

Power down for sustainability

by Ed Bowes

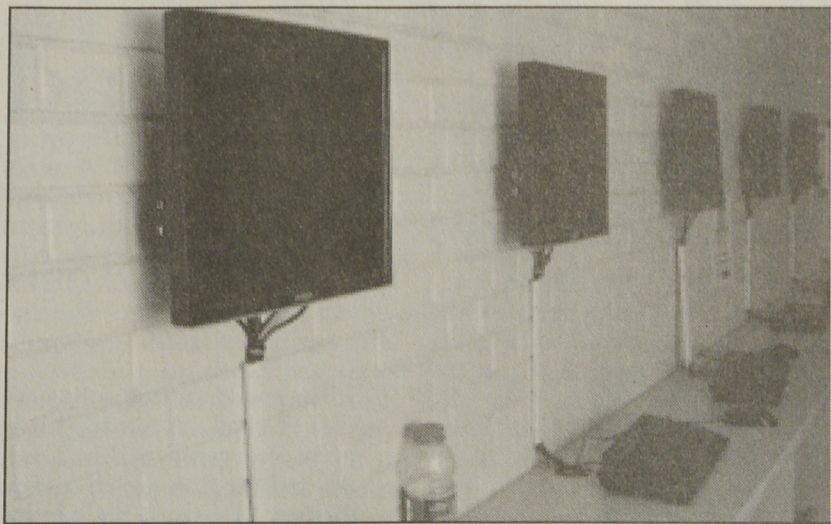
Students may or may not have noticed, but starting at the beginning of this school year, the student-access computers in labs throughout campus have been set to automatically shut themselves down when not in use. The University of New Brunswick's Integrated Technology Services (ITS) have programmed the machines to go into standby mode after one hour of idling and have set the screensavers to shut off the monitors. This may not seem like a very important issue, but this simple act is doing a lot for students, the University, and the environment.

Peter Ruddock, of UNB's ITS, explains the new measures taken in campus labs are strictly energy-saving mechanisms.

"There is no point in having these machines running if they are not being used; they are not conserving energy while they are idling," he said.

Setting campus computers to automatically standby is a very simple technique in the fight to save the environment, but has never been used as a regular policy until this school year. A couple of mouse clicks can save the university thousands of dollars by prolonging the life of the computers and minimizing energy costs. It costs nothing and takes very little effort to change the settings on a computer, but it pays back greatly to put the machines in these low-energy states when not in use.

Greg LeBlanc, of UNB's Environment and Sustainable Development Research Centre, describes the Centre's directive of using technology as a means of benefiting the university both economically and environmentally.



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickian

Computers automatically enter standby after one hour of no use this year.

"The key concept of sustainability is to lower our use of resources such as water, energy, natural materials, and fuel while simultaneously better meeting the needs of the university and greater community," he explained. "The idea is to get more from less. The harder we work towards creating a sustainable campus, the more money we will all save."

The idea of sustainability is not new to the UNB campus, as energy-saving measures have been in place for the past 10 to 15 years. University officials have been monitoring the campus' use of resources, such as water and energy to ensure that funds are not being wasted. The goal is to find new and effective methods of channeling the university's resources to save time, energy, and hassle. Members of the Sustainability Centre have combined their efforts with ITS to better invest university dollars in technology and techniques which will lower our energy use, thus lowering our carbon emissions.

Another seemingly insignificant example of the work of the Sustainability Centre is the campus-wide change from conventional light bulbs (incandescent lamps) to new energy-saving bulbs (Compact Fluorescent Lamps, or CFL) that have a much longer life and use far

less energy. While the new CFL bulb may be more expensive to buy, the cost is recovered in energy savings and replacement costs, not to mention their impact on the environment. Compared to their incandescent counterparts, the new fluorescent bulbs can save over \$30 in electricity costs over one bulb's lifetime and can save 2,000 times their own weight in greenhouse gases. When you think about how many lighting units there are on campus, it makes it quite easy to see the considerable savings this simple switch can produce.

LeBlanc feels the entire student body can learn a lot from the work of the ITS and Sustainability Centre. He says it is up to us to consciously make minor changes that will significantly help our environment, not to mention save us all money.

"Technology is not the major barrier standing in the way of a fully sustainable campus," said LeBlanc. "The technology is there and has been there. It's the culture that needs to evolve; people have to think a little bit differently about energy use and the environment. If we make minor changes to our everyday lives, we can greatly decrease the amount of energy we use, saving us money and bettering the environment."

Low crops for hops

by Ed Bowes

Beer drinkers could be facing some hard times in the near future due to a potential price increase as local breweries face a worldwide hops shortage. From Tokyo to Toronto, brew masters are scrambling to fill their shelves with the fundamental ingredient needed to prepare the timeless drink.

For those who are uneducated in the realm of botany, the study of plants, hops (the 'spice' of the beer) come from the flowers of the perennial vine *Humulus Lupulus*, and are one of four principal ingredients in beer, as well as many herbal medicines. This multipurpose plant is used predominantly in breweries, working to bitter the beer, as well as stabilize and preserve the beverage. Hops are also the chief aromatic agent. There are many varieties, each of which imparts different flavors, aromas, and bitterness levels to a particular brew.

