



University for all, accessibility for some

by Josh O'Kane

Take a look around Carleton Hall. What do you see? Stairs. Many peoples' first impressions of the building usually include confusion. With so many randomly placed stairs, it's difficult to find out what floor your class may actually be on.

Others look at it with a sense of fear, because they don't know how they can make it from point A to point B - because stairs are an impossibility for them.

Students and faculty alike can be inflicted with problems that make accessibility such as this an issue. Whether they are unable to move from the waist down, hindered by a muscular disease, or simply injured, navigating older buildings like that can be anywhere from difficult to impossible.

Chris Lorey is a professor of German here at UNB who is currently on sabbatical. About five years ago, he was afflicted with an unknown virus which caused brain damage that essentially bound him to a wheelchair. His office was located on the third floor of Carleton Hall - and he chose not to have it moved after the university offered to have it moved.

"I have everything I need on that third floor, which the exception of access," says Lorey. "In every other respect, the location of my office is ideal, because my office is located directly next to the secretary's office, and it's also right next to the student lounge, close to the washroom, close to the departmental seminar room."

The area is also shared by many of his colleagues, as well as his second office, where he works on the International Fiction Review, of which he is an editor.

Lorey was able to use a wheelchair at home and for the drive to UNB, but once he faced the stairs in Carleton Hall, he was left to depend on the help of others to get him up or down. At the top of the stairs, he had a second wheelchair available for him, which he now still uses.

The German professor now uses a powerful specialty wheelchair called the Ibot, which allows him to conquer stairs. The machine, purchased by UNB to help give Lorey access to UNB's facilities, cost about \$25,000 U.S. But because of its sheer size

and bulk, Lorey doesn't even use it unless he has to. Though it allows him to climb the stairs he needs, he still has access to his second, less bulky wheelchair on the third floor of Carleton Hall as well as one for at home and off-campus.

One choice he was offered was to have his office moved to Tilley Hall.

"But in Tilley," he says, "the access is very, very bad. There's only one way to have wheelchair access, and that's through the front. But in order to get there, where do you park? In front of Kierstead, or next to the library. But you have to get down the hill. In Singer, there is no ramp there. That's aside from the fact that I don't have the strength to get up the hill. And then over from Kierstead into Tilley is very hard for someone with a movement disorder."

It's not for himself that he is concerned about access, says Lorey. He feels he should not be the focus when it comes to issues like this, as he is just one paid professor in a sea of thousands of students who pay for the university's services. It's just as he mentioned above - he's concerned for anyone with a movement disorder.

