

## Sodexo contract sold to mice

MELANIE BELL | FEATURE WRITER

**M**ickey LaSouris stands a mere 10" tall. But don't let his diminutive size fool you—this small-voiced, grey-suited fellow is an ardent business-mouse. He and Meadow Musculus, one of his ten common-law partners, have assumed joint management of UNB's dining services in a historic arrangement with the university, prompted by complaints by students and the Public Health Inspector.

"It's an unconventional arrangement," admits Martin Bayliss, former General Manager of Sodexo, who is in the process of transitioning power to the new owners. "However, LaSouris and Musculus are well qualified for the position. They show up every day on time, and have a true affinity for food. They have intimate experience in the industry. I've never seen more dedicated employees."

The food service's new owners have made significant improvements in the UNB dining experience. Foremost among them is their invention and implementation of Stir Crazy Procedure, a sizzling m  le of whatever canned vegetables and half-priced leftovers McConnell Hall happens to have on hand. Approximately half of the international choices served at McConnell have been converted to this option, with plans for a full conversion by fall 2008. How do students react? "They don't seem to notice," explains LaSouris. "This is not surprising, as the Stir Crazy Procedure tastes no different from former choices at the international skillets."

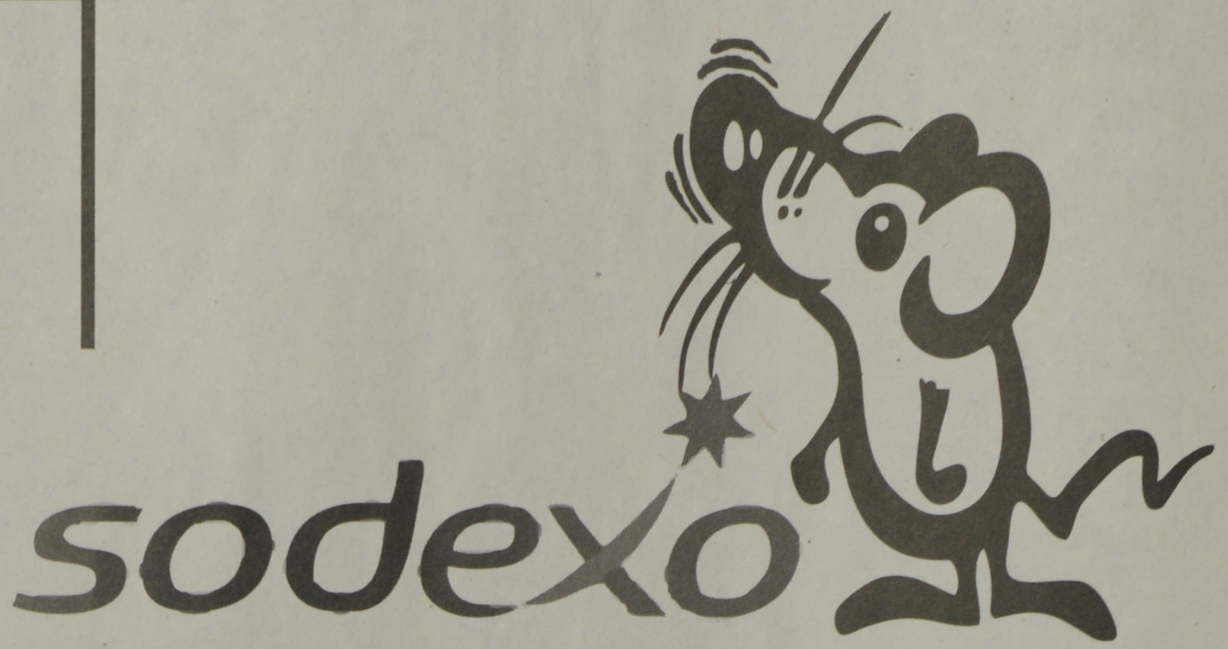
"The new owners are incredibly efficient," says Bayliss. "With their culinary innovation, they have cut the costs of international dining options in half in a very short span of time." The new managers have also contributed to aesthetic changes on the premises, installing a new logo under the banner of "Sodexo". "It's easier to spell," explained Musculus. "And, for obvious reasons, we wanted to remove the H. We found it unpleasant to enter our new premises every morning and be reminded of those sharp garden tools used to forcibly remove our relatives from their own favorite dining premises. Blatant genocide! We will not stand to have any reminder of genocide in the name of our new enterprise."

"We try to keep a low profile," says LaSouris. "We were more visible in November, when we were observing the proceedings of the dining hall and working out the transition agreement. Luckily, our involvement in dining services now takes place largely behind the scenes."

The couple has moved their residence to McConnell Hall in order to accommodate the responsibilities of their new position. "It's a wonderful place to raise a family," Musculus admits. "It used to be quite hazardous; we are still grieving the loss of my grandfather. But with our new contract, family members are safe, and we find the food plentiful. My youngest son has recently developed an ambition to be a chef."

LaSouris' own culinary ambitions are also recent. "I realized that the food industry was a feasible option after watching 'Ratatouille'. It was inspiring to see a positive role model of my own race involved in an industry that has always caught my interest."

Bayliss expects that students will soon grow accustomed to the change, explaining that "it's not uncommon to have mice anywhere."



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