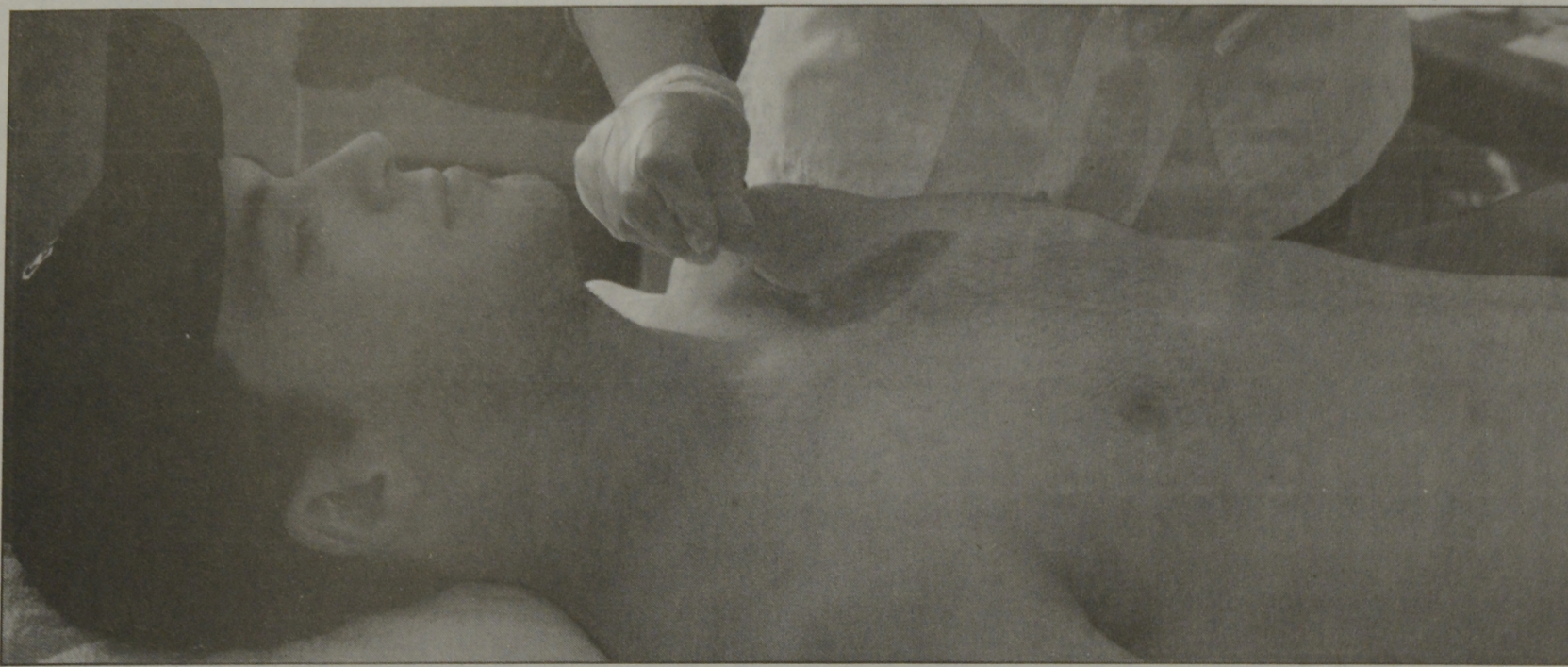


A painful stance: Waxing for aids \$100, 000 greener



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickan

Last week's "Wax For Aids" event left a lot of students a little sore, but it was all for a good cause. The UNB faction of the World University Services of Canada put on the event to raise money for the "Bike for AIDS" campaign. The campaign raises money to purchase specially outfitted bicycle ambulances for African regions that have been affected by AIDS. The bikes consist of a lightweight trailer and a removable stretcher that are attached to the bicycle frame. These bikes are used to transport people with HIV/AIDS who cannot walk. Several UNB students helped out the cause and got their bodies waxed for pledges. Wednesday. Despite the often-heard screams of pain, many turned out to show support.

