

# The Brunswickian



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## "It's not uncommon to have mice anywhere"

by Josh O'Kane

A call to the Public Health Inspector earlier this month led to the discovery of several dead mice in McConnell Hall. Inspections occurred on November 6, 19, and 22, but it was only on the third inspection that the dining hall was found to be rodent-free and cleared by Public Health.

McConnell is UNB Fredericton's largest dining hall, which serves the more than 500 students in the central residence cluster, as well as members of other residences, faculty, and staff.

Scott MacLean, Regional Director of the Health Protection Branch for the Department of Health, outlines the details of several of the reports. The following information is from the second inspection, which took place on November 19.

"It involved a complaint investigation involving mice in the kitchen," says MacLean. "The Inspector, during the course of his inspection, found a dead mouse on a glue board in the dry storage room, a dead mouse on a glue board in the grill area, and some mouse droppings on the floor in the same area."

This was a follow-up to the initial complaint investigation which took place on November 6, where additional mice were found.

After the first investigation, McConnell was flagged as 'yellow' on the

Department of Health's online public rating system, which signifies that the food service establishment does not meet one or more health regulations. The establishment is given a deadline to meet the necessary criteria; this was November 22 for McConnell Hall.

"The 19th was a follow-up to the one on the 6th," says MacLean. "Holes in areas noted on November 6 had not yet been plugged." As well, he mentions that "there was an accumulation of grease in the area of the deep fryer and grill still not cleaned up."

It was also noted that all food had been stored in sealed packaging, and as a result, was not contaminated by the mice.

The repairs were completed by the November 22 deadline, and pest control measures have been increased.

Martin Bayliss, General Manager of Sodexo at UNB, says due to the increasingly cold weather, mice are very common in buildings this time of year.

"Every fall there's increased activity," says Bayliss. "It's not uncommon to have mice anywhere. I've had them in my house on occasion. It's a pretty normal thing in a large building. On campus, I know there's been a lot of construction this summer that I think may have displaced some mice... When the weather becomes cold, it's usually your peak time for any kind of pest activity."

Bayliss says that when Sodexo did notice, the proper calls were made to the physical plant and pest control to take care of the situation. Holes were patched, and pest control began to enhance surveillance.

As well, Bayliss says that "when the Health Inspector came, we asked him to take more detail about what else can be done to facilitate eliminating the problem. You cannot put poisons out in a food facility. Years ago that was a normal practice, but it's no longer acceptable."

After the third visitation, the Public Health Inspector recommended McConnell to renew their license - essentially meaning their status went back to green on the Public Health website, and that inspections would return at a regular biannual schedule.

"The Health Inspector was more than satisfied with the work that was done to help prevent further infestation," says Bayliss. "We're in there every day, we double check every day. When we see an increase in activity, we check. We

check our product everyday. We check everything, every day. Bar none."

Bayliss says that glue boards and mouse traps are set out all the time to assure those mice that do enter the building are caught.

James Brown, Executive Director of Residential Life, Campus, and Conference Services, manages the contract UNB has with Sodexo. He, too, says that mice are a common problem in large buildings such as McConnell.

"I first heard of the idea of mice in any building, the first day I came here," says Brown. "Every residence building has probably at least one mouse in it. What happens is it gets cold, and the mice try to find their way into the building. And they're good at it... I also ran food

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## Rock for Life: A fisheye view

Brunswick writer - and rocker - Mitchell Bernard was there

by Mitchell Bernard

The second annual Rock for Life concert was held this past Friday in the SUB cafeteria. Seven great acts took to the stage to raise awareness for the Stephen Lewis Foundation, an organization that helps ease the pain of AIDS/HIV in Africa.

Jason Henry kicked off the night with an acoustic set, which included a mix of original tunes and covers. One of his covers was an acoustic rendition of "Golddigger" by Kanye West. We played a gig earlier this year with him and both times he has put on a great performance.

Billy Fong was the second act of the night. Fong was backed by a complete band, including a mandolin player.

It's too bad we don't see more mandolin players in bands. The instrument added a great sound to the band and really, who wouldn't want to rock out to a mandolin?

This was the first time that I heard Billy Fong perform and I was quite pleased with their set. I didn't really get the chance to meet with Fong or the rest of his band, since they were quite nonchalant backstage, differing from their upbeat performance.

David Woodside was the next act to take the stage. The Prince Edward Island native played a few songs off his latest album, 'Amber City'. Armed with only a voice and an acoustic guitar, Woodside performed just as well as any band of the night.

The oddest, yet most crowd pleasing performance of the night, came from the Brian Koval Experience. Koval was a natural entertainer who delighted the crowd with his hilarious antics. He juggled, rode a unicycle, played guitar, sang, and did anything else that he could to keep the crowd entertained.

Part of the Koval show was a guitar duel between two awesome guitarists. One of the guitarists even played a Jimmy Page-style solo with a violin bow.

