

# The Brunswickian



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## Running together for the cure



Jonathan Hudon / The Brunswickian

Thousands of Frederictonians participated in Sunday's Run for the Cure. See page 2 for Josh O'Kane's coverage of the successful fundraiser.

## Anyone else sick of waiting?

by Julianne Philpott

Unfortunately for students, unexpected illnesses seem especially common during the school year. As well, it does not take long to affect academic performance. The Student Health Centre aims to provide students with the necessary services to recognize, treat, and prevent these illnesses.

The Student Health Centre, located at 40 Mackey Drive, has been available for both UNB and STU students for decades. It is open year-round to full-time students seeking help and/or information regarding any medical concerns that they may have.

Currently there are four physicians and five nurses on staff at the clinic, who provide assistance with many health concerns, ranging from small annoyances, such as a sore throat, to much more serious concerns, such as depression. Last year alone, over 13,000 students visited the Student Health Centre.

'Same Day Access' at the Student Health Centre was introduced this September. The aim is for students to

be seen at the clinic by a doctor the same day that they need to be seen. Regardless of the seriousness of the problem, the clinic will fit you in that day. Therefore, students will no longer have to wait around at the clinic as a walk-in; they can leave the clinic and come back at the time they are told to return.

Dr. Jo Ann Majerovich, a part-time physician who has been working at the clinic since the summer of 2001, is pleased with it, in general.

"We toyed with the idea before, seeing if we could work out any little kinks, but 'Same Day Access' was officially introduced at the clinic in September. So far, so good!"

The first week was a success. Beginning in early September, many students were seen by late afternoon, and there were even some free slots on certain afternoons.

"What is happening now is that we are getting less no-shows." Majerovich explains that since 'Same Day Access' was introduced, many students are beginning to show up at the clinic when asked.

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## Getting a glimpse of the light at the end of the tunnel

by Courtney Bennett

Every student starts to get nervous around the end of their university career of what they will do next. Luckily, here at UNB (and at STU), students do not have to look all that far. Last Tuesday, September 26, hosted by Student Employment Services, in the Student Union Building Atrium, was the annual Career Fair. This event is a great way for graduates and other students to get a chance to see what is available for them after their education is complete. Kathi McNeil, the Coordinator of Employer Services, organizes the UNB/STU Career Fair every year, along with the help of other Student Employment Services staff.

This was an opportunity for students and recent graduates to meet

with approximately 70 recruiters and/or human resources personnel from the top organizations in Canada. It is not only for graduating students, but for all students to meet with companies who are hiring in their field of study and find out what career opportunities they are offering, and to gather information and contacts for their futures. The more students become familiar with and know about their potential career options, the more able they are to make good decisions about their future. Prior to the fair, information on the organizations participating was posted on the Student Employment website, and was listed in both The Brunswickian and The Aquinian, and on posters around campus. This gave students the opportunity to look at the companies involved and then visit

the employer's website to learn about a chosen company or organization. Students could then identify who they wanted to visit, and get an understanding of the company before they met the recruiters. Students were encouraged to dress up for the Career Fair and have resumes available for the employers of their choice.

"The recruiters who attend the Career Fair are there to identify potential candidates for their organization to hire. Many companies had jobs posted on our web site," explained Anne Soucy, Manager of Student Employment Services. Some employers also held information sessions in various faculties while they visited campus.

"The Career Fair went very well. We had a record number of employer/exhibitor booths this year - 70 - which is

nearly triple the number from previous years. This will be probably one of the largest Career Fairs in New Brunswick this year and is something that UNB and STU students should be very proud of. We had excellent student attendance, with approximately 700 students attending from UNB and STU," commented Soucy.

The Career Fair is not only a good way for students to find the job they want, but it also benefits the New Brunswick economy. By hosting this job fair here at the university, it has the potential to encourage graduates to find jobs within New Brunswick rather than seeking work out of province.

Overall, the fair was a success, and for those who missed the fair this year, information can be found at Student Employment Services.

## Bedpuuuuuuuuuuuuuush... Push the bed

With three weeks until Bedpush, Neville/Jones have started a successful fundraising campaign

by Jennifer McKenzie

This past weekend a fun battle was fought on the field in support of women going through their own tough battles. Neville House, in association with Jones House, hosted their first annual Bedpush football tournament in support of their house charity, the Women in Transition House (WITH).

Bedpush is a longstanding house tradition on UNB campus. The boys of Neville House have raised over \$130,000 for the charity over the past 14 years. "WITH is a safe and confidential shelter for abused women and children. It is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is staffed by women who are trained to be supportive and respond to the needs of abused women in crisis. Women may stay at WITH for 30 days. This gives them time to think and make plans. WITH provides the women staying there with food and other essentials at no cost. It also offers them emotional support and peer counseling.

Women in crisis can get practical information," explained Craig Estabrooks and Nick Ouelette, the current and former coordinators of the event.

This year, Neville House hopes to raise \$17,000 - the same goal as in the past three years - in a month-long fundraising binge.

This year's football tournament was a first for Neville House. "Our first flag football tournament was a huge success. We had more houses participate than we could have ever imagined. It was a great way to allow the different houses to come together while at the same time raise money for a good cause," commented Estabrooks. The tournament, which was to take place on both Friday and Saturday but was held only on Saturday due to the rain, had 10 teams participating. The \$900 raised will be split between Bedpush and a charity of the winning team's choosing.

