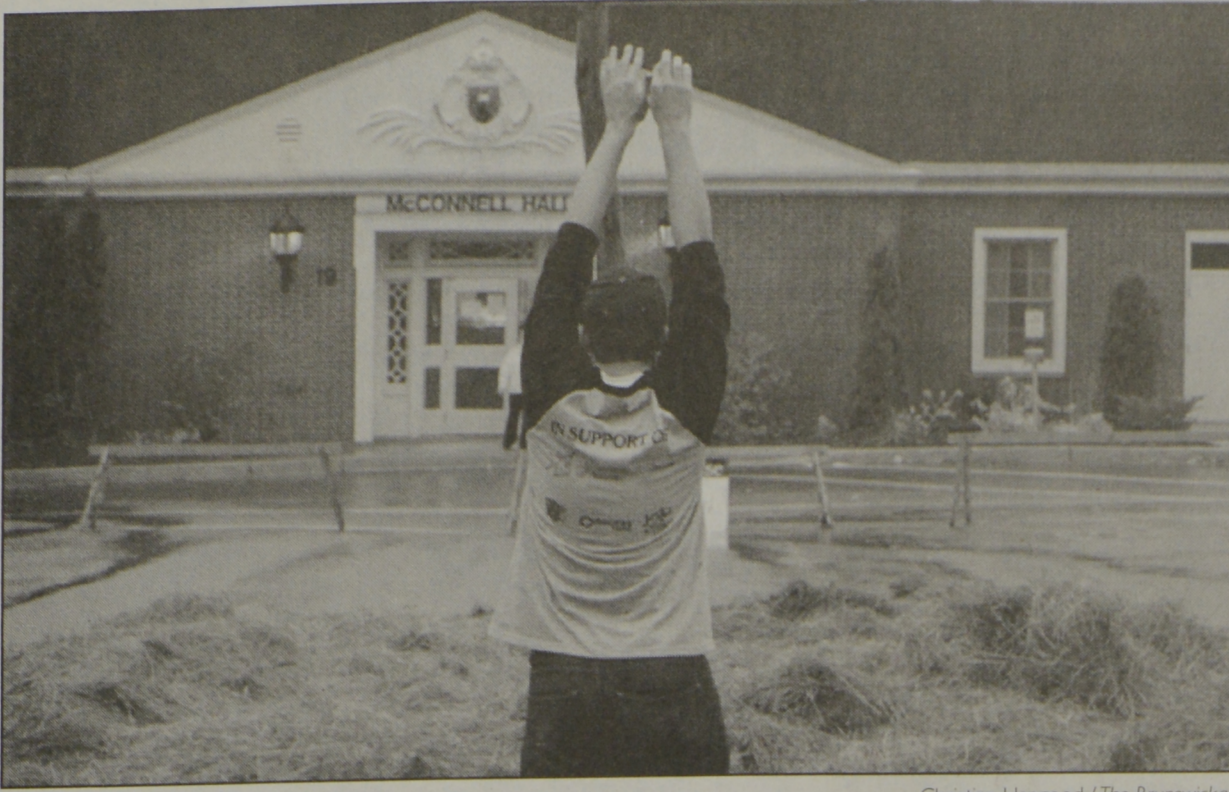


Tossing wood for charity UNB receives excellent overall mark for academic reputation



Christian Hapgood / The Brunswickian

Mackenzie House resident Greg Melanson tosses a caber in the rain last Saturday morning.

by Alison Clack

For hundreds of years, Scots have been gathering on the misty Scottish highlands to celebrate and compete in the various annual Highland Games. Saturday, October 27, 2007, the residents of Mackenzie House lined up along the sidewalks beside Residence Administration on a cold and rainy morning to show their Scottish pride and to toss some wood for the eighth annual Mackenzie House Charity Caber Toss for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

The traditional caber toss, one of the most well-known of the Highland Games' events, involves throwing a log roughly sixteen to twenty feet long and eighty to one hundred and thirty pounds. The Mackenzie House caber toss' cabers are only a fraction of the size of the traditional cabers - the largest Mackenzie caber, nicknamed 'Shad', weighing roughly fifty pounds - but the throwers quickly learned that tossing a caber is not nearly as easy as it looks. Competitors were made up of a selection of Mackenzie House residents

and other residence representatives, including Brian Beaudette, President of Aitken, and Christy-Lynn Jenkins, a representative of Lady Dunn.

