



The Brunswickan

issue 13 volume 139 • canada's oldest student publication • UNB fredericton's official student newspaper • november 30, 2005

Strike update

by Brendan Doyle

The UNB Administration and the Association of University of New Brunswick Teachers (AUNBT) are no closer to an agreement. But they are no closer to a strike either.

Both sides have agreed to a media blackout - neither side will comment on the possibility of a strike or the progression of the negotiations.

Last Monday night the UNB Student Union hosted a public information session to help students understand the situation, dispel rumors, and gain student input.

The session began with about 25 people, but the crowd quickly grew to 40. Most sat quietly while members of the SU executive explained the situation, but a few had questions.

Those who attended the meeting were interested in knowing what the issues are, how often the UNB Administration and the AUNBT meet, how long the last contract lasted, what it will mean if the Union strikes in May, and how likely a strike is.

And here are the answers: The Administration and the Union meet each week to negotiate the latest contract, which will replace the previous contract that lasted 5 years. If the AUNBT strikes in May, most of their power - the threat of canceling exams - will be gone. Yet at the same time, students will be able to graduate without worrying about losing tuition, class time, and academic standing.

And how likely is a strike? "A strike is by no means a certainty. I want to stress that. It is by no means a certainty," said SU VP External Ellen Creighton.

But what is a certainty, according to the Student Union, is that regardless of the AUNBT and Administration's negotiated outcome, students will suffer. UNB SU President Ciana Chiasson emphasized this at the public meeting last Monday night.

Students will lose either way because in order for UNB to meet specific AUNBT wage demands during a time of fiscal crisis, the university must pay teachers out of students' pockets. If professors don't get their wage increase, it could become difficult to recruit and retain talented teachers - a definite loss for students.

Artificially enhanced concentration

by Alias Grace

I've done it. And though few students at the University of New Brunswick (UNB) will admit to having taken methylphenidate (Ritalin) without a prescription, and though no official statistics have yet been confirmed, many will use the drug during preparations for this semester's exam period.

Ritalin, a central nervous system stimulant, is prescribed to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and in some cases, narcolepsy (characterized by an uncontrollable desire for sleep or sudden bouts of deep sleep). A recent and staggering increase in prescriptions has allowed the drug to become widely available to those without ADHD.

Symptoms that include inattention, impulsive behaviour, and hyperactivity are reduced with the use of the drug.

But according to a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration report on methylphenidate, "contrary to popular belief, stimulants like methylphenidate will affect normal children and adults in the same manner that they affect ADHD children."

Those who take the drug, whether diagnosed with ADHD or not, are able to focus their attention on a single task and experience a heightened ability to concentrate. Thoughts and ideas are created much more quickly and clearly, giving students an edge on the competition.

This helps to explain students' increasing misuse of the drug. In university, for example, a more efficient way of writing a twenty-page term paper is no doubt an option worth considering.

In an environment where it has become clear that in order to achieve academic and, in turn, career goals, one must strive to be at the top of their class; a leg-up can be hard to come by. It is simply not enough anymore to stay up all night drinking coffee or taking caffeine pills to cram for an exam or write a paper. Ritalin provides a similar physical stimulation to that of excessive caffeine while also stimulating the brain. And one's thoughts aren't just clearer: they sometimes flow from the brain too fast for the fingers they are sent to. But these thoughts are enhanced artificially - chemically.

see Ritalin page 4



Michèle Legendre /The Brunswickan

The use of methylphenidate (Ritalin) without prescription, as a tool for achieving academic success, has increased rapidly in recent years.

Community pulls together for commemorative CD project

by Jeremy Dickson

Randy Cable is an inspiration and a hero. He was given a raw deal, but rose above it in ways most people could not imagine. The talented local musician's life was sadly and tragically cut short by terminal colon cancer on September 11, 2005, at the age of thirty-one. His music and spirit, however, will live on with the help of friends, family, musicians, and those just hearing his story for the first time.

Band Together 2, a benefit concert to be held at the SUB cafeteria on December 2, will help bring Cable's project and vision closer to reality.

Cable was diagnosed with terminal colon cancer in March of 2004 at age twenty-nine, and hospitalized indefinitely. Doctors gave him only months, weeks, or days to live. He underwent numerous treatments in Canada and the U.S., but was eventually told on the fifth occasion that he would not live.

The grim news gave Randy an

idea. His plan was to set up a recording studio in his hospital ward where he could record a solo CD. His idea was to donate all the profits from the recording to cancer research and patient services. To the amazement of his doctors, Randy created Southwest Studios, named after his ward.

Cable enlisted many friends, family, and local musicians to help him, but sadly, he passed away before the CD could be completed. The multitude of songs and stories he left behind, however, will not be forgotten, as the community has come together to see Randy's project through to completion.

Friends and family of Randy Cable will be hosting Band Together 2 to honour his life, and proceeds from the show will go towards the completion of his CD and to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Bands performing at the concert include All of Green, Hot Toddy, Melonworks, Grand Theft Bus, and a special performance by Naked Days, Cable's former band.

