

Book buy and sell success

by Phill Pott

The Student Union's (SU) annual Book Buy and Sell took place last week, between September 11 and 13, in the Student Union Building ballroom.

Not only was the ballroom large enough for this 'event,' the Student Union Building itself is a very convenient location for all students.

Located in the middle of the university, many students from all faculties participated.

Students dropped off books they no longer needed on the first day of the event, and the 12th and 13th were the designated days in which these books were sold.

For many years, the SU has organized the Book Buy and Sell in hopes of helping both returning and first-year students purchase second-hand books at affordable prices.

Unavoidable expenses, such as academic fees and even unexpected costs (moving into residence or off-campus for the first time) cause many students to find themselves spending a lot of money soon after arriving to start a new year.

As many students soon come to realize, buying books can become a costly task as well.

Not only must students wait in the dreadful line to purchase books, finding the time between classes to do so is equally frustrating.

Generally, any student around campus has a complaint about how expensive new textbooks have become. New textbooks, as we all know, are very expensive - many are well over \$100 each, for some courses.

Therefore, at five courses a semester, students may find themselves spending more money than anticipated on books. This is where the SU comes in.

Jill Cormier, SU Vice President of Student Services, had this to say when asked why she thought the Book Buy and Sell is such an advantage for students: "it really shows what the Student Union can do for students."

The Student Union realizes that the prices for books at the bookstore are just unrealistic. We are not trying to gain anything from doing this, we just want to help."

Brad Mullins, Vice President of Academic, along with help from other executors and counselors, took charge of this year's Book Buy and Sell.

Not only was Mullins responsible

for handling the money, he committed much time out of his busy schedule to organize the event.

Furthermore, the books that were not sold at this event had to be redistributed.

"A lot of credit should go to Brad," Jill said. "He really did a lot of work."

Although there are many benefits to the Book Buy and Sell, the time frame given for such an event may be too short.

Many may argue that three days just isn't long enough, considering students' hectic schedules in their first full week of classes for the fall term.

"It should be longer. People hear about it and then it's gone," Jill explained, "but the time just isn't there."

Whether the event was long enough for some students or not, the SU was

impressed by the involvement from the students around campus.

Many books were brought in and sold in the three days designated for the annual event, and money was put back into the university campus.

A lot of students took part, hoping to save some extra money for the upcoming school year.

Approximately \$13,000 was taken in and put back into students' hands.

All in all, the SU saw the event as a success, and has hopes of its continuation come winter term, as well as in future years.

Students are in agreement that the sale is necessary and should continue. As student Brian von Richter said, "the book sale is great. It gives me a chance to find the books I need and keep a lot of money that would otherwise be going to the bookstore."



Jonathan Hudon / The Brunswickan

Pictured above is only a miniscule example of the books offered at this year's Book Buy and Sell event in the Student Union's ballroom.

Debt got you down?

by Jennifer McKenzie

Last Wednesday, September 13, the UNB Student Union hosted its 'Day of Action' in conjunction with most other New Brunswick universities. At UNB, the focus was on student debt and the amount of debt a UNB undergrad will have at the end of their four years. The 'Day of Action' was sponsored by the New Brunswick Student Alliance (NBSA), with Rachel Cazabon as the UNB director.

Student Union officials were strategically placed on campus, and asked students to write their name and the amount of debt they expect to acquire in their four years of post-secondary education.

The union collected cards from almost 250 students, with the cumulative debt reaching over 13 million dollars. Cazabon explains why student debt was the focus of this year's 'Day of Action': "New Brunswick has one of the highest tuitions in North America... We want to get people thinking about education and the cost of it."

With tuition costs in Atlantic Can-



William Koruna / The Brunswickan

ada on the rise, students are continuing to accumulate unprecedented debt loads, and Cazabon, along with the NBSA, are hoping this day, along with their continued lobbying of both the provincial and federal governments, will help bring both the government and the media's attention to the financial situation of students.

"Student debt is a focus because we are so very under funded. [The

government] is not making strong investments in higher education and it's hurting us," says Cazabon.

More than 1,000 cards were collected in the province, and New Brunswick Student Unions are not planning on letting them go to waste.

After the election and the new government has settled into power, the plan is to have all of the cards delivered to them.

Scouts not just for kids

submitted to
The Brunswickan

The Riverton Area of Scouts Canada, which includes Fredericton, Oromocto and the Upper Saint John River Valley, is interested in hearing from any university students, male or female, who would like to volunteer to act as leaders with the Beaver (ages five to seven), Cub (ages eight to 10), Scout (ages 11 to 14) or Venturer (ages 14

to 17) program sections. Scouts Canada now offers a program for both boys and girls. Anyone who has been through the Scout or Girl Guide programs would be welcome, as would anyone interested in working in a program with emphasis on the outdoors and on leadership.

