

Travis: a family affair



Fredericton's NDP candidate, Jesse Travis' campaign focus is on improvement of the the average Canadian's life, with emphasis placed on young Canadians.

HILARY PAIGE SMITH
THE BRUNSWICKAN

With the federal election looming, there is a need for students to look at every side of the table and make an informed decision.

New Democratic Party candidate Jesse Travis graduated from the University of New Brunswick in 2006 with a major in history. Always a supporter of the New Democrats, Travis contacted the local riding in the summertime and began working toward candidacy.

"I chose to run for MP because I think a lot of people feel left behind by the policies of the Liberals and the Conservative governments that we've had the past couple decades. The biggest problem facing Canadians is that the government has skewed the interest of the nation in favour of big businesses and average Canadians are getting left behind. I felt that someone should stand up and fight for every day Canadians," Travis says.

In addition to fighting for the

average Canadian, Travis adheres to the New Democratic belief in fighting for Canadian families.

"I think a lot of young Canadians here are having trouble finding middle income jobs. I think these are the jobs that are lacking here most. I think it's crippling a lot of people and it's not allowing them to start families. What I want to work on in Fredericton is ensuring that young Canadians are able to start the families that they want to start and that they're able to have careers that are rewarding and that provide them with the financial stability they need."

Another component of the NDP platform that relates directly to Fredericton is student issues. 2008 election candidates are aware of steadily rising tuition costs and student debt.

Should the New Democratic Party come into office, they would implement their Canada Post-Secondary Education Act. This plan would ensure \$1000 at the beginning of every year to undergraduate students who qualify for a student loan. In addition to the grant, there are hopes to lower interest rates on loans and instate a tuition system that is as affordable as possible so that student loans may become a

thing of the past.

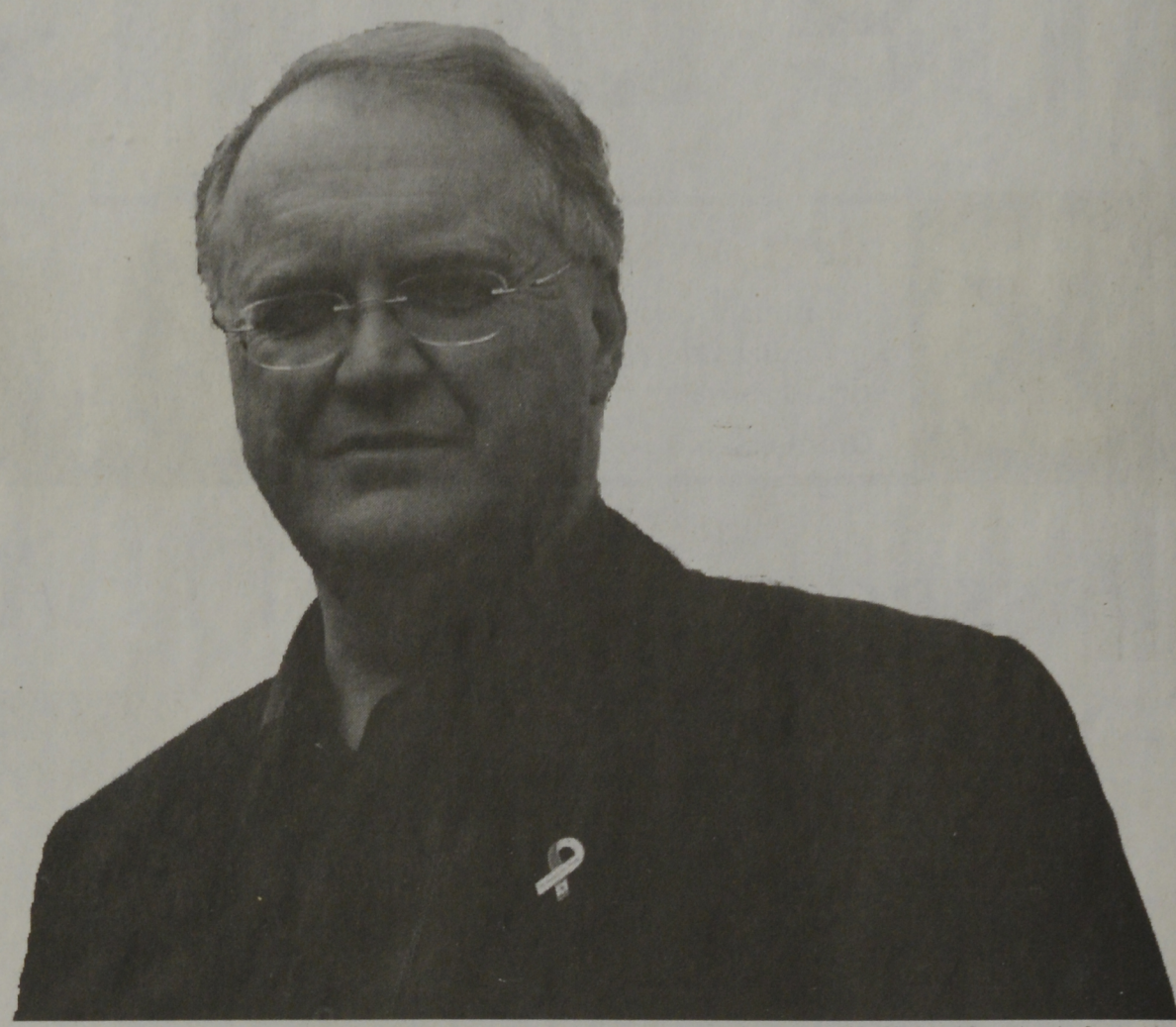
Travis can relate to the financial perils of students as a recent graduate who is still shouldering the burden of a student loan.

