



The Brunswickan

issue 12 volume 139 • canada's oldest student publication • UNB fredericton's official student newspaper • november 23, 2005

Strike rumours Reds on the rise, records set to fall

by Megan Dykens

Rumours of a possible faculty strike have been circulating around campus for a week now and have many students asking the famous 'what if?' question. This has prompted the Student Union (SU) into action.

"Students are becoming nervous," said VP External Ellen Creighton. "Our objectives are to represent the students' best interests and one of those interests is to be informed. All they are hearing right now are rumors."

These rumours, said Creighton, are being fed to students within the classroom. Reports of professors recruiting the support of students during lecture time have surfaced, forcing the SU to hold an information forum to clear up any misconceptions that have

been instilled.

"Using class time to talk about their labour issues is a complete misuse of lecture time... students are paying dearly for that time. The forum is to help alleviate students' concerns and give information that is accurate," said Creighton.

It would seem though, that accurate information is different depending on who you talk to.

A strike is highly unlikely, said UNB Secretary Stephen Strople, "both parties are currently deeply involved in conciliation... the rumors are completely speculation."

Representatives for the Association of the University of New Brunswick Teachers (AUNBT) declined to comment on the surfacing of these rumors and has taken

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by Ike Ogosi

The men's Varsity Reds hockey team chalked up an impressive weekend with two wins that preserved their 100 per cent home record (6-0-0), and did so against

an AUS semifinalist and an AUS losing finalist.

Varsity Reds goaltender Reg Bourcier is first among a number of players chasing UNB records this season. The Keewartin, Ontario native has been outstanding in goal, despite UNB leaking in a sig-

nificant number of goals, and his skills have made him a mainstay on the team.

With the two games over the weekend, Bourcier has raised the tally of minutes he has performed on the ice for the Reds to a whopping 5,224, exactly 100 shy of

the current record. That record will fall at Moncton on Saturday, should Bourcier play through that game and the preceding encounter at home to UPEL. Bourcier is also joint third for the number of games played by a goaltender at UNB (95).



Reds captain Craig Mahon intercepts a shot on goal during action last Saturday night. The Reds won 5-3.

Brendan Doyle/The Brunswickan

SU establishes board of inquiry

by Brendan Doyle

Former Student Union President Greg LeBlanc isn't worried.

The 2004-05 SU President will likely be asked to speak before a board of inquiry looking into the Union's current deficit situation.

"I can't vote on the SU council, but I still support the board," said LeBlanc, "because it is the responsible thing to do. If any other form of government goes into debt or surplus, I would expect the same."

The board will ask how and why the Union spent \$133,000 more than it had budgeted. Though any questions of financial malfeasance have been put to rest, Council would like former Executive members to provide a context that helps explain why decisions to spend money were made.

The board is intended to help the Union recognize and respond to problems with internal reporting mechanisms and Council that VP Finance Mark Munro may have missed. Councilor Nick Ouellette also hopes the board will review problems with the old reporting system and ensure that the new system is free of any flaws.

Additionally, any recommendations the board makes, "can be used as a context to scrutinize the financial policy that Mr. Munro has developed but which has yet to be brought to Council for consideration," said Ouellette.

LeBlanc agrees, adding that, "it is important for the General Manager and for future executives to know why those spending choices were made."

The board will also help assuage any concerns the University may have regarding the Unions fiscal responsibility.

"I think the board delivers both a way to find the solutions to our problems, but also sends a message [to the University] that says, 'we are not, under any circumstances, going to allow this to happen again,'" said Ouellette.

The motion to strike the board of inquiry received much attention at last week's Council meeting.

Former VP University Affairs Jeff Brewer submitted a letter to Council, which was read into the record by Arts Councilor Jessica Stutt. In the letter, Brewer expressed his concerns that the board would be a waste of time, would only reproduce work already done, and would not be in the best interest of students. He also suggested that Councilor Ouellette's interest in the board stemmed from a personal desire to destroy the credibility of former President Greg LeBlanc and former VP Finance Adam Baker.

Though some of Brewer's letter was deemed inappropriate for Council, his sentiments are echoed in a letter to the editor sent to The Brunswickan, which, due to space constraints, will not be published.

Despite Stutt's backing of Brewer's message, the majority of Council saw merit in the board of inquiry and spoke out supporting the motion.

