes time to establish, the Index shows that of the states who have regained independence within the last 15 years, nine rank among the top 60 countries. Slovenia ranked 9, Estonia 11 and Lithuania tied with Canada at 21.

Although the highest rankings are composed of rich countries, several poor ones are also among the top 60, refuting the claim that economic development is necessary for democracy. These regions include Benin (25), Mali (37) and Bolivia (45).

Although South Korea ranks first in the Asian continent at 34th, the region is still most dif-

ficult for journalists. Nepal's king has implemented censorship and arrested more than 150 journalists within the first ten days of September 2004. Although China has begun to privatize some of its media, dozens of sensitive issues are forbidden. Cyber-dissidents have been sought out and imprisoned.

Canada ranked 21 in the report, the highest ranking for a non-European country, after slipping three places from last year due to court decisions weakening source confidentiality, turning some journalists into "court auxiliaries".

Canada got in trouble with the organization after the RCMP raided Ottawa Citizen reporter Juliet O'Neill's home. In November of 2003, The Citizen ran a front-page story written by O'Neill about the RCMP investigation of Maher Arar, the Syrian-born Canadian who was deported and tortured under suspicion of engaging in terrorist activity. The Mounties were after O'Neill's source who leaked vital information to her regarding the case.

Canada still ranks above the domestic United States, however,

who sits in 44 place. The U.S. has fallen 20 places since the 2004 Index, mostly due to the imprisonment of New York Times reporter Judith Miller and new legal restrictions on the ability of journalists to protect their sources.

The report ranked countries based on a questionnaire, addressing issues affecting journalists - murders, imprisonments, physical attacks and threats - and news media - censorship, confiscation of issues, searches and harassment.

Abuses attributed to the state, armed militias, clandestine organizations and pressure groups are also taken into account. The 2005 report covered abuses from Sept. 1, 2004 to Sept. 1, 2005.

Some countries were not included in the list for lack of credible data, and rankings do not reflect the quality of the press.

The organization's aim is to advocate journalists' freedom from imprisonment or murder and to promote privately owned media organizations, both of which are rare in countries under the thumb of despots.

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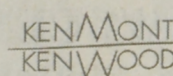
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