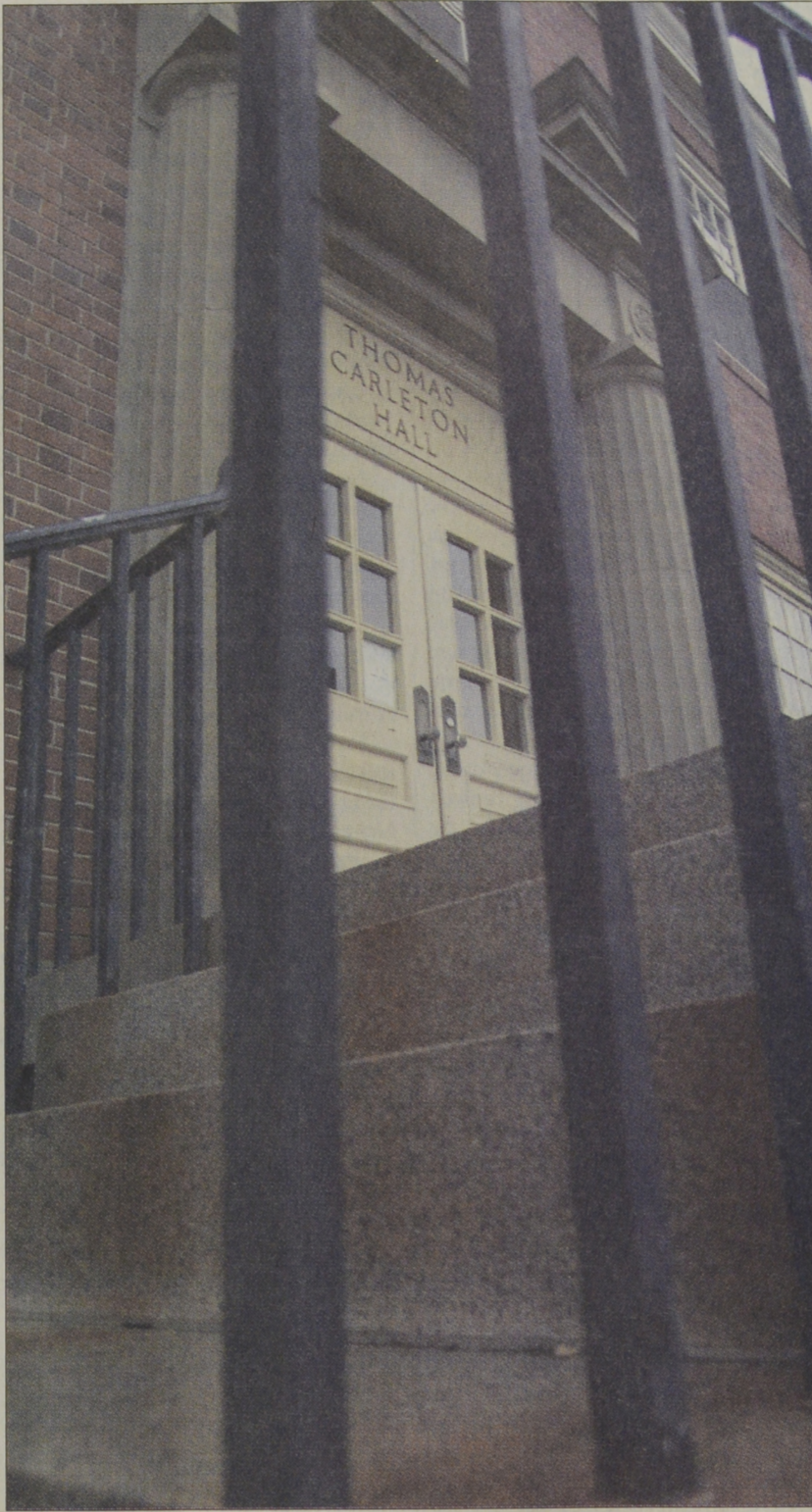
"A lot of people think disability means sitting in a wheelchair. For anyone with a cane, it's also going to be a problem. I can walk short distances, but I just can't walk a long way, because I have a spasm that knocks me over. I'm concerned about anyone with a movement disorder."

"So few people are aware," he says, "of how easy it is to become a victim to access. 'Let's say you get out of your office and twist your ankle - you will become a person with a disability. Temporarily so, I pray, but let's say you have to use a cane. Then you have only one arm available. You use a cane, you carry your bag, and now you're unstable. So, how are you going to open the door?'"

One example he mentioned was the last time he went to Marshall d'Avray Hall. On the multimedia side there are fully accessible washrooms for the disabled, but in order to access them, he says the door to cross to get to them is incredibly heavy.

Lorey says that he is privileged because he still retains some use of his legs, and isn't fully paraplegic.

see **Accessibility** page 2



Nate Wright / The Brunswickan

Stairs at Carleton Hall prevent accessibility for some students and staff

What ever happened to... a little respect

by Hunter Gaven

Canadian identity was not born on the ice. Nor was it founded in a brewery. The idea of Canada, strong and separate from the British Empire, came from the battlefields of northern France.

Vimy Ridge was one of the most heavily defended points on the entire Western Front during World War I, and was thought to be an impregnable fortress. The ridge would be a key asset for the rest of World War I, one the German Army had fortified with tunnels, three rows of trenches behind barbed wire, massive artillery, and numerous machine gun nests. The French and British had suffered thousands of casualties in previous attempts to take the ridge.

The Allied commanders decided to launch another assault in 1917, and the duty was given to the relatively fresh, but previously successful, Canadian Corps. For the first time, the four divisions of the Canadian Corps were brought together, joined by the British 5th Infantry Division.