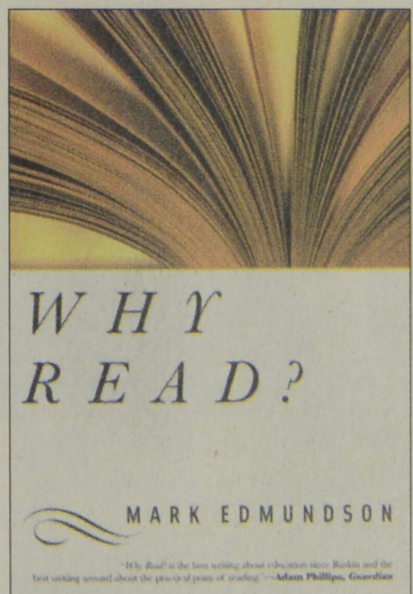
Councilor Lyle Skinner pointed out that the motion is part of a proactive plan to show the UNB

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What has your education done for you lately?

New book challenges the commerciality of university education

by Alex Pope



In the mid-1990s, a segment appeared in an Archie comic book digest in which Archie, Jughead, and the other perpetual occupants of Riverdale High School become the subjects of an experiment in "virtual reality learning" administered by a company that claims to have discovered the educational method of the future. Instead of having to attend actual classes, the students each receive a television and a taped recording of a "virtual teacher" who will administer their lessons from home.

At first, the idea of programmed home schooling seems like the best thing to befall Archie and his misunderstood teenaged pals:

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NB's family foundation

by Josh O'Kane

As the term comes to an end, many UNB students are beginning to think about going home for the Christmas break to see their family. Most people in New Brunswick have a family to go home to, but not everyone.

Almost 100 kids a year, on average, are taken away from their homes or simply given up for adoption in New Brunswick alone. This can add up rather quickly over a few years, meaning plenty of mouths to feed and no families to feed them.

The burden on these children's lives, as well as the subsequent economic burden on the government for their livelihood, is something that no one wants to think about. That's why the New Brunswick Adoption Foundation was formed in March 2002.

You may have seen their most recent barrage of ads this month on television; commercials of kids telling you why adoption is great. Under the campaign name "Kids Can't Wait to Have a Family," this is the latest effort of the foundation to increase awareness of the issue of adoption in New Brunswick, with November being National Adoption Awareness Month.

The primary problem, explains Robert Duguay of New Brunswick's Department of Family and Community Services, is that "for years, when you were talking about adoption, you were talking about Asia or Africa. We had to make people aware that adoption can also be here in New Brunswick, where kids are waiting for a family."

When a crisis strikes elsewhere in the world, it gathers peoples' attention and they do what they

can to help out. But on the home front, there is no apparent crisis, but there is still a persistent need.

The Honourable Erminie Cohen is chair of the foundation, and has seen the benefits it has brought to the province since its inception.

"Almost 450 children have been placed in permanent, forever families," she explains. "This really shows that the advertising is important."

"Once the ads stop, the calls decrease immensely in the office. It's frustrating, because no matter how many children we place, there are at least 100 children put into our care each year, so you see yourself moving two steps ahead and one step back," says Cohen.

The children who are up for adoption are in need of special care, and each have their own problems to worry about on top of not having a family to live with.

"They're special-needs kids," Cohen explains. "They are made up of sibling groups - brothers and sisters that don't want to be separated - fetal alcohol children, older kids who have a hard time finding permanency in a family, and kids that have association problems because they've been in so many different foster homes that they have attachment problems." Ranging in age from two to 17, each has their own needs, but the common one is the need to have a permanent family.

According to Cohen, "what we do is promote and educate." They are doing so with much support from the government as well. "We've had a charity auction for [National Adoption Month], which was very successful. We had a big press conference in Fredericton at Government House. Our board member spoke, who herself is adopted, and the Lt. Governor spoke very warmly and very much

in favor of the whole adoption process."

"It's very important because people don't understand that we have this many children that are looking for permanent homes, and what a difference a family circle can make in the life of a child," she explains.

The foundation also has plans for the future, in case a provincial government change causes a lack of support for the program.

"We are in the process of establishing a legacy fund," Cohen says. "We will be going out on a very big campaign sometime in the near future, to build that leg-

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