

Get to know your Student Official

Get the inside scoop on your elected officials

by Jennifer McKenzie
bruns.news@gmail.com

Every week we'll bring you some Q&A with a new batch of your Student Union representatives. This week we're focusing on the four members who make up the Vice President spots on the Executive:

VP Finance

Described by the outgoing VP Finance as "pretty much the coolest person I know," Justin Strong proves this by listing The Cellar as his favorite thing at UNB. Super friendly and enthusiastic, Justin's responsible for the money side of the SU.

A few things he had to say about himself included:

My three big goals for the year:

- To foster active clubs & societies and provide them with resources to stay an integral part of UNB
 - To create a scholarship trust fund by which several scholarships will be awarded every year
 - Position the union financially in order to be able to expand its services in the near future
- News story I wish the media would just get over:
Paris Hilton and the like

My favorite condiment is:
No Name BBQ sauce

Every student should know the SU is:
Accessible and a valuable resource for students

If you want to talk to me, it's best to:
Bring cheeseburgers and a good attitude

VP External

Rachel Cazabon is settling into the VP External position this year. A large fan of ketchup, she can be described as warm and approachable. Rachel's duties are



Jonathan Hudson / The Brunswickan

Clockwise from back left: Bradley Mullins, Rachel Cazabon, Jil Cormier, and Justin Strong.

to connect with government bodies and address their impact on the University, as well as communicating with the media about students' positive impact.

My three big goals for the year are:

1. High voter turnout for the Sept 18 provincial election
2. Successful lobbying with NBSA and CASA
3. Get the Good Night Shuttle back up and running

My favorite thing about UNB is: the beautiful campus

I wish UNB would change: its recruitment strategy...to bring in more non-New Brunswickers

Every student should know the SU is: a strong resource

If you want to talk to me, it's best to:
shoot me an e-mail

Also, I want you to know: I work for you. Ask us if you need anything

VP Academic

Pirate Dirty Davey Kidd is also known to many as Bradley Mullins. Going into his 5th year of an Arts degree, Brad is quite easy to get along with, with a quick and charming sense of humour. Brad is the Student Union link to the Senate, as well as tasked with advocating for students on the academic side of things.

My three big goals for the year are:

- 1) To create an ADD focus group
- 2) To inform students of the great services and opportunities that are available to them
- 3) To create a long term vision for the SU

When I grow up I want to be: a kid.

If I could spend one hour with anyone, it would be: I could always use another hour at the inside of my eyelids.

If you want to talk to me, it's best to:
Call (453-4955), email (academic@unb.ca), stop by (SUB room #120a),

send a telegram, use smoke signals or a sky writer, use a telepathic connection... you get the idea.

Also, I want you to know: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. What does this mean? Well I am glad you asked. This means that if you are having trouble of any sort be sure to tell someone, especially your professor. If the problems you are experiencing could affect your grades then they should know about it. There are a whole list of people on campus who want to make sure students have the best possible experience at and your professor can help steer you in the right direction. You can also talk to your don or proctor, the student advocate, Counselling Services, myself or any other member of the SU. Remember the university is a large community and you are not alone.

VP Student Services

A third year Business Admin student, Jil Cormier, as VP Student Services, is responsible for the services provided by the SU- think Paper Trail, Safe Ride, Fox Files etc. Passionate and driven, Jil, is not a fan of 'bland white walls,' and yet, she doesn't think condiments are necessarily needed.

My three big goals for the year are:

- * Tackle growing mental health concerns
- * Hook students up with discounts
- * Improve communication with students and UNB pride.

The tv show I can't miss: Canada AM, to bust the undergrad bubble I live in.

News story I wish the media would just get over: Oil prices, I think it's Mother Nature's way of saying, "park and ride."

If you want to talk to me, it's best to:
Know that I am very approachable

Also, I want you to know: Everyone enjoys an unexpected postcard, please don't hesitate to step away from your webmail. Oh! and that I'm here to work for you. Do let me know how I can improve your student experience at UNB this year. I'll do my best to be at your services.

Irwin killed by dolphin of sharks

by Jennifer McKenzie



Stephen Robert Irwin

1962 - 2006

Steve Irwin, the man recognized around the world as "the" Crocodile Hunter, was killed Monday morning in a freak stingray attack off the Great Barrier Reef. Irwin, aged 44, was diving near Port Douglas, in northern Queensland, Australia, for the filming of his newest documentary, when a stingray attacked him. The barb on the stingray's tail pierced his heart. He was airlifted to hospital, but died en route.

Irwin and a cameraman were snorkeling in shallow water when the intrepid animal lover swam over the stingray, which then stuck out the barb. Documentary producer and long-time friend John Stainton, who was present at the scene, said he believed his friend died instantly.

Irwin was famous for his enthusiasm for wildlife and his catchword "Crikey!" in his television program "Crocodile Hunter." First broadcast in Australia in 1992, the program was picked up by the Discovery Channel, catapulting Irwin to international fame. Still, his fame was greatest in his homeland. Shortly after news of his death went public, Australian Prime Minister John Howard expressed his condolences to Irwin's family, and said the country has lost a "wonderful and colourful son." The Prime Minister further added, "he was the genuine article, what you saw

was what you got: He took risks, he enjoyed life, but he brought immense joy to millions of people, particularly to children, and it's just such a terrible loss and I feel very distressed and I'm quite upset." Howard, along with Peter Beattie, the Premier of Queensland, have discussed the possibility of a full state funeral to honour Irwin and his great contributions to Australia.