The Canadian Corps commanders were determined to learn from the mistakes of the French and British and spent months planning their attack. Finally, on April 2, 1917, the Canadian Corps launched the largest artillery barrage in history up to that point. They shelled the German trenches for the next week, using over one million shells. At dawn on Easter Monday, April 9, the 30,000-strong Canadian Corps began their attack. After less than two hours, three of the four Canadian divisions had taken their objectives. The fourth division, however, was caught by machine gun nests. The 87th Battalion suffered 50 per cent casualties. The 85th Nova Scotia Highlanders were then sent into the battle and the division captured the hill by the end of the day. By April 12, the Canadians controlled the entire ridge, at a cost of 3,598 men killed and 7,104 wounded. The German Army suffered approximately 20,000 casualties, while the Canadians also took 4,000 Germans as prisoners of war.

It is said that upon learning of the victory, a French soldier replied, "C'est impossible!"

and upon learning it was the Canadians who won, changed his answer to "Ah! Les Canadiens! C'est possible!"

The Battle of Vimy Ridge has remained incredibly important to Canadians. So important, in fact, that in 2000, the remains of one of the victims of the battle were exhumed, and repatriated to Canada to become a part of the National War Memorial. The body of the Unknown Soldier was transported to the National War Memorial on a horse-drawn gun carriage. Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, veterans, Canadian Forces personnel, and members of the RCMP were in the funeral procession. Then, with appropriate ceremony, the body of the Unknown Soldier was re-interred in a sarcophagus in front of the War Memorial. It is the most solemn of sites on Canadian soil, a gift to the memory of those that have defined this nation. A site deserving of the utmost respect, but that has not received it.

Following Canada Day fireworks on July 1, 2006, Dr. Michael Pilon, a retired major and member of the Royal Canadian Legion, snapped digital pictures of young men urinating on the National War Memorial, laughing and cheering as they were photographed. Pilon labeled it as a "national disgrace." On Canada Day in 2005, a number of people were sitting and drinking on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The treatment given to the National War Memorial and the remains of the young soldier who died for Canada, remembered even though he is forgotten, are symbolic of the attitudes of many Canadians. Though not every person has pissed on a soldier's grave, the level of respect and gratitude is so low it is revolting. Veterans are dying, and people are forgetting. Each year, attendance at Remembrance Day ceremonies decreases. And on a walk across a university campus, numbers of Legion poppies - a simple token of respect - are strewn on the ground.

Our identity was forged through war. Canada has a proud history, not one that deserves to be pissed on. Literally. Wearing a poppy is not a large commitment. The pins hurt sometimes, but a hell of a lot less than a bullet would.

UNB takes AUS soccer championship



Jonathan Hudon / The Brunswickan

The UNB Varsity Reds Men's Soccer team put the SMU Husky's on ice to capture the AUS Championship, on Sunday. See page 7 for full coverage

Give a little to Christmas charities

by Julianna Philpott

Christmas is not only a time of giving, but a time to be thankful for what you have. Unfortunately, not everyone has the ability to provide for their family during this special season. Luckily, throughout Fredericton and on campus, there are many Christmas charities underway, hoping to raise money to provide food and clothing to those in need.

The Food Bank is probably one of the most recognized charities around the world. In Fredericton, the Food Bank is serving approximately 800 families each month, about 40 per cent of them patrons being children. This, no doubt, is an immense help during the holiday season. Last Christmas, by the use of their meal cards, students at UNB donated approximately 2,800 pounds of food to the Food Bank. With the continued efforts of UNB students this year, we can ensure a happy Christmas for those who are less fortunate.

UNB law students have come up with one way to help. Launched on the week of October 20, "Operation Knit!" is a service aimed to provide new, hand-made knitted items for Fredericton's homeless. The UNB Poverty Law Society will be collecting new knitted items for the homeless in hopes that no one is left unprotected in the cold this winter. A little time and energy to knit a few

items for Fredericton's homeless can go a long way. Poverty Law Society Chair, Kellie Cullihill, is calling on all of Fredericton's knitters to help with the campaign.

"We want this to be a community effort and we'd like to see everyone in Fredericton knitting. If everyone donated just one item, we could warm the whole city this winter."

The UNB Poverty Law Society will be collecting items until December 15. You can bring these items to the donation box in Ludlow Hall on campus, or send them to Operation Knit! c/o Poverty Law Society, Ludlow Hall, 41 Dineen Drive, Fredericton, E3B 5A3.

Students at both the UNB and STU campuses are also in need around Christmas and throughout the year. The St. Thomas University Campus Ministry Food and Clothing Bank assist students in need on a temporary basis. The food and clothing bank is located behind the chapel in George Martin Hall and is open seven days a week during the teaching year. It provides the students of STU and UNB with food and clothing items and is strictly confidential.