All volunteers must provide the names of references, will be interviewed, and will be required to undergo a police records check before being assigned as

a leader with Scouts Canada.

Those interested in volunteering should telephone or email Peter Kent, Riverton Area Commissioner, at 453-0919 or kent@unb.ca.

Alternatively, university students might like to join the Riverton Rover Crew, which will be providing leadership to Scouting groups as well as organizing their own outdoor and social activities. For more information on the Rover Crew, contact the Crew First Mate, Don Bark (donald_s_bark@hotmail.com).

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reactions increasingly difficult to obtain, and by refusing to subsidize private clinics, the provincial government has not had any qualms in showing its allegiance in the pro-life and pro-choice debates.

Pro-life groups, typically under the guidance of a church, have come by some bad press for hostile demonstrations and protests in the past. When contacted, UNB Life-Link student representative, Rose Savidge, chose not to comment for this article.

On July 26, 2006 pro-life and pro-choice groups clashed in Fredericton as the Toronto-based pro-life/anti-abortion group "Show the Truth" displayed graphic images of aborted fetuses along major motorways as a

silent protest and visual information centre for passing motorists. This received large amounts of local news coverage and sparked heated debate between the groups. This has not been the first time that pro-life groups have gone to extreme measures to get their message to the public.

Much of the controversy of UNB Life-Link surrounds the fear that tactics that may be offensive to some may be used on campus to promote their message. When asked at council which events they had planned for the year, the group mentioned the possibility of an open debate between themselves and a pro-choice group, as well as 'common' club events, such as movie nights or barbecues. There was nothing mentioned that would bring alarm to any members of council, says Stutt.

"You can't deny one society based on what you've seen similar societies do in the past... because then we're just hypothesizing and not really giving our members a chance."

The pro-life versus pro-choice argument has been stretched across the United States and Canada for many years now, and we are starting to see it surfacing on our campus. We are not the first nor last university to see socially-activated groups being recognized, but students should be aware of the complications this may lead to. By voicing your opinions to your faculty representative, you, as the student, will have a stronger voice in council decisions. Whether you gravitate towards the pro-choice or to the pro-life argument is a personal choice, and this is something the university recognizes.

What ever happened to...Peter MacKay and Belinda Stronach

by Gavin Hunter

It was a match made in heaven, or at least in Ottawa. Peter MacKay, deputy-leader of the newly-formed Conservative Party of Canada and the down-home boy of Canadian politics, and Belinda Stronach, the suave, sophisticated, heiress, and the hottest female MP since Elsie Wayne. The relationship that blossomed between Peter and Belinda was the feel-good story of politics in early 2004, and they became the image of the new, savvy, youthful, exciting Conservatives.

Beginning sometime in the fall of 2004, the romance between Peter and

Belinda was rumoured in the media for some time before being confirmed by the two. Finally, Peter admitted that he was "smitten" with Belinda, a sort of Mike-and-Carol-Brady-ism. According to friends, Peter was hoping this would blossom into a long-term relationship. He was coming off a break from a long-term girlfriend, while Belinda was coming off of her second divorce - this one from Norwegian speedskater Olav Koss. She had given up her post as CEO of Magna, a major auto parts supplier, and been elected in the riding of Newmarket-Aurora. Peter, meanwhile, had been an MP since 1997, and was head of

the Progressive Conservative Party when the party merged with Stephen Harper's Canadian Alliance.

Peter and Belinda seemed to be on top of the world, spearheading the Conservatives toward a crucial budget vote with the Liberals, hoping to topple Paul Martin's government. Just days before the vote, on the night of May 16, 2005, the pair had dinner together at the suite they shared at the Chateau Laurier, after which Belinda excused herself to attend to some "business." So, off she went, to meet with Paul Martin and his advisors at 24 Sussex Drive. The deal had already been arranged. They were hammering

through the final details now, such as which Cabinet posting she would hold for the Liberals. It was her vote that would save them. With everything finalized, Belinda returned to see Peter, and told him of her decision to cross the floor.