The creature responsible for his death is generally relatively tame compared to the vicious crocodiles and snakes that Irwin dealt with, with such enthusiasm and careless abandon. Stingrays have a toxin-loaded spine on the top of their tail. They usually attack only when provoked or when feeling threatened. Stings, while painful, are rarely fatal. Video of the incident has been reviewed by police in Queensland, who have said that Irwin had not provoked the stingray, but was rather the victim of an unfortunate accident.

Aside from his popular television show, Irwin made news headlines in 2004 after involving his infant son in one of his crocodile stunts. Irwin held his son Bob, who was a month old at the time, in one arm while he dangled a piece of chicken over the snapping jaws of a four-metre crocodile. He later acknowledged that he should have done things differently and officials in Australia's Queensland state decided not to file charges against him.

Irwin's love for animals began in 1970, when he was just 8, when his reptile-loving father opened a small reptile park in Brisbane, Queensland. In 1991, Irwin took over the family business and launched his "Crocodile Hunter" television program a year later. Since the news of his death, mourners have laid flowers at the entrance to the Australia Zoo, which he ran.

Irwin is survived by his wife Terri, their daughter Bindi Sue, eight, and son Bob, 2. In his memory, "The Crikey Fund" is being established, which will allow people from across the globe to make contributions in his honour to support wildlife protection, education and conservation.

Canadian Universities pull out of Maclean's rankings

from rankings page 2

"It's the equivalent of a student submitting their transcript," he added. For Keller, the rankings are about providing potential consumers with as much information as they care to consume before making a major purchase. Rather than the health-care analogy, Keller uses the analogy of buying a car. "If I want to buy a car, I have almost unlimited information," he said. "I know far less about a university. We're [Maclean's], one of the only public and objective sources of information on the subject," he said. But according to University of Toronto president David Naylor, who has been vocal on the subject, it would be hypocritical of an institution that prides itself in quality research and analysis to take part in a study that uses poor methodology.

"As academics we devote our careers to ensuring that people make important decisions on the basis of good data, analyzed with discipline. But Canadian universities have been complicit, en masse, in supporting a ranking system that has

little scientific merit because it reduces everything to a meaningless, average score," wrote Naylor in a letter to the Ottawa Citizen on April 23, 2006. The letter sent to Keller this week echoes those sentiments.

"It is inappropriate to aggregate information across a range of programs at a large and multi-dimensional research university into a single ranking number," it read in part. But the magazine has made some changes to this year's rankings as a result of some of the complaints. This year, instead of simply printing the rankings, the magazine will also include the final scores that led to those rankings, allowing readers to see the spread between different institutions, and to see where they are comparable. A new online feature will also allow readers to weight the different scores as they see fit and form their own rankings, allowing users to see how the universities compare according to what is most important to them.

Since the announcement of the changes was only made three days after the letter was received at Maclean's, the

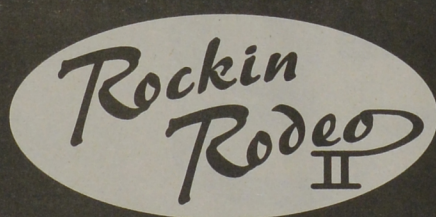
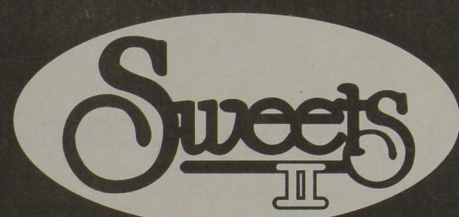
signatory universities have not yet had a chance to respond to the changes and it is yet unclear if any of them will change their minds as a result.

The magazine's annual feature has also proven itself as an effective marketing tool for a large number of institutions, especially those who regularly score highly. Saint Francis Xavier University (St. FX) in Antigonish, N.S., has held the number one undergraduate university spot for two years running and has no intention of changing how it deals with the magazine.

According to Alan Gates, the director of communications and marketing at St. FX, the university has no intention of addressing the concerns brought forth by the 11 signatory schools, will continue to take part in the survey and will continue to feature its results prominently in its marketing campaigns.

The 2006 issue of the Maclean's university rankings will feature 47 universities, including the 11 who have decided not to participate, and will hit news stands on November 2.

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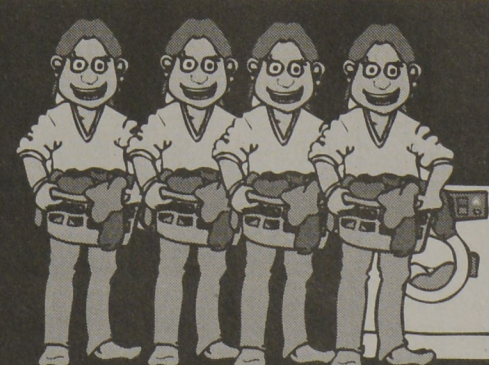
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