



opinions



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Student Union Presidential candidates square off



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Jennifer McKenzie/The Brunswickian

President hopefuls Cole Fawcett and Brad Mullins square off on center ice at the Aitken Center. Candidates Jeffery Bate Boerop, Lyle Skinner and Jason Walters were not available for the photo. See next weeks' Brunswickian for full interviews with the Presidential candidates. Campaigning for the general election is now in full swing. Vote in the Student Union General Election through your e-services beginning Monday March 26th through Friday March 30th. Turn to page 3 for full coverage of the election candidates.

Aitken: Still up in the air

by Josh O'Kane

Just over three weeks ago, news broke that Aitken House could be at risk for closure. In the time that passed, the Men of Aitken have been in talks with James Brown and people at various ends of the deal.

It seems as though everything is still up in the air.

After meeting with Aitken the day the news broke, Brown agreed to revisit the proposed idea of selling the house to UNB (it's currently owned by Residential Life and Conferences). He explained that he would be open to suggestions for alternative ways of balancing the budget.

However, according to Brown, "There is a specific proposal in my budget to close Aitken. The numbers are the numbers, and I have more residence capacity than students," he says.

This is not the end, however; during the March break, Aitken had several representatives attend a meeting with Angelo Belcastro, UNB's VP Academic, who is interested in taking charge of the building.

Belcastro was joined by Associate VP Academic Jane Fritz. Aitken alumni Greg Lutz was also in attendance, as well as the Student Union President Jessica Sturt and Residence Liaison Andrew MacLean. According to Trooper, what started out as a po-

tentially dismal meeting turned into something better.

"We seemed to get a positive response," says Trooper. He notes that James Brown offered several options other than selling Aitken that "don't affect too many people and make financial sense."

The Aitken representatives have had numerous conference calls with various alumni, and have had offers from certain alumni with years and years of business experience to look over the residence budget and see what they can do about the situation.

"They've offered to look over the residence budget and see how they can help for the future and make revenue without closing Aitken. We've offered certified consultants to help them," says Trooper.

"James Brown wouldn't want us pressing on him," he goes on, "but he is going to allow us to look over his budget process and what's gone on in the past to see if we can come up with anything. We're working with him. That way we don't create an even larger deficit in the future."

Trooper says that Aitken is trying to get representation in any budget and finance meetings to show their enthusiasm and their motives. He emphasizes that the house is not out to see another shut down instead, but to show much impact a closure would have on the community.

"We're not out to put any other

see Aitken page 3

Connecting towards a greener future

by Melissa Fulton

Last Tuesday, March 13th, UNB's Environmental Society hosted a symposium called Connecting Towards a Greener Future at UNB and invited

representatives from different areas of UNB including many environmentally-conscious groups, clubs, and societies. In attendance were Shawn Dalton, the Director of the Environment and Sustainable Development Research Centre, students from a forum group at Renaissance College, the Environmental Society, and Gladys Lacey-House from the Energy Management Department at UNB's Physical Plant.

Before the Symposium, a questionnaire was e-mailed to all invited parties to gain a better understanding of what students feel are the biggest environmental issues. Most who responded highlighted recycling, energy efficiency and waste and composting as their primary environmental concerns at UNB. During the Symposium, students were able to voice these concerns, learn what initiatives are already taking place, and find out what UNB's Physical Plant is already doing to improve sustainability on campus.

Lacey-House gave a presentation detailing various programs undertaken by Physical Plant and was very open to suggestions and ideas from the students. She was eager to hear what students wanted to see on cam-

pus, and students were eager to volunteer their time to help with some of these campaigns and programs. The Environmental Society is looking to partner with Lacey-House and Physical Plant to begin a campaign to reduce computer energy consumption on campus. UNB has actually already started to address this problem by

replacing some of the older monitors with flat panel LCD monitors, which use half the amount of energy (check out the new monitors at the computer kiosk next to Tilley Café and the new monitors in the Science Concourse computer lab).

The recent recycling program at UNB has received great acclaim, but students still had issues to address. There may be recycling available in every building at UNB, but recycling bins are sometimes absent in locations where they are needed and are not always readily visible. A suggestion was made to have a recycling bin in every classroom, and hopefully we can work with UNB to make this a reality.

Lacey-House also mentioned energy consumption from lighting, and that there is now a Lighting Committee on campus that will be able to recommend, and hopefully implement, campus lighting standards. Lacey-House highlighted the need for more fluorescent bulbs on campus, as well as other great new technologies such as daylight harvesting (which can reduce energy consumption by as much as 84%) and occupancy sensors.

Daylight harvesters detect levels of natural sunlight in a room and turn

off the overhead lights when they are not needed. Occupancy sensors detect the presence of people in a room and turn off the lights when a room is empty. Improving lighting technologies offers the highest return for the investment, so it makes sense for UNB to invest in energy efficient lighting. Hopefully the Lighting

Committee, with the help of UNB students, can push for the use of these technologies in all buildings on campus.

Although there are many areas that need environmental improvement, one thing learned at the symposium was that UNB is already doing some great things to make our campus a greener place. For example, with the exception of athletic fields, there is no use of herbicides or fertilization on campus, and UNB has seen reductions of greenhouse gas emissions of approximately 4800 tonnes since 1990. Fifty energy retrofit projects have been completed at UNB, which are extremely important considering how old most of our building are. As well, all of our toilet paper and paper towel are 100% recycled paper products.