Koval entertained the performers backstage during his juggling warm-up, too, including juggling three apples while munching on one as he juggled.

Following the Koval performance, Koval, alongside fellow Harrison House

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Jason Henry played at the Rock for Life charity concert for the Stephen Lewis Foundation on Nov 23 at the SUB

## Do you 'Know the Score'?

by Lauren Kennedy

Bright lights, flashing neon signs, and a seemingly endless flow of money: No, this is not Las Vegas. These are some of the tools used that can addict a person to the thrill of gambling.

Recently, New Brunswick's Graham government proposed a new gambling policy. Finance Minister Victor Boudreau announced they will cut the number of video lottery terminals (VLTs) by 650, reducing them to 2,000 within the province, knowing the machines are addictive for some people. The report also said one casino will be built in the province by 2010.

One of the main objectives of this new policy is to bring the reality of addictive gambling to light by seeking "transformational change" on the gambling policy in this province. In fact, the New Brunswick Department of Health and Wellness shows that young people between the ages of 19-34 are at the highest risk of developing a gambling problem.

The Know the Score (KTS) program, developed by the Responsible Gambling Council, targets people within the high-risk age group and sensitizes them to the dangers gambling can bring.

"Our goal is not to preach; it is about awareness and educating the students about the risks of gambling and to help provide a reality check that students may have received about beating the odds or winning big," explained Lisa Couperus, Manager of Special Projects and Programs for the Responsible Gambling Council.

This program has been around since 2001 and has been touring universities and colleges around Canada and New York State, while it is currently in Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, and New York State. It was being piloted at two New Brunswick universities, UNBF and Mount Allison. The hope is that these pilot programs will go well so their presence can become regularized, while being a good resource for students, as Couperus explains.

"This is our first trip to present KTS in New Brunswick. The next step following these programs is to conduct evaluations of the programs, getting students doing follow-up questions about what they thought of it and how much information has been retained," she said. "Our hope is that this program goes well and hopefully expands to visit other universities in Atlantic Canada as well."

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## Government leaves Student Union in the dark

by Naomi Osborne

The Post Secondary Education (PSE) Report, released in September, was a hot debate topic at last week's UNB Student Union council meeting.

The meeting warmed up when the PSE Report discussion began. President of the Student's Union, Brad Mullins, had presented the members with questions to consider regarding the Report prior to the meeting.

These questions focused on the key problem areas of the Report, such as rising tuition rates, large student debt, credit transfers, student financial aid, and deferred maintenance.

Mullins expressed his concerns of the Report, saying the government needs to step up and start communicating their information to the public.

"There is a lack of knowledge of what's going on from the government's perspective," said Mullins. "The government is doing a really poor job of communicating what it's doing in a lot of ways."

Mullins is also worried that the financial aid recommendations will be



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickian

The UNBSU met last Thursday to discuss the PSE report.

ignored, as there has been some talk of the Report's dismissal.

The Graduate Student Association, sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Students, held a rally last Wednesday on the principles of dismissing the entire Report.

"Their position on the issue is the outright elimination of the Report, which is not only impractical but ridiculous," said Mullins. "The Premier has already stated they are not going to outright dismiss the Report, so the Association needs to realize that."

The rally participants argued that

capping student loans is dangerous because the cap will still allow students to finish their education with anywhere from \$20,000- \$28,000 worth of debt. Although this number is high, currently students are graduating with anywhere from \$32,000- \$50,000 of debt, so at least it is working in cutting down on the outrageously high numbers and replacing them with grants, explained Mullins.

"That is still not a justification for not having a cap on loans and replacing it with grants," said Mullins.

The main point of the rally was the

need for more needs-based grants. However, at this stage, these are only recommendations and Mullins is concerned that they will not be implemented.

The rally also brought up the concern of turning UNBSJ into a polytechnic, an issue that has so far already been removed.

"They want to keep UNBSJ as well. That's a good statement to make, but as far as I know, right now the polytechnic issue has pretty much been taken off the table, at least in terms of UNBSJ. I'm not sure what is happening in Moncton," said Mullins.

The discussion in the works now is the role of the UNBSJ's president and whether or not the post will be separated from UNBF's administration.

According to Mullins, there is no confirmation that it is going to be a part of UNB.

"It makes little to no sense," said Mullins, "UNB is New Brunswick's national university and [the role change] will hurt UNB and the province."

Others aren't pleased with the report, either. John Wallace, a member of the university's Board of Governors expressed his outrage in a document he produced shortly after the Report was released in September.

L	A	S	T	TRIPLE LETTER SCORE	T		
C	L	A	S	S	DOUBLE WORD SCORE	U	
SPECIAL HAPPY HOUR	B	A	S	H	D	E	C

STUDENTS WORKING FOR STUDENTS SINCE 1970

# Social club

For Members & Guests Only