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Student Union votes to oust no-show councillor

by Jennifer McKenzie

UNB Student Union Faculty of Engineering Representative Lionel D'Sa is no longer a member of the Union's Council after a motion from Vice President of Finance Mike Stockford lead to his removal from the body last Thursday.

The dismissal was based on section 15 of the Student Union by-laws, which

permits the dismissal of councillors if they fail to attend three or more union meetings. There must be a majority vote to pass the motion and inevitably remove the councillor.

Brad Mullins, Student Union President, felt the motion would be beneficial to the union. "Council, for the most part this year, has been absolutely fantastic. It's just because we have a full council and so many conflicting schedules that it's difficult to meet quorum."

D'Sa could be considered a senior councillor, having been a member of

the union, on and off, since 2004. Last spring, D'Sa was elected as one of two Faculty of Engineering Reps., along with Melanie Lambert. Lambert was elected with 100 votes, D'Sa with 66; 267 votes were cast in total for the position.

After some discussion, Thursday's motion passed, with over two-thirds majority of councillors voting in favour of D'Sa's removal.

"The motion brought forward was essentially saying if this councillor is not going to be attending, it's making our

quorum harder to achieve and he's not meeting his responsibilities," explains Mullins.

Student Union veteran Nick Ouellette says the decision was a longtime coming. "It's unfortunate the council had to resort to dismissing Mr. D'Sa, but when it comes down to it, he wasn't doing the most basic job of representing the interest of his constituents and tying the hands of the council by preventing it from achieving quorum. No-show councillors who get elected and then don't contribute only hurt the union.

They give students a false sense of representation and risk creating situations in which important considerations for some students will never make it into discussions."

As of press time, D'Sa could not be reached for comment.

Mullins officially informed D'Sa of his dismissal via e-mail after Thursday's meeting and has since received two responses from the fifth year student. The first, Mullins said, seemed to have a tone of surprise, while Mullins believes that in the second, D'Sa was resigned to

the decision by council.

"The only thing I can indicate is that he did seem a little surprised by it, in his first response, and then his second he didn't seem overly bothered by it, he stated that he was busy. I'm not sure which e-mail represents his true feelings, however."

"It really is an unfortunate situation... I was one of the small majority of councillors who voted against the motion, however I do see the reasoning behind the motion and why it was brought forward and necessary."

'Rock the Hill' to rock campus

by Bruns News Department

UNB's Student Union is bringing in seven bands for the February 7 "Rock the Hill" event. The one-ticket, all access event, is being produced in conjunction with the ECMAs.

Wintersleep, The Trews, Two Hours Traffic, hey Rosetta, Tom Fun Orchestra, Slowcoaster, and Grand Theft Bus are all listed to play sets in the Ballroom and the Atrium.

"The plan is two stages, one in the Ballroom, one in the cafeteria; seven bands; one all access ticket," Brad Mullins, Student Union President, explains.

"It's a 19+ show for non-students, and all-ages show for UNB and STU students, with a valid - emphasis on valid - student ID."

And don't worry; SUBS Inc. will have two bars set up, one for each of the stages. Lyle Skinner, President of SUBS Inc. is excited "Rock the Hill is the first time The Cellar is operating two bars at two simultaneous concert venues.

"We have all Cellar employees working that night to ensure that all students enjoy themselves at the event."

This is the first of this type of event UNB's campus has seen in a few years and security is clearly a concern. SUBS Inc. will be hiring a private security company, and city police will also be on hand.

"We are spending more on security for this event than any other event during the ECMAs. It's our top priority. We want students to have a good time, but we want to make sure everyone is safe at the same time," explains Mullins.

Another bonus to the show is the CBC is coming in to film the Wintersleep show, which ends up lowering the cost of the show for the union.

"The entire event ends up costing the union about \$7,500, which seems like a lot of money. But when you look at what it costs to bring in one of these acts, it really is a great deal. And this is all assuming we're not going to make any profit on this."

The union wanted to make sure the show was student friendly. UNB students will be paying \$20 for tickets, general admission, including STU students. Ticket pricing is \$25.

UNB Climbers host international film festival



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickian

A group of St. Thomas students were trying out the facilities at the LB Gym last Friday. In addition to the Banff Mountain Film Festival, the UNB Rock and Ice Climbing Club hosts numerous community and student groups at the climbing wall each year, offering after school programs, birthday parties, and outdoor climbing excursions.

Banff Mountain Film Festival will play on all seven continents

by Brian Munn

According to John Bowles, this weekend is about getting "excited and psyched about climbing." Bowles is the president of UNB's Rock and Ice Climbing Club, which will be hosting the Banff Mountain Film Festival February 1-3.

The film festival, a touring event that UNB has hosted annually for more than a decade after hosting the original show in 1986, features a huge selection of international mountain culture films; short films on anything from base-jumping to biking, skiing, paragliding and kayaking are featured.

