

Shawn Graham pinky swears...

by Courtney Bennett

"This will be a very significant day for our government and for our province; we have set a bold and ambitious agenda and we intend to get to work immediately," says Shawn Graham.

Graham and the Liberal government have numerous plans to help further New Brunswick's economy and bring assistance to where it is needed. One of their principal projects is to make job creation a priority again by making New Brunswick a national economic leader. The Liberals plan to make life easier for students by lowering tuition for first-year students and by increasing community college training opportunities. They plan to create 12,000 new spaces at the New Brunswick Community College for five years, as well as introducing new grants up to \$2,000 as a one-time offer for each new student.

They feel by strengthening the education system they will be able to secure more students to work in New Brunswick in the future. Graham's main goal is to strengthen New Brun-

swick's economy. The Liberal government says that it's time to reinstate the New Brunswick purpose and restart our economic engine. They want to bring pride back to workers; by keeping workers happy, they feel they can encourage them to continue to work in New Brunswick and do a good job. By introducing new policies for workers they hope to do this, such as workplace, health and safety compensation, securing private sector pension plans, including improvised oversight by the Supervisor of Pensions.

"[The] Liberal Charter for Change will put 200 million dollars back in New Brunswickers' pockets through targeted programs. This includes the education grants, home conservation grants and gas tax reduction, as well as doubling low-income seniors' benefits, reducing automobile insurance rates, support for transition to work and help for youth at work," says Graham.

The government wants to put money back into the economy. They want to create an investment-friendly climate that will enable entrepreneurs to create

jobs and wealth for New Brunswickers. They wish to help with families trying to access a family doctor and specialists they need through intensive training and recruiting programs, and provide increased home care and nursing home care at a more affordable rate for older New Brunswickers. The goal, initially, is to break the cycle of poverty, so to help do so they want to help low-income New Brunswickers by providing literacy skills and adequate housing.

Fixing the economic situation is the main goal for the Liberal government; by doing so they hope that everything else will fall into place.

"My vision for this province is as straightforward as it is challenging. I want New Brunswick to join the ranks of the 'have' provinces and I want the province to accomplish this over the next 20 years. We'll put our province on the road to self-sufficiency by turning New Brunswick into a leader in energy conservation and generation, by going from worst to first in education and by making job creation a priority again."



Internet

from Bedpush page 1

of Oromocto." However, a variety of action is being taken to raise money for Bed Push by the Neville-Jones men.

"October 11, we have Weak Sized Fish playing at the cellar. The cover is \$5, and it's 19-plus." Weak Sized Fish themselves are actually Neville House alumni, which shows just how much long-lasting dedication to the event that house members have. As well, says Estabrooks, a variety of donation tables will be around town in the next couple weeks, including at the concert.

"We have an event Saturday, October 14 at the Farmer's Market all morning, with the bed down there and everything," he says. "We are going to be set up at October 11 at the SUB and

McConnell Hall, all day."

This way anyone who hasn't had a chance and wishes to donate can do so easily.

The last event prior to the actual Bed Push will be a wet-dry event at the Social Club for anyone on campus in residence on Wednesday, October 18. For three dollars (or more if you wish to donate so), even undergrad students can go out and have a good time in the name of the Bed Push.

"It's a really great cause," says Estabrooks. "We're helping women that need our help a lot. We're trying to help in any way we can."

"We want to be leaders in the community and stop violence against women." Be sure to check out the final

ceremony, with the arrival of the bed from Saint John at Fredericton's Boyce Farmers' Market west parking lot, at 10 a.m. on October 21. The cheque of the final donation will be presented to the Women in Transition House at the ceremony, with the Honourable Kelly Lamrock (the newly appointed Minister of Education) and Greg Byrne (new Minister of Business) in attendance.

[Editor's Note: This is a great cause that even I myself will be supporting - by pushing the bed, too, on October 20 and 21. I hope that everyone who can will support this worthwhile cause, to inspire the abused women who go through the shelter that no matter what happens, there are always people who care.]

Academic societies profile: Undergraduate Chemistry

by Josh O'Kane

Engineers may do it with blueprints, but chemists do it experimentally.

The UNB Undergraduate Chemistry Society has everything aspiring young chemists need - a place to study, help with work, and lots of fun and parties to go around. Located in Toole Hall room 108, the Chem Society has the biggest society room on campus, with an attached computer lab for convenience.

For the simple \$5 membership fee, in addition to free drop-in chemistry help when it's available, members can also rent desks and lockers so they can work in Toole Hall and not have to drag their lab gear across campus for labs.

As well, says Chem Society VP Aaron Granger, "in addition to the boring day to day amenities, the society is also active socially. There will be a series of parties, pubcrawls, and various other social events."

The society also participates in intramural sports with their own team.

"Currently we plan to enter the non-competitive co-rec volleyball league which starts in January. Other sports might be considered if there is enough interest."

Other events throughout the year include a winter dinner/dance formal for members and professors, to be held off campus in January. The society is also planning a March Break trip to Montreal.