Julie Easley, who had a strong bond with Cable and is helping to

organize the concert, stresses the importance of respecting Cable by finishing what he started.

"After Randy passed away, we all knew that we had to finish the CD. It was just a matter of figuring out how we were going to do it. It took so much energy and effort for Randy to accomplish all that he did on the CD while he was in the hospital; it is only fitting that we would put as much effort and determination into making it happen," says Easley.

During his time in the hospital, Cable set up his laptop computer, guitar, a portable recording device and a mic in the corner of his hospital room. He penned lyrics about his experience with cancer and also recorded some songs from his past that uplifted him. He proceeded to write and record enough songs for a double CD. Easley says many of the songs reflect Randy's humour and inner strength despite his weakened condition.

The next step in Cable's plan

see cancer page 7

Holiday election set

by Brendan Doyle and Meg R. Folkins

No confidence? No kidding.

Paul Martin's Liberals lost an historic non-confidence vote this past Monday, confirming speculation that Canadians could be headed to the polls before the end of January.

Opposition leaders Jack Layton, Gilles Duceppe and Stephen Harper teamed up to defeat the Liberals 171 to 133, exactly one year and five months after Martin's minority government was elected.

This defeat marks a historic moment for Canada, as this is the first time a minority government has lost a strictly non-confidence motion. Other minority governments have fallen, but these were due to losses on budgetary or censure motions interpreted as a loss of confidence.

Conservative leader Stephen Harper got the ball rolling Thursday when he introduced a non-confidence motion in the House of Commons. The motion was supported by NDP leader Jack Layton but tabled until later in the week.

Harper made allusions to the Liberals record of "organized crime" and set the tone for what could be a very negative campaign. The mudslinging didn't stop there, as MPs from both the Liberal and Conservative parties

took part in attempts to destroy the credibility of others. John Reynolds, a veteran Conservative, blasted Immigration Minister Joe Volpe, calling him a "sleazebag." Volpe fired back that Reynolds had over-spent his travel budget, and suggested that this may have been due to a preference for caviar and personal jets.

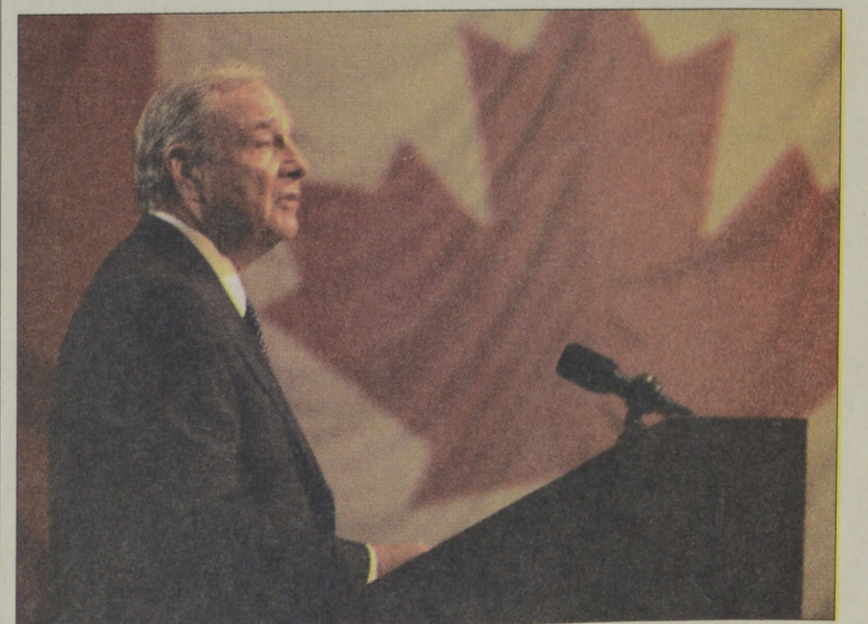
The Liberal minority government is being scrutinized primarily, and not surprisingly, for the sponsorship scandal. Harper condemned the government last week, declaring that "after 17 months in office the record of this government - or I should say in many instances its lack of record - has become unacceptable to a large majority of Canadian voters."

Martin counters that he has already promised to call an election within 30 days of the report being released.

But many MPs are not satisfied with the idea of playing the waiting game any longer. "We were ready [for an election] last spring," said BQ Leader Gilles Duceppe, "so a few more days, a few days less, we don't mind."

All parties were unanimous in their desire to delay the election until early January, but that does not mean campaigning will wait until the new year.

For the moment, the Liberals are promising to put their money in all the right places, as opposed to where their mouths are.



TOP STORIES

ARTS

COULD YOU BE THE NEXT MUCH VJ?



INDEX

News.....	1
Letters.....	6
Arts.....	8
Classifieds.....	9
Sports.....	10

FRIDAY DEC 2 STU Last Class Bash

No Cover With STU I.D.

STUDENTS WORKING FOR STUDENTS SINCE 1970
Social Club
WWW.COLLEGEHILLSOCIALCLUB.COM
For Members & Guests Only

Keep it on Campus