The crisis can be attributed to a decade-long over supply of hops that had forced farmers to abandon the harvest. In the United States, where one-fourth of the world's hops are grown, acreage fell 30% between 1995 and 2006. In 1994, there were 234,000 acres of hop plantations in the world, whereas last year, there were less than half of that number, with only 113,000. Now, in 2007, the surplus hop reserve has finally diminished; Australia is currently

enduring its worst drought on record, hail storms across Europe have damaged crops, extreme heat in western United States hurt both yields and quality of the recent harvest.

Prices for the remaining hops have doubled in the past few weeks, and with the low value of the American dollar, European and Asian brewers are snatching up the remaining worldwide supply.

It's not simply lack of hops that is threatening the current price of beer. The brewing industry is facing mounting costs on nearly every front. Fuel, aluminum, and glass prices have been increasing rapidly over the past several years. Barley and wheat prices have skyrocketed as more farmers are planting corn to meet increasing demands for ethanol, while others plant feed crops to replace acreage lost to corn.

What does all of this mean for the average beer drinker? Industry analysts speculate the worldwide hop shortage could force smaller breweries to hike the prices of some beers by as much as 10% and could cause substantial changes in the field of craft brewing.

The shortage has some breweries rethinking their brewing practices and possibly changing beer recipes to cut down on the use of hops. Small brewers from across the globe face the disheartening prospect of either modifying their existing recipes or experimenting less with new brews, thanks to the shortage and rising prices of other important ingredients.

Big brewers have the money and power to protect themselves against the rising prices of raw ingredients by

negotiating better, long-term contracts for ingredients (buying in bulk), while smaller brewers generally are left with whatever remains. Craft brewers and local microbreweries simply do not have the means to hedge against rising prices like their industrial rivals.

Brian Titus, President of Halifax's Garrison Brewing Company, told the CBC in a recent interview that his brew master may not be able to produce some of his beers in the New Year because he hasn't been able to find certain varieties of hops at all.

"It's bordering on disastrous, actually. If you don't have hops, then you don't have beer," said Titus. "So maybe you find something that smells similar but doesn't have the same taste profile and it doesn't have the same bitterness."

Customers could potentially be forced to switch their alcoholic tastes if the shortage drives up beer prices. The shortage could trigger a shift to spirits or wine, beverages that give a better bang for their buck.

Jeff Melanson, a UNB Engineering student and loyal Pigeons drinker, says that a price increase will not discourage him from enjoying his preferred ale, but he is frustrated by the possibility of losing some specialty beers produced by the Fredericton brewing company.

"It's sad to think that the shortage could potentially threaten any craft beers; brewing is an art form in itself, these recipes have been developed over time by hard working brew masters," he said. "You like to see local business do well and it's frustrating to imagine big corporations muddling out the little guy with their checkbooks."

Comprehensively awesome: Maclean's

The 2007 Maclean's survey of comprehensive universities ranked UNB in the top five.

by Naomi Osborne



Internet

Maclean's magazine relied on public information to base its rankings of top comprehensive universities.

Maclean's magazine's 17th annual ranking of the best universities in the country has put UNB in the top five of comprehensive universities.

UNB ranked first in three categories: student-to-faculty ratio, library expenses, and library holdings per student. UNB continues to be ranked in many national surveys and is rising among its peer institutions.

John McLaughlin, President of UNB, stated in a press release how proud he is of the ranking the university received.

"We pay attention to all surveys like this, but we measure ourselves everyday in terms of the quality of our teaching, the rigour of our research, and the experience we provide our students. As Canada's smallest comprehensive university, we have set our bar high. We continue to compete nationally for the best faculty, staff, and students and measure ourselves against the biggest and best in the country," said McLaughlin.

UNB was the first public university in North America and is also the oldest English language university in Canada; today, it has been considered as an engine of transformation for New Brunswick and beyond, with campuses in Fredericton and Saint John.

Last September, UNB was among the 50% of all the universities involved in Maclean's ranking survey that chose to withdraw when the credibility of the ranking was questioned. It is because of this that Maclean's now only uses public information on which to base their rankings.

From this public information, the top-ranking comprehensive universi-

ties this year, in order of best to worst ranking, were Victoria, Simon Fraser, Waterloo, Guelph, Memorial was tied with New Brunswick, Carleton, York, Regina, Windsor, and Concordia.

The Director of Communications and Marketing at UNB, Cynthia Goodwin, is positive that UNB will continue to compete nationally in their quality of teaching, research, the experience they provide their students, and connecting with the community.

"We also need to look at the broader perspective of post-secondary education in New Brunswick and to raise the bar even higher," said Goodwin. "We look forward to competing and holding our own; it is important for the community, the province, the students, and the teachers."

Maclean's is only one national survey that UNB looks at when it comes to focusing on their excellence and improving their overall quality.