"I think that this is a community that should have an MP that is willing to fight for students, for tuition rates and lowering education costs. People shouldn't have to choose between their financial situation and an education. I think that's a huge problem, people who do have to make that sacrifice because they can't afford it and I want to make sure that we fight to provide affordable post-secondary education for whoever wants it."

A major concern in the upcoming election for Travis is voter apathy. He stresses that there are people out there who are inheriting their political opinion, only voting a certain way because their parents did. He also says that there are parties out there relying on few student voters.

"The universities should be encouraging every student to vote and I think we need more programs that encourage voter turnout. There is a lot of voter apathy and I think that as much as universities can encourage voter turn out, they should be."

Conserving his energy



Keith Ashfield is Fredericton's Conservative candidate for the upcoming election. Ashfield will not be appearing at Thursday evening's candidate debate at the UNB Student Union Building, and was unavailable for an interview prior to print.

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On October 9, UNB is hosting a debate for all local candidates in the federal election, excluding one.

Keith Ashfield, the local Conservative candidate has declined to participate.

Jon O'Kane, the Student Union's VP External, extended invitations weeks ago to the potential Fredericton MP's and awaited their response.

Thursday's debate will have the largest live audience in this election, says O'Kane, and is likely to be a crucial influence on the student voter population.

Following Ashfield's refusal to participate, O'Kane says he called his campaign office several times to follow up and received no response.

It wasn't until a meeting with the candidate, he says, that

Ashfield and his scheduler revealed his reasons for refusing the opportunity.

O'Kane learned that Ashfield, as well as his campaign team, felt that his time was better spent canvassing door-to-door, rather than spending an evening informing students on issues that directly affect them.

It was also revealed to O'Kane that three debates in one week would be "very taxing" on the candidate.

"I was not very impressed. If three debates are too much for a candidate running for office, how are they supposed to properly represent us in parliament," says O'Kane with displeasure.

Keith Ashfield's sole public involvement on campus thus far was an hour and a half shaking hands at the Young Conservatives booth at a recent Clubs and Societies Fair, says the VP External.

O'Kane noted that an hour and a half is coincidentally the amount of time the debate would take.

Those who attend the debate on Thursday will become acquainted with Liberal candi-

date, David Innes, Green Party candidate, Mary Lou Babineau, New Democratic Party candidate, Jesse Travis and Canadian Action Party candidate, Ben Kelly.