Neville/Jones competed in the all-male final against Aitken House. Aitken took the win in a close, hard fought game. The team then graciously donated their portion of the winnings back to Bedpush. "I think it's great that Aitken decided to donate their winnings back to bed push. The football tournament was a tough fight, and Aitken definitely deserved the money for their charity. Their donation back to Bedpush says a lot about Aitken's sportsmanship and commitment to the residence community as a whole. Even greater than this, though is the fact that Aitken's donation to bed push is the closing of a circle: every single all male residence at UNB Fredericton has now made a statement, both vocally and financially, that domestic violence is wrong and must end. Such unity and emphasis is precisely why we do bed push every year - to spread that powerful message," Ouelette remarked.

Bedpush itself will begin the night of Friday, October 20th, when Nev-

ille/Jones will start their 12 hour journey from Saint John. They will push the bed they've constructed along the highways and streets of southern New Brunswick throughout the night, arriving at Boyce Farmer's Market at 10am on Saturday morning. They invite members of the community, supporters and students to join them that morning when they present their total donation check to the Women In Transition House.

The next three weeks will be a flurry of activities for Neville/Jones as they look to the community to help reach their goal. "We still have a lot of work ahead of us in our canvassing campaign and we'll be on the doorsteps of Fredericton during the next three weeks

looking to the residents of Fredericton to continue to show their outstanding support for Bed Push," explained Estabrooks.

Neville/Jones will be hosting several events in the coming weeks, including a wet/dry event at the Social Club on the 16th of October, and will be hosting popular local band (and Neville Alumni) Weak Size Fish at the Cellar on the 11th.

Anybody who is looking for more information or who is interested in making a donation can contact Craig Estabrooks, Bed Push Chief Coordinator, at craig.andrew@unb.ca. Donors who make contributions of \$10 or more will receive a receipt for income tax purposes.



Michèle Legendre / The Brunswickian

Residents of Neville/Jones push the bed on the ice at the Aitken Centre during the men's hockey game on Saturday night, to promote their fundraising campaign.

## Women offer a voice for pro-choice

by Sheah Gaston

In the wake of last month's UNB Life-link ratification, abortion has become a hot topic on campus again, dormant since the debate raised over Show the Truth's silent protest in Fredericton this summer. For New Brunswick's growing pro-choice community, however, the situation has never faded into the background, and Life-link is the least of their worries.

Although Life-link has called for open debates on the morality of Canada's current abortion laws and the issue of abortion in general, off-campus pro-choice groups feel they won the argument 18 years ago when the Canadian government proclaimed that the choice to have an abortion lies solely with the woman, regardless of her physician's opinion or any medical need or lack thereof.

At that point, says Vicky Saporta, president of the National Abortion Federation (NAF), the choice to have an abortion was placed firmly in women's hands. The debate over abortion's morality was over. The focus now for groups like the NAF is making sure that once a woman has made that decision, nobody can deter her from her chosen action - abortion or not.

Last Thursday, the NAF held a conference at the Wu Centre in conjunction with the New Brunswick Advisory Council for the Status of Women and the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada to address the disparity between New Brunswick's abortion rights and those of Canada's other provinces. Key speakers all noted New Brunswick's requirement for two doctors' consent to an abortion and the inability of family physicians to perform abortions. These restrictions do not exist in other provinces and directly contradict the federal policy on abortion.

In other provinces, family doctors may perform abortions or refer a woman to a gynecologist, although this is not necessary. They are not permitted to question or restrict the woman's choice to have an abortion, and the abortion is publicly funded no matter what the reason. In New Brunswick, however, reports exist of women not only being denied funded abortions under the province's current laws, but some women have also been denied birth control by their family physicians.

"I find it ironic," says UNB Sexual Health Clinic director, Jo Ann Majerovich, "that in New Brunswick a family physician can perform a caesarian section, but they are not permitted to perform abortions." This restriction opposes the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and forces women to depend on the limited resources of the only doctors in the province who offer the procedure.

As a result of the anti-abortion push in New Brunswick, supported overtly by the NB government, there are currently only two doctors performing abortions in the province, with waiting lists so long that many women are forced to carry out unwanted pregnancies while waiting for an abortion.

All four speakers at the conference were appalled by the response they received in meetings with New Brunswick's political representatives, including former health minister Brad Green, who blamed the province's outdated funding laws on the lack of public demand for amendment. Green intimated that the law would only change in the case of a significant public outcry, and even then, he said, "these things take time."

NDP representative Alison Brewer also spoke at the convention, and when questioned about the fact that New Brunswick's abortion situation remained unaddressed during the latest provincial leadership race, responded that no party heard a "strong voice in favour of choice." She agreed that the situation has to change; the NDP was shut out of the legislative assembly this summer when the provincial government elected to cease abortions at Fredericton's Everett Chalmers Hospital, and has been sidestepped or stopped in every attempt to address the issue, as have federal representatives pressing for change.

When asked about Life-link, the conference speakers maintained that a response from UNB's pro-choice groups should occur. About 76 per cent of Canadians polled said they were pro-choice, said Saporta, and that number should be represented on campus.

Judy Burwell of the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada felt that some clarification of the term "pro-choice" was required. Life-link describe themselves as a pro-life organization, but Burwell's response was, "I'm pro-life. Most people are pro-life. When we talk about pro-choice, it means that the woman has options."

So UNB's campus awaits the ratification of a pro-choice group to counter Life-link, for the 'debate' to begin. Meanwhile, the NB Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the NAF, and the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada encourage women on campus to raise the required "public outcry" and write to their MPs about New Brunswick's restricted abortion access.

For those with questions about the NAF, the ARCC, or the NB ACSW, and their services, check: NAF hotline: 1-800-772-9100 or www.prochoice.org ARCC: 1-800-332-3087 or www.arcc-cdac.ca NB ACSW: 1-800-332-3087 www.acswccf.nb.ca

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# Thursday Oct 5



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