And, "to help undergrads get to know the faculty," says Granger, "there are a few meet and greets held throughout the year. They're called

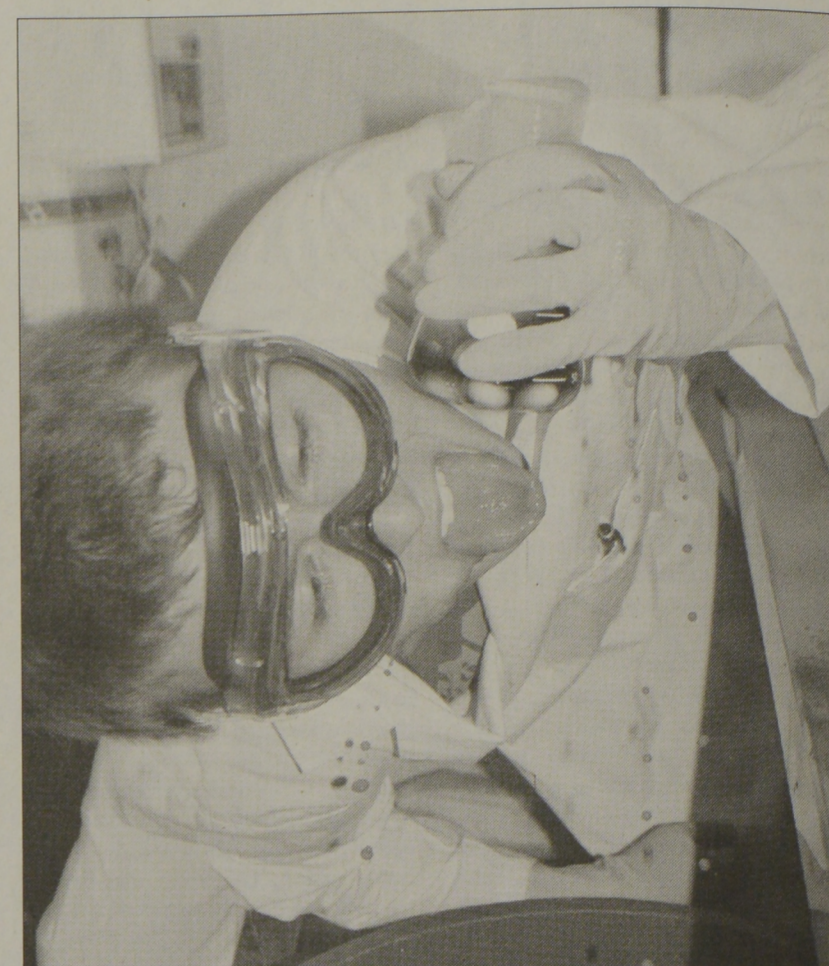
'Coffee with the Prof,' and consist of a buffet-style snack bar."

National Chemistry Week is coming up at the end of October, and the society also has a few events planned for it, including a barbecue, a guest speaker, and a free night of pool at Dooly's for members.

On October 20, the Undergraduate Chemistry Society will be holding a

joint pub crawl with the Biology Society. The event is open to all, and is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members - and anybody can join in from any faculty, graduate or undergraduate.

Other members of the society's executive include President Chantal Rittwage, Treasurer Keele Munroe, Secretary Claire Jardine, and Director of Special Events Warren Hartery.



Michele Legendre / The Brunswickan

Maclean's files 20 Freedom of Information requests with universities

by Ramin Ostad
The Gateway
(University of Alberta)

EDMONTON (CUP) -- Of the 22 universities hoping to exclude themselves from the Maclean's annual university rankings, all but two may soon be forced to participate, thanks to numerous Freedom of Information (FOI) requests filed by the magazine.

On Aug. 14, 11 Canadian universities opted out of answering the questionnaire required to create the magazine's university issue, objecting to the methodology used by Maclean's to analyze the information.

Other post-secondary institutions soon followed suit, bringing the number to 22 -- nearly half of the 47 universities ranked in the survey.

This action prompted Maclean's to issue FOI requests to 20 of the refusing institutions, in an attempt to gain the information necessary in time for their Nov. 2 issue. Two universities located in New Brunswick didn't receive requests, as the freedom of information act in that province does not apply to universities.

"We've been sending these [questionnaires] to these universities for 15 years, and we've been getting it back completed for 15 years, so this was certainly a surprise," said Tony Keller, managing editor of special projects at Maclean's.

"There's really no other way to get information out of a public body that refuses to give it to you than to use the Freedom of Information Law."

Alberta's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) legally obligates all public institutions to disclose records in their custody.

Henry Davis, the access and privacy advisor for the Information and Privacy Office at the University of Alberta, explained the details of the act.

"The act provides the right of ac-

cess to records held by public bodies by any individual, and that right of access is subject to some specific and limited exceptions that are recited in the act," Davis said.

These exceptions allow institutions to deny a FOIPPA request if it attempts to access confidential evaluations made by the institution, if disclosure may be harmful to an individual or to public safety, and other limitations provided by the act.

"When the request is received, the public body has a duty to assist the applicant, and it spells out a timeframe for a response," Davis said. "Normally the first instance is 30 days from the time of receiving the application."

For Keller, the FOIPPA requests were a necessary last resort.

"In the past, lots of universities have criticized the ranking... and that's fair, that's what you do in the marketplace of ideas. The whole idea of refusing to make information public, to anybody, because you are unhappy with the way journalists are using that information -- that's a brand new development," he said.

According to Keller, Maclean's has made alterations to their rankings system in order to appease the universities -- the most comprehensive of which being their new University Research

Tool. With it, readers can access all of the information that Maclean's has compiled on the 47 universities surveyed, and rank the institutions based on features important to individual users -- allowing for much more personalized results.

"Readers want to know: is there a real difference between finishing first and finishing fifth?" Keller explained. "I think people would want to know that, and their now going to be able to see that, as of this fall. That's actually the biggest complaint the universities had for saying they didn't want to give us information. We've answered it, and none of them have even responded to that."

While the universities may provide the information within the 30-day response period, there's the possibility of the institutions extending the deadline in court past the Nov. 2 issue date; if that happens, Maclean's will be forced to continue the rankings without up-to-date information.

"We will, in all cases, use the best publicly available information," Keller said. "Every university is being evaluated, and for every university there will be complete information. For some universities, some of the information may be a year old."



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