The tournament began with a big brother and little brother from Big Brothers Big Sisters throwing the first two cabers. After various elimination rounds, the tournament came down to finalists Brian Beaudette, Chelsea Steeves, and Tara Forler. After a tense finish and many people wondering whether a non-Mack resident might win the competition, Forler was named as champion caber-tosser.

With the last caber thrown and the champion announced, Mackenzie House managed to raise roughly \$1,500 from the day's event. The money raised went towards the Mackenzie House charity, Big Brothers Big Sisters. While their main event, Caber Toss, is over, Mackenzie still plans on raising more money.

"Where Caber Toss is the major thing that the House does for charity they don't usually make that much more after the event," said Mackenzie House Treasurer, Mitchell Hoar. "After Caber Toss last year the house was only able to raise \$115 but we as a House are looking to put the effort into seeing the House raise much more than that. It would be nice if by the end of the year we could raise \$2,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters."

Mackenzie House believes it could easily achieve that goal this year. Through various fundraiser activities the house has already managed to raise more money than last year.

"This year we have done a few activities to raise money for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Through selling raffle tickets, a charity poker night, a charity barbeque, and of course our actual Caber Toss, Mackenzie House was able to raise \$1,579.26, which is an improvement from the \$1,500 raised the previous year," said Hoar.

While it might seem minute, the improvement is relatively large considering the amount of throwers this year.

"This year we had twenty-three tossers, which is down from the thirty-three that threw the year before," said Hoar.

The lack of actual throwers did not detract from the support the House showed; throughout the competition, residents and Mackenzie alumni watched the event and cheered on the throwers. The entire event was a strong mixture of showing pride in the House's Scottish heritage, with determination to earn money for a good cause despite some poor weather. While the weather during the event seemed intent on putting a damper on everyone's day, the show went on, and the event helped make sure that some kids could get the support they need and have a good time.

The 2007 University Report Card was released by the Globe and Mail, ranking all universities across Canada from worst to best

by Naomi Osborne

The Globe and Mail has recently released the 2007 University Report Card for all universities across Canada, giving them letter grades from A+ to F in several different categories.

For overall university experience, UNB was given a B+ and its sister campus, UNBSJ was given a B, while St. Thomas University received an A.

UNB was given great marks in many categories such as: Quality of teaching (B), professors' knowledge of subjects (A-), and online library resources (A-). UNB also received a B for overall academic reputation.

The Report is a representation of students' opinions of their universities. It grades 53 universities based on the survey opinions of more than 43,000 undergraduates.

At the top of the list was King's University College in Edmonton that got an A+ (the only one to get a perfect score), for overall satisfaction with the university experience.

There are many different categories

ranking the universities. It allows each university to look at the problem areas and the positive aspects of their schools.

Each university is put into four main categories based on its student population, ranking from 'large' to 'very small'. 'Large' is 22,000 students and over, 'medium' is 12,000-22,000, 'small' being 4,000-12,000, and 'very small' is considered fewer than 4,000.

Shirley Cleave, the Associate Vice President Academic for the Learning Environment, shared her thoughts on how the Report can be useful to students.

"The University Report Card is one source of data that students can use when they are trying to decide the university that will best meet their educational goals," said Cleave. "Students should be cautious in interpreting the results, recognizing that the difference between each level is only 0.2."

The rating system seems to be more effective than the ranking system used in other surveys. Cleave explains that although the University Report Card seems legitimate, students should be aware that by combining a number of related items, it creates the sources provided in it.

She further explains the problem: "Some items in the scores may be more or less relevant to particular institutions."

Students should be particularly aware of taking these scores at face value.

In response to the Report, UNB has been taking steps to improve on areas where the scores were relatively low.

Cleave mentioned the new suite-style residence was actually built in direct response to requests of different styles of residences.