"I don't feel not attending the debate will lose him votes directly, however it will gain other candidates votes indirectly."

"Giving them the opportunity to speak in front of students allows them to tailor their portfolios to interest students and it makes them have something they are accountable for, for students," says O'Kane.

"Students might be more apt to vote for a candidate who attends our debate."

Another trend seen in this election is Conservative apathy, with more Conservative candidates nation-wide refusing to attend student-driven debates on campuses like Bishop's and the University of Winnipeg.

Conservative campaign organizers even recently declared the latter campus a "no-fly-zone."

Ashfield declined to comment on the issue.

The federal election will take place on Oct. 14.

News Briefs (as opposed to boxers)

Leadership Debate Focused on the Economy

Last week's leadership debate was filled with fiery words and measured attacks. The majority of the debate saw the other leaders gang up on current Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Harper was drilled with questions about the disastrous state of the current economy, but he held steady with his opinion that the Canadian economy was fine. It will be interesting to see if the Canadian voters agree with an election just over a week away.

Moosehead Beer to Flow More Slowly

Moosehead Breweries is temporarily laying off 50

employees until November. A weakening economy and poor summer weather are listed as the reasons for the change. The particularly poor US economy played a large part in the decision as nearly 50 percent of the brewery's output is shipped to the US. Full production is expected to resume between November and Christmas, but employee levels will be re-evaluated in 2009.

Remember to Lock Your Shed, Garage

After a string of robberies from open sheds and garages, the Fredericton Police Force is reminding residence to lock their outbuildings. In some of the cases, the residents were at home when

the thefts occurred. "An open door displaying valuable property can be inviting to a passerby thief," said Const. Ralph Currie. About \$2,300 worth of power tools were stolen from an attached garage on York Street between August 22 and September 1.

No More Plastic Surgery for Pets

NB veterinarians have decided to stop performing cosmetic surgeries on household pets. The most common surgeries include docking tails and cropping ears to make them stand up straight. These surgeries are usually done at the request of owners who wish to have their pets compete in shows. The ban will be in full effect in six

months.

US Approves 700 Million Dollar Bailout

Last Thursday, the US House of representatives approved a 700 million dollar financial bailout. The bailout was implemented in hopes of averting what could be one of the greatest financial crises since the Great Depression.

The bill will allow the US government to spend billions of dollars to buy bad mortgage-related securities and other devalued assets held by troubled financial institutions. The theory behind the bill is that the bailout will allow frozen credit to begin flowing again and prevent a serious recession.

Overpass not yet in construction

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on a lot of things right now," says Graham. He says the city needs to reach a certain level of taxation dollars in order to complete its projects.

"If not, we'll have to raise the tax rate," he says.

Vice President O'Kane says

that the stance of the Union has always been that an overpass is necessary.

"It's frustrating that the City spends so much on recreation and ignores safety issues," O'Kane says.

He says the City is focused on capital projects.

"Yeah, it's great if you attract

1000 more people to Fredericton - not so great if one of them dies," he says.

O'Kane says that municipal work has shifted.

"Quality of life and vandalism are the main issues," he says.

"Data was collected, things can be done to move forward. We have to continue pushing

politicians to make it happen."

Graham says that "Efforts are ongoing, talks are always happening. When the right factors come together it will happen."

In the meantime, students will have to hope that there are no further deaths while these talks are going on.

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DECEMBER 2008 EXAM SCHEDULE

THE 2008 DECEMBER EXAM SCHEDULE IS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB FROM THE UNB HOMEPAGE OR AT THIS URL:

<http://www.unb.ca/schedules/exam/>

The schedule is also posted on faculty bulletin boards. It is expected that the Exam Schedule with buildings/rooms will be available on the Web by October 17th, 2008. Students are reminded that they are expected to make themselves available for examinations until the last possible day of the examination period, ie December 18th, 2008. Deferred exams will not be granted for reason of travel arrangements.