

the brunswickan

canada's oldest official student publication.



Silver Wave Film Festival

Where movie buffs can get their fix

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Mixed Emotions

Reds hockey defeats STU, lose two in weekend play

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10 Tonnes of Food

Students raise enough to run food bank for two months

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Fredericton mourns loss of STU professor

SARAH RATCHFORD
THE BRUNSWICKAN

It is with great sadness that the Brunswickan reports on the loss of Saint Thomas University's John McKendy.

The body of the 60-year-old sociology professor was found in his Douglas home on Friday morning. On Monday, the RCMP has closed the case surrounding

his death.

RCMP Cpl. Claude Tremblay says the body of Nicholas Wade Baker, 27, was found in a rented car in a Moncton hotel parking lot on Saturday morning at about 11 a.m. Baker was the main suspect in McKendy's homicide, says Tremblay.

Foul play is not suspected in the death of Baker. Tremblay says that the investigation on the case is closed as there are no other suspects at this time.

Police did not release information on the relationship between McKendy and Baker or other details surrounding the murder, though CBC reported on

Monday that Baker was married to McKendy's daughter in 2007.

STU's Director of Communications and Media Relations, Jeffrey Carleton, says that the University is working with McKendy's family to finalize memorial services, which are scheduled for midweek.

Classes at STU will be cancelled for the service.

Counselling services have been offered since the date of the tragic event, and will continue throughout this week.

"The STU community is still in shock, and trying to come to terms with this

terrible news," says Carleton.

McKendy came to STU in 1974. His research was centered around sociological theory, social inequality, and the sociology of religion. He was greatly committed to learning, and taught passionately in the school's Aquinas program.

"I know I speak for our St. Thomas community in offering our condolences to John's family. John was a well-known, respected and valued member of our community who will be missed by his students, colleagues and friends," says President Michael Higgins in a statement

released by the University.

STU Students' Union President Duncan Gallant calls it a tough time for students.

"This is a very tragic situation. John McKendy was a talented professor. He was well liked and highly regarded by students. He was one of the good professors - he was very dedicated to students. His students are taking it hard. This is an all around sad experience, and he will be missed."

The school is in the process of organizing a scholarship in Professor McKendy's name.

Time for action: council

HILARY PAIGE SMITH
THE BRUNSWICKAN

The cost of an education is only getting more expensive, and the UNB Student Union has decided to take a stand.

Following an impassioned presentation by Vice President External Jon O'Kane at last week's Student Union meeting, a motion passed for the Union to formally position themselves against rising education costs.

According to O'Kane, upon completion of a four year undergraduate degree in New Brunswick, a student receiving government financial aid will have accumulated \$34,000 in debt. New Brunswick's student debt load is highest nationally, topping the average level by \$10,000.

The Canadian government recently terminated the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, replacing it with the Canada Student Grant Program. The termination of this scholarship program has resulted in a \$7 million dollar loss for New Brunswick students.

The government of New Brunswick also provides all New Brunswick students choosing to study in this province with a \$2,000 bursary. Should the student live and work in New Brunswick for five years following their undergraduate degree, they will be given a \$10,000 tuition tax rebate.

O'Kane speculates that the blanket sum of \$2,000 would be better served if given to high needs and low-income students, as opposed to all first year students. He also feels that the \$10,000 tuition tax rebate is more of a human resources retention strategy than a financial aid program.

The policy recently adopted by the UNB Student Union is not a fresh one, says O'Kane. The New Brunswick Student Alliance has been developing this policy for years and O'Kane has been researching its merits for months.

The foremost aspect of the policy is a student loan debt cap. This debt cap would ensure that students pay no more than \$6,000 of their loan each year, resulting in no more than \$24,000 for



The UNBSU student representative council met last Thursday, with discussions including positioning the SU's stance on financial aid for post-secondary education. Pictured above are SU executive members Greg Melanson, Jon O'Kane, Bethany Vail, Stephanie Lord, and Lisa Solte.

an undergraduate degree, O'Kane says that this will "catapult New Brunswick students ahead of the national average."

Another aspect of the policy is an Income Contingent Loan Repayment Program, which dictates that students do not have to pay more than they can afford per payment period and if loans have not been paid within 15 years, the loan is absolved. The policy also seeks to provide assistance to groups that need it most, such as aboriginal and first generation students whose parents have not attended post-secondary institutions and low income students with the desire to learn.

O'Kane notes that now is the time for action, as provincial budgets are currently in negotiation.

"This decision is being made right now

and if we sit on our hands, it's not going to be made in our favour. We need to make sure that before the budget is decided that we're vocalizing everything that's important to us so that we are strong stakeholders," O'Kane says. "Whenever you are acting with government you need to make sure you are keeping that professional and tactical mindset so that you are a very reasonable stakeholder, considered thoroughly and equal to everyone else."

To show the government that university students are stakeholders and to better the chances of the government considering this policy for implementation, the Student Union will hold a Day of Action.

"The Day of Action is intended to draw public, government and media attention

so that we can foster an investment in the community that student issues are important to the community as a whole. We believe that the programs right now are not properly structured to reach out to as many New Brunswick students as possible. The Day of Action is to amplify the student voice, so that we can send that message out to as many people as possible," says O'Kane.

Plans for the Day of Action are still in development, but students can expect to see posters saying "Missing: An Accountable Government." Postcards are also being sent to Premier Shawn Graham, with messages revealing the amount of debt a student has incurred.

The Day of Action will take place on Nov. 13.

Student paper left in the cold

JOSH O'KANE
THE BRUNSWICKAN

A written and verbal agreement between the current president of the St. Thomas University Students' Union and the editorial board of the Aquinian was breached last Thursday.

The Aquinian is the official student newspaper of STU, and has been autonomous since 1986.

On April 25, the Aquinian and the STU SU executive discussed funding options for refurbishment of their newsroom at the cost of about \$3,000.

In an e-mail from current STU SU president Duncan Gallant dated April 30, Aquinian managing editor Chris Fox was told that, either through government grants or through the STU SU, the Aquinian would get the money it needed to upgrade its newsroom.

The e-mail reads: "we will guarantee you have the funds available to revamp your office."

Gallant did not take office as president until May 1, though at the time he was the Union's VP education.

The newspaper's initially requested an increase in their student media fees to obtain the desired funding, but Gallant noted in the e-mail that the STU SU would like to avoid the difficulties involved in a one-year fee increase.

The Aquinian examined the routes of government grants and other financial aid initiatives, but both proved fruitless.

Gallant said in his letter to the Aquinian: "if you have a running surplus the easiest way for you to buy your office equipment immediate (sic) would be to spend part of that and we would make sure to replace it in the fall if the government grants did not come through."

The Aquinian spent the money to refurbish their newsroom in August at the cost of \$1,919.24, and submitted an expense report to the SU.

Instead of being re-imbursed, however, the SU executive told the Aquinian that in accordance with internal policy, the

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Guest DJ Cosmo Dance Party

"Beat the Clock"

\$1.75 - Beer - Liquor - Draft

SATURDAY Social Club

2 Events 1 Night

Jager Swag!

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THE OMINOUS STAG

Jager Yourself and be one of our top Jager models