In the fall of 2008, Student Affairs and Services, including Student Health and Counseling Services, will be moved to a better space. UNB will also be working on improving its food services. They are aiming to provide more organic food choices for students.

The university is also working to dedicate its resources to raise funds from donors to support scholarships and ultimately make university more affordable.

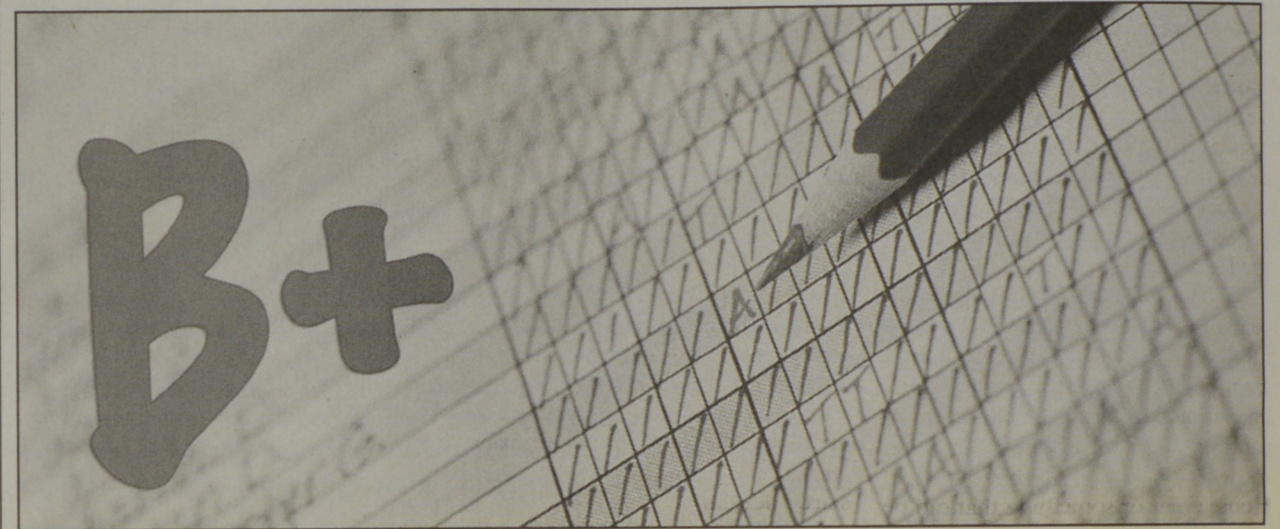
Cleave feels the Report is only one source of student feedback. It has been successful in improving the educational experiences of students both inside and out of the classroom.

"It is important to recognize that this is one snapshot that should be used in conjunction with other data that universities collect," said Cleave.

When students are deciding which university to attend they need to consider other forms of information as well.

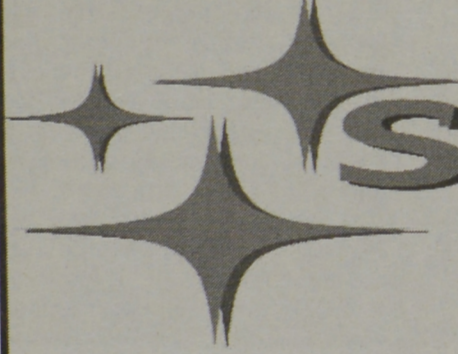
"It should be used with other resources that are available to students such as web pages, university calendars, recruitment offices, faculty and staff, and current students," she said.

The University Report Card is just another way of informing potential future students of what each university has to offer, and a way of letting current students voice their likes and dislikes with the experiences they are encountering.



Internet

Each year the Globe and Mail releases its annual university report card. UNB scored well though it could improve in some areas.



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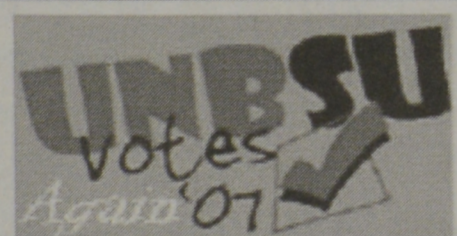
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