Here and abroad, in brief

Leaves getting left alone

The combination of rain and an influx of fallen leaves have been causing problems throughout Fredericton. Many homeowners have neglected to rake the leaves in front of their houses. Some of these uncared for leaves have been finding their way into storm drains and sewers, creating some localized flooding when met with rain. The city will use its two vacuum trucks to suck up leaves if temperatures stay above freezing, but citizen help is needed to avert the problem.

Too big for jail

A 430-pound convict is out of a Canadian prison because the facility could not accommodate his frame. "Big Mike," as he is known, was serving time in a Quebec prison for conspiracy and drug trafficking. The Quebec Parole Board cited Michel Lapointe's health and good behavior as reasons for his early parole.

A concerned community

The Department of Health held a public consultation session in Fredericton last Thursday afternoon. There was overwhelming discussion about the state of help for the mentally ill in the province. Front-line workers and concerned citizens voiced their concerns. It was stated that New Brunswick's new mental health strategy needs more resources before it can close the system's gaping holes.

Daredevil stunt causes train crash

Two young men from Grand Bay-Westfield were sent to hospital late last Monday after the truck they were riding in collided with a train. The injuries are non-life threatening. The railway is blaming a "game of chicken" for the accident. Allegedly, the men were trying to race the train across the track when the accident occurred.

SARAH RATCHFORD
THE BRUNSWICKAN

The TD Canada Trust "Go Green Challenge" is currently in the works. The contest awards a total of \$100,000, which will be divided up between four winners. Winners will receive \$25,000 dollars each, \$12,500 of which will be donated to their respective universities to help out with environmental sustainability projects. The remaining money will belong to the students who win, and it can be used however they like.

Fourth year biology student Brian Koval is spreading the word about the contest throughout the UNB campus.

"Basically it's an environmental competition where students make teams of at least two people, and they submit an idea that will help out the environment, or inspire others to help out the environment, and they have to write an essay that has to be at the most 4,000 words – so nothing ridiculously huge, basically just portraying the idea and saying how they'll go about doing it," he says.

Winning projects from last year's contest include a variety of ideas. One such project was called the Paper Cut program, which Koval calls "a pretty simple idea."

"University campuses go through a lot of paper, which the group aimed to fix through a number of paper reduction strategies," Koval says the techniques used in the project could easily transfer over to other universities who wanted to do their part. The project involved such practices as stronger enforcement of paper recycling programs as well as the implementation of technology to reduce paper use.

Competitions were also held throughout the school to see who could save the most paper. This particular project was carried out in Alberta.

A more eastern winning idea came from the University of Waterloo. The group proposed a bicycle sharing program which was inspired by cities such as Paris, Barcelona and Brussels, where the majority of people use

bicycles to get around.

"They found a practical and viable bicycle sharing program for their city. I'm not going to lie, I'd probably ride a bicycle if it was there for me to ride," Koval says.

He also points out that with use of a bicycle sharing program, students who may not be able to afford a bicycle would have one available at no cost.

The program works like a rental system. All citizens, not just students, are able to sign out bicycles, but payment is not required.

Koval says contestants can start planning their projects at any time. Essays are due Jan. 16, and judging will occur March 16, 2009.

Koval says UNB has not been involved in past years. "That's why I'm trying to push this competition. There has been no real participation at UNB, and it'd be great if we got our name out there for sustainability. If we win this competition, that's money towards the environmental faculty at UNB."

Koval says the main merit of this competition is that "once these proposals get out there, they're not just words on paper." Rather, the best ideas will actually be carried out and help to improve the state of our environment.

To enter the competition, groups must be comprised of either part time or full time students. Submissions must be original. The idea has to be realistic and viable, and it has to integrate elements of environmentally-based community design. Some examples are transportation, energy efficiency, water conservation, ecosystem management, air quality, and basically anything along those lines, says the biology student.

Structures and mechanisms needed to carry out the idea must also be described. The idea must be presented in such a fashion that it can be put to use right away.

Koval says the contest is quite accessible, as essays are not judged on grammar, but rather on the value of the idea.

Koval will be addressing classes to get the word out. Any questions about entering the contest can be directed to Koval at a0hmv@unb.ca.

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