While many facilities and departments at UNB are working hard to make campus a more environmentally friendly place, there is no official green policy at UNB. Perhaps implementing an environmental policy is the big step we need to make our campus truly sustainable. Until then, at least we have some dedicated groups working to make UNB as green as it can be.

Bright Idea: Australia Banning Traditional Light Bulbs

Australia announces plans to ban traditional light bulbs by 2010

by Julianne Philpott

In a time where the crisis of global warming is becoming widely acknowledged, efforts have been put underway to combat it. Although there are those who are pushing the matter aside lightly, others are making bold steps in hopes of both slowing the world's shocking climate change.

In February 2007, Australia announced its plan to ban traditional coiled filament bulbs and replace them with compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard believes that this subtle change will help slow climate change and cut Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by four million tonnes per year by 2015.

"If the whole world switches to these bulbs today," Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull suggests, "we would reduce our consumption of electricity by an amount equal to five times Australia's annual consumption of electricity."

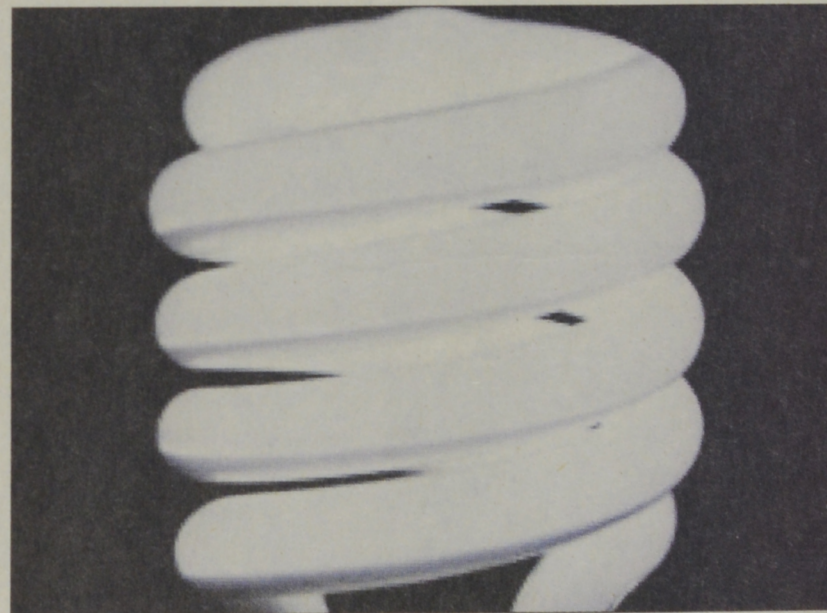
Turnball strongly believes that this climate change challenge is a global one and encourages other countries around the world to jump onboard "and make the switch to more energy efficient products like [CFL] bulbs."

So, what causes traditional incandescent light bulbs to use so much energy? Predominantly, it's because

of the heat wasted when the light is switched on. A light bulb is too hot to hold, which means that energy is being wasted in the form of heat. This results in millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide being released into the air each year.

and New Jersey have been looking into the matter.

On March 1st, the world's three largest light bulb makers, General Electric, Siemens and Royal Philips Electronics, said that they are pushing the public to "purchase more efficient



Internet

CO2 is the biggest contributor to greenhouse effects, and levels have been increasing since the industrial revolution.

Even though CFL bulbs are slightly more expensive to buy initially, they will end up saving you money in the long run. A CFL bulb uses only 20 percent of the electricity that traditional bulbs use. It will also last 10 times longer -- good for 10,000 hours, as opposed to a traditional incandescent bulb's 1,000 hours. Other than the one-second delay it takes for a CFL bulb light to turn on, you would never know the difference.

Although Australia is the first national government to take steps to ban traditional light bulbs, California

products," and "setting performance standards that will eliminate the least efficient products from the market."

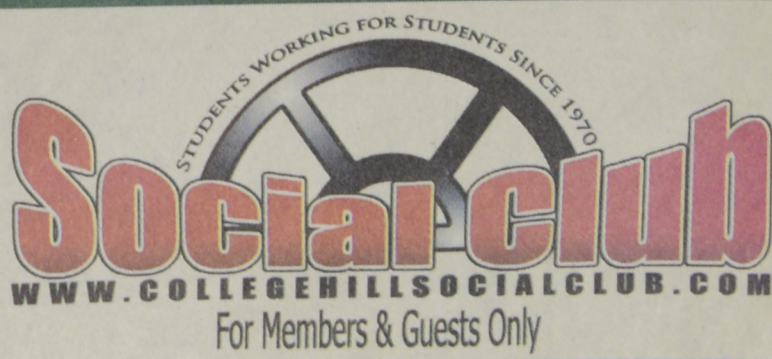
According to MSNBC, if traditional incandescent bulbs are banned, the European continent would need 27 fewer power plants, which release enormous amounts of CO2 emissions. Also, the European Union is encouraging its 27 member governments to start using CFL bulbs on the streets and in business offices.

Simple moves by every individual toward the problem of climate change can help to prevent further global warming. One by one, making simple changes to our lifestyles, we can assure a bright future for the generations to follow.



2 for 1 Keith's SATURDAY MARCH 24

Good Luck to the V-Reds at the CIS Hockey Nationals



For Members & Guests Only