After a festival in Banff selects a number of winning films, the show goes on tour around the world - it plays in 11 provinces and territories, 39 states, and in over 30 countries - including the likes of Taiwan, Scotland, Nepal, and South Africa. It plays on all seven continents, including two stops in Antarctica. The stop in Fredericton is one of three stops in Atlantic Canada; the festival also makes stops in Halifax and St. John's.

"[The film festival] is our primary event of the year," commented Bowles. "It's a weekend-long festival, and it's something all our members look forward to."

The Rock and Ice Climbing Club are adding their own touch to the weekend, adding a local climbing competition to the festivities. The competition is geared towards beginner and intermediate climbers, with a focus on promoting the sport.

The festival will kick off Friday night at 7 pm at MacLaggan Hall. The climbing competition will run Saturday from 11 am-3 pm, before a second round of films.

Tickets for the film festival are on sale in advance for \$11, and are available at both the climbing wall at the LB Gym and downtown at Radical Edge. Tickets are also available at the door for \$13.

Added Bowles, "While [the festival] is our most financially profitable event, it's about getting people interested in climbing."

"Because we see films about things and places all around the globe, it's a way to keep us connected with climbers around the world."

The Rock and Ice Climbing Club is one of the oldest clubs on campus, having run for 31 years. According to Bowles, the club has over 200 members both on campus and in the community.

In addition to being available for students interested in climbing, the club

see Climbing page 11

Lenin, Joyce, and Ernest walk into a bar...

by Ashley Bursey

"It may be nonsense, but it's clever nonsense!"

And that, in a line, sums up the masterpiece that is Tom Stoppard's "Travesties," a surreal yet genius peek at the lives of V.I. Lenin, James Joyce, and Henry Carr, which UNB's English 3170 class will be staging at Memorial Hall from January 30 to February 2, 2008.

"[Travesties] was the first play I ever saw in London," Director and Professor Len Falkenstein admits, sitting amongst half-used paint tubes and tech gear as the cast prepares for the first of three dress rehearsals. "I'm a big fan of Stoppard. It's a great play in a university setting because it's all about the art, the life of the mind, intellectual issues, debates that have ranged throughout history."

And the real wit of the play, he adds, lies in its dense, highly-referenced

material.

"We're still discovering things in the play, like, I just got another joke today," he says.

According to a press release, "Stoppard's play was inspired by two fascinating historical discoveries: That Lenin, Joyce, and Tristan Tzara, one of the founders of the anti-art Dada movement, were all living in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1917. While in the city Joyce helped stage a production of Oscar Wilde's 'The Importance of Being Earnest' and later ended up embroiled in a lawsuit with one of the actors over a pair of trousers. Joyce got revenge on that actor, Henry Carr, by turning him into a disagreeable minor character in his novel Ulysses. Stoppard chose to turn him into the central character of a play in which he reminisces (somewhat less than accurately) about the time he rubbed shoulders with all three great men in Zurich."

But the play isn't too high-brow for those of us who perhaps aren't quite as fluent in our classical lit or Russian history. Slides depicting central characters



Ashley Bursey / The Brunswickian

From January 30 to February 2, UNB's "Travesties" will run at Memorial Hall

(think "The Da Vinci Code"'s illustrated companion) and brilliant acting bring the story to life for even the most un-read of audiences.

And, even if you don't salivate over "The Importance of Being Earnest," the sheer momentum of the play will propel

you into the lives of its characters and their own earnest, jumpy speech, with a full scene done in limerick, a musical number or two, and perhaps even a striptease.

"It's Oscar Wilde-an in style," Falkenstein says. "The humor is light and satirical. It's comedy that's comedy, but is still utterly serious. They say rapid things, but with an utter seriousness."

This is never more evident than in the second scene, in which Henry Carr (played by the brilliant Jordan Dashner) launches into an unequivocally genius spiel and is interrupted by his butler (several times, in fact, with a sort of 'Choose-Your-Own-Adventure' ending each time) to chat about the conditions of the ongoing war.

And the scene - like many others in the piece - is campy, riotous, and downright delicious for both the veteran thespian and the ingénue theatre-goer alike. Dashner's mastery of word and movement, from every finger crook to eyebrow raise to head tilt, is indicative of a tautly-choreographed dance that plays beautifully off Stoppard's elo-

quent, twisting words. Just watch for the cheese: "Even the cheese has holes in it," he says, but keep on eye on that slice. As a famous theatre critic once said, "Don't put a gun on the mantelpiece in scene one unless you expect it to go off before scene three."

Although the actors - Dashner in particular - are quite talented, the lighting and set are not to be forgotten, either. The slideshow of images and factoids complements the acting, instead of distracting from it. Superbly-executed lighting changes within and between scenes, accompanied by sound effects (think cuckoo clocks indicating a change-of-state for the actors) help the piece flow smoothly while further enhancing the air of surrealism propagated by Stoppard's dreamlike script.

"It's a real smorgasbord," says Falkenstein. "I think it's going to go well. If the cast wasn't as strong or the production wasn't as visually engaging, people might lose interest...but it's a very strong cast, and it's hard to mess up Stoppard's stuff because he's so funny."

THURSDAY

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with Adam & Dave

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