Brad Mullins, the UNB Student Union President, feels the university received an honourable and well deserved ranking.

"UNB is truly one of Canada's great universities. It has a rich history and exceptional facilities with dedicated and knowledgeable staff. For years, UNB has been committed to meeting the needs of the whole student," said Mullins in a recent press release.

UNB also participates in many other national surveys. One is the National Survey of Student Engagement, which compares student participation in programs and services of over 500 universities and colleges in both Canada and the United States.

The university also participates in the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPEHC) surveys. These focus on graduates and their opinions on post-secondary education. The Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium also includes UNB. This survey evaluates students' experiences as well as universities' contributions to specific skill development.

These rankings show that UNB is a thriving university that will only continue to provide the best experience for its students.

Harry Potter has fun being sober

by Lauren Kennedy

"The aim is to have the event on one of the most popular nights for drinking, that being a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday," said Carroll. "That way people realize they can have fun at university without drinking."

Soberpalooza is held in partnership with Drink Smart, an organization on campus that promotes safe drinking. The Coordinator of the Drink Smart program at UNB, Morgan Manzer, explains the involvement of the program.

"Drink Smart has the mission of providing information on safe and moderate alcohol consumption, as well as promoting and supporting alternatives to drinking. This year, Drink Smart was pleased to provide refreshments and treats for Soberpalooza, an event which exemplifies our goals," he said. "Soberpalooza is a terrific chance for students to come together with friends, in a fun and social atmosphere, enjoy the witchery and sorcery of Harry Potter, and not feel the need or pressure to drink. This is just one of the many wonderful events on campus that Drink Smart supports in this way."

In the past, some events have had a good turnout while others have not had the best. Kelbaugh provides an answer as

to why some people chose not to come out to events such as this one, by sharing his own experience.

"Honestly, I had no idea what it really was before I got involved. Had I known, I probably would have gone, but my mistake was that I failed to recognize it as a fun event. For me, I guess it was the name that was a turn-off and I thought it was just another one of those events put on by Res Life, but it turns out it's not, it's a fun event," he explained.

This semester's event had about 20 people show up, and as Carroll explains, there are many different factors for this low turnout.

The movie choice may have played a factor in the low turnout. As Carroll explains, the committee votes on what movie they think will draw the biggest crowd. The top pick was Superbad, but it was unavailable with the movie company they work with, so they went with the second highest vote, which was the Harry Potter one.

"It all depends on the time of year, and what else is going on at that time of year," he said. "If we would have been able to get Superbad, I think the turnout would have been greater," said Carroll.

EWB Wine & Cheese

by Melanie Bell

You sip your glass of wine and bite into a slice of locally made cheese.

On Wednesday, November 21, the UNB chapter of Engineers Without Borders will host its second annual Wine and Cheese event, featuring a guest speaker and faculty member Gunaseelan Kulasegaram. The event will take place in the President's Room of the Alumni Memorial Building at 7 pm. Chapter members will prepare a spread of refreshments, including local food, for attendees to enjoy.

Members of EWB will give presentations on the mission and purpose of the organization as well as the actions it takes in Canada and overseas. The chapter will present its Junior Fellows for 2007, two members selected to spend four months of the upcoming summer volunteering with community development projects in Africa.

Last year's event was a success in terms of raising both money for the chapter

and awareness of issues surrounding global poverty. Members have succeeded in including international development elements in the curriculum of an introductory engineering course, and educated more students about world food and hunger issues through Public School Outreach presentations than any other chapter in Canada.

This year, for the first time, the event will include a silent auction. Members have brought back art and crafts from their travels overseas to be auctioned off. Local artists and chapter members have also donated works related to international issues.

The event is open to the community, with the purpose of networking.

"It's a spectacular chance to reach out to the community members, university professors and people on campus who don't usually come out to our loud events like the [recent] car smash. It's a wonderful way for EWB to get to know the community and for the community to get to know EWB," said Emily Brown, VP of Communications for EWB.

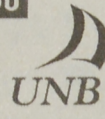
Tickets for the event are \$15 for students and \$25 for non-students. All funds raised will go towards sending the chapter's Junior Fellows overseas.

Dr. Richard E. Lee
Optometrist
406A Regent St. 458-1580
(2 buildings past Harvey's Hamburgers)
New Patients Welcome

Imaging  Services

40¢ colour copies & prints EVERY DAY

WILD
Wednesdays
5 cent B&W copies FOR STUDENTS

3 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU
106 Marshall d'Avray Hall
109 Carleton Hall
D8 Head Hall (NEW LOCATION) 

WWW.UNBF.CA/ITS/IMAGING

The Adult Learners, Part Time Students Organization
Is Holding Their Annual Family Christmas Party.

Where: Kingswood Centre, Hanwell Road

When: December 01, 2007 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

- Santa
- Bowling
- Ice Skating
- Play climber (Kids under 8yr)
- Refreshments

Bring your family to enjoy a free fun afternoon!

For more details or to RSVP: 453-3596/www.unbf.ca/alps