

No Resolution



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickian

As St. Thomas University faculty continue to walk the picket line across from James Dunn Hall students eagerly await a return to classes. Friday, last week, in a message to students, posted on the STU website, Dr. Michael Higgins, the University President, announced that classes would be postponed indefinitely and students would be given three days notice before school would resume.

Negotiations stalled last week, but have resumed and are ongoing. Member's of STU's Student Union are monitoring the situation and continually updating students on the progress. A demonstration last Friday showed students desire to return to class. Hundred of students walked the perimeter of STU's campus, in the freezing rain, cheering with hand painted signs declaring 'I am not a bargaining tool' and 'I came here for an education'. Faculty of Education student Ben McNamara, is discouraged: "It has come to the point where students are extremely frustrated with the current labour negotiations. All we really want is to be able to get back to classes and get on with our lives."

Parents key in developing reading skills

by Margaret Sheridan,
Interrobang (Fanshawe College)

LONDON (CUP) -- According to a recent study, Canadians leading the way in reading comprehension and they have their parents to thank for it.

The Boston College Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), released in December, found that students in Ontario, Alberta, Nova Scotia and British Columbia were among the best readers of students in the 40 countries studied.

"Canadian students as a whole fared quite well," said Pierre Foy, the Director of sampling and data analysis at Boston College and one of the researchers.

"Amongst the five participating provinces, four of them were near the top and [only] Quebec was lacking behind."

Teachers, school directors and parents were also questioned about what goes on at home, how reading is taught in schools and how educational resources are allocated.

"The most striking result is how influential what goes on in the home is, especially before children enter school,"

said Foy.

"For example, parent's who say that they've shown the alphabet, numbers, read to them, done bed time stories, all before going to school- their children seem to do far better than when that doesn't happen."

The study looked at fourth grade students from a variety of backgrounds, including private, public and religious- or language-based schools. Boston College then gathered a collection of experts from around the world to help evaluate the students, deciding only then that fourth graders were the ideal subjects.

"Education relies heavily on children being able to read to then move on to learn all the other subjects," Foy explained. "At this point, children have learned the basic skills for reading and are ready to move on to use the reading skills in learning other subjects."

"As we like to say, they're transitioning from learning to read to reading to learn."

Foy now hopes that governments, the public as well as other researchers will notice their work.

"We generally produce relatively straight forward statistics that hint at the kind of relationships between background information and achievement," Foy said. "And it's our hope that people then use the database to expand in that secondary analysis."

CHSR station manager pursues other interests, says goodbye

Tristis Ward leaves the station after 17 years of service

by Mitchell Bernard



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After 17 years at CHSR, Station Manager Tristis Ward is calling it quits and beginning a new chapter in her life.

Ward describes her departure in one word.

"Serendipitous. It's the right time. The right projects have come along for me. CHSR needed to change its station managers. My job at CHSR was not about running the station long term; it was about getting the station through whatever wars there were. And now, it's over. People came along at the right times that are able to bring that change."

What started as a volunteer opportunity in 1991 became an obsession for the self-proclaimed activist. As a student new to the city and wanting to make new friends, CHSR was a great opportunity for Ward.

"The more things change, the more things stay the same," says Ward. "When I came here the place was full of volunteers and vibrancy and arguments, and political discussions. People use to hang around

the lounge, which is down the hall, and argue with each other and have debates and have these really intense conversations."

Ward became the station manager at CHSR in 1999. She brought her unique taste to CHSR and has stood up for what she believed was right. Enduring many battles to keep the station alive, she said that it has been a smooth ride since 2000. Ward leaves knowing there is a bright future for the radio station.

"I think what I brought to the station was this stand-up-and-fight kind of thing. Now they need somebody who will take the next step forward."

There were too many great moments for Ward to single out just one. From fighting to keep the radio

station alive, to helping people get their messages across the waves during protests, Ward has enjoyed many moments over the past 17 years.

She notes that there were many great shows in the past and present at CHSR which she has really enjoyed.

"There was a great funk show a long, long, time ago, and the guy had to leave. He was a really good funk aficionado, but he liked the records a little too much [leading to theft]. And you can't do that, you're not allowed. I was so mad, so I said 'I'm mad at you for stealing, but what I'm really mad for is that I have to kick you out and I loved your show so much.' And it was painful to lose him," laughs Ward.

After many years working in radio broadcast, Ward has strong feelings towards it. She will continue to be a supporter of public access radio in the future.

"People don't see community radio/community access radio [for] what it is. You, as a citizen, have a right to go on the air. You have a right to express yourself over the public

airwaves. That property belongs to you as a citizen."

As for the future of public access radio, Ward makes her dreams quite clear.

"My dream for radio in Canada is that every community will have this access point somewhere. In Fredericton, CHSR, CJPN, CKTP. Some other commercial stations do allow volunteers to go on. These radio stations need to exist in every city. And they need to be well supported."

Ward is now seeking to spend more time working on another part of her life. An avid writer, Ward hopes in

the future to publish some of her works.

Ward's successor is the current Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Anne Harrison. Harrison, who began at CHSR in September of 2007, admits she has mixed feelings about taking over the new position.

"I'm excited and I'm nervous. I'm glad she [Tristis] is just a phone call away."

Harrison believes she has big shoes to fill. Noting that Ward knew so much, she hopes to continue her legacy and keep CHSR running fluently.

"I would like for CHSR to keep growing, just the way it is. It's so much easier for someone to actually come on the air and talk about issues that bother them rather than sit on your sofa and say, 'I wish this would happen.'" You can make a difference on your own radio and people don't even know that."

CHSR held a leaving party for Ward last Friday. It was officially her last day of work, though members of the radio station said that she would always be around, even if she is not on staff.

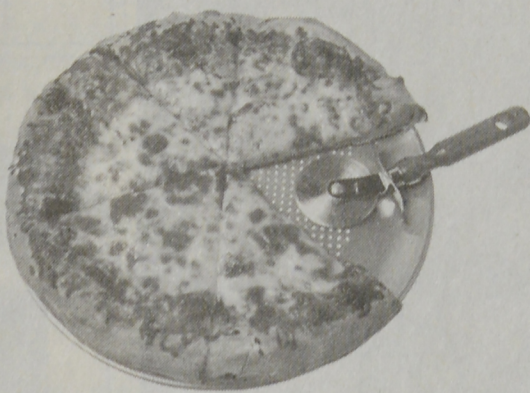
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