When the news became public the next day, Belinda was accused of being a "political whore," "prostituting" herself for personal gain. Peter was nowhere to be found on Parliament Hill, as the questions about their relationship were endless. He had hopped the first flight back to his native Nova Scotia, seeking an escape. And it was here that the media found the downtrod-

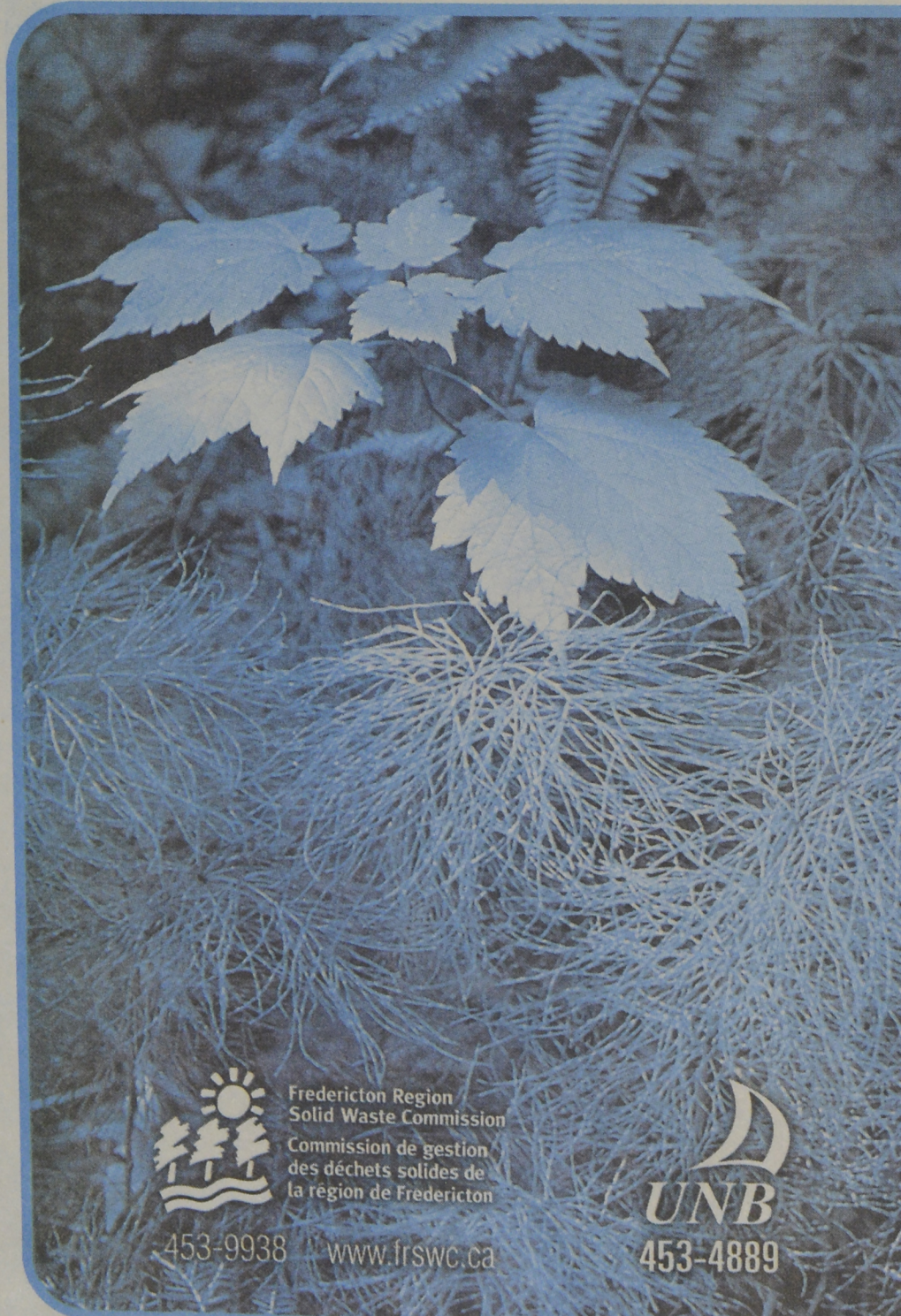
den MacKay, sporting orange rubber boots and spending some quality time with his dogs. He lost the vote, and even worse, the girl.

Standing solidly, Peter addressed the nation. "My head's clear," he stated, "but my heart's a little banged up." That was May 17, 2005. What has happened to these two star-crossed lovers, lost in a sea of political turmoil?

Belinda was re-elected to the House of Commons in the 2006 election, remaining as a Liberal. She was rumoured to be running for leadership of the Liberal Party, but officially withdrew on April 6, 2006. Her political career seems to be at a standstill.

Peter MacKay, on the other hand, is now the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Prime Minister Stephen Harper, as well as the Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. He has triumphed over his heartbreak, becoming a superstar in Canadian politics. And despite losing Belinda, Peter still has a way with the ladies. Just last week, he was romantically linked to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Peter treated Condi to a Tim Horton's coffee, and they shared a romantic walk along the Halifax waterfront.

Nothing says good international relations like a double-double.



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