All items donated are a big help to the program, so donations of all kinds are welcome. For example, donations such as inexpensive recipes, non-perishable food items, and new and used clothing are available to all STU and UNB students in need.

All items may be dropped off in the

collection boxes in each of the university's five teaching buildings, including the fitness centre, or to the food and clothing bank. Get involved and support your fellow students.

Christmas Daddies is a non-profit organization aimed at helping children in Atlantic Canada have a great Christmas. The money raised goes towards gifts and toys, clothing, and food during the Christmas season. These items will go to less fortunate children in the communities in which the funds were raised and will be distributed throughout Canada, including Fredericton, by The Salvation Army. The Christmas Daddies Telethon takes place in Moncton and will be broadcast live on ATV December 3.

The Fredericton Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (FSPCA) is also hosting a Christmas fundraiser this year. To help raise money for the holiday season, "Pets Photo with Santa" is a day-long event where you and your pet can get a picture taken with Santa. This is set to take place on November 25 from 9-4 at Green Village, and all proceeds with go to the Fredericton SPCA. Come out to help ensure the animals at the local SPCA have a great Christmas too.

These Christmas charities are just a few of the many taking place at UNB and around Fredericton during the winter months. Every little bit helps, so please be kind this holiday season and support your local charities.

Professor given room on campus to smoke pot

by Frances Olimpo
Excalibur (York University)

TORONTO (CUP) -- A York professor will get his own room to smoke pot for his medical condition.

In the second known case in Canada, York University has provided accommodation for a professor to smoke marijuana for medicinal purposes on campus.

Brian MacLean, hired in July as an assistant professor in sociology, suffers from a severe form of degenerative arthritis that requires him to use the controversial substance once every four hours. As of

Nov. 6, he will no longer be forced to find private areas to medicate himself out of fear he would be stigmatized by students or colleagues.

"Part of the problem was the delay of two months. I would be smoking, medicating on campus and people would either see me or they would smell it on me," said MacLean, who admits that he still feels uncomfortable being negatively associated with a drug that he uses for health reasons.

"It's not corrective medication. It's enabling, and I don't think people quite understand that. I think there's a lot of really negative and damaging stereotypes around the use of drugs, generally."

Doug Hutchinson, a University of Toronto philosophy professor, was the first employee to request and be granted accommodation to smoke marijuana as a medical treatment. He now has access to "a drab basement space with a single window and ventilation fan."

Hutchinson was also the first to gain media attention in his quest for an accommodation: there were reports of clashes with the head of Trinity College, Margaret MacMillan, who claimed that it was the novelty of the case that slowed down the university's process to confirm medical need as well as finding a space.

There was also an upsetting editorial

published by the University of Western Ontario's Gazette newspaper, which argued for his right to smoke but also called Hutchinson a "pothead."

"It looks on the outside to be successful," said Hutchinson, when Excalibur contacted him for a phone interview. "However, you will find that it's not."

MacLean said that, because of Hutchinson, his experience with York was not an uphill battle and was seen from the beginning as addressing a medical need.

Louise Ripley, a representative from his union, the York University Faculty Association, confirmed that discussions with the university have led to a room being set

aside for MacLean.

"It took a little time in being able to find a room because York is now totally a smoke-free environment. So, part of the problem was being able to find a room where he can smoke anything that wouldn't disturb other people."

When MacLean was authorized by Health Canada to possess and produce marijuana, he said that he approached the head of his department to request accommodation. He had also requested, in the meantime, to refrain from going to campus and offered to hold classes off-campus for students.

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TOP STORIES

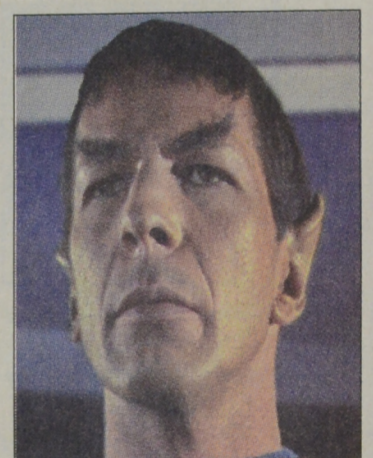
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