

letters to the editor.

letters for next week are due by Friday at 5 p.m.
maximum 400 words, please. send them
electronically to editor@thebruns.ca.

UNB needs to clear the dangerous snow piles on campus

Dear Editor,

Since moving into the Suite Style Residence, I have had issues with the lack of safety that is involved when crossing the road towards the SUB. I know that with all crosswalks, it is understood that there are dangers that are in play when deciding to cross the road. My issue is with the cleanup crew here at UNB that have made the crosswalk an even more dangerous "safe" way to cross the road.

As we all know, the storm that has passed before the reading week left us with an amazing 48 cm of snow, and the cleanup operation must have been immense. Yet, how difficult must it be to make sure that pedestrians' and drivers' visions are not blocked by an eight-foot pile of snow at the edge of a crosswalk?

Over a two day period before the reading week, I witnessed people almost get hit by speeding cars, myself included. It is bad enough that people drive faster than the recommended 40 km/h along this section of road, but it is even worse when we have no way of knowing if a car is coming unless we nearly walk onto the street.

The crosswalk that I speak of is the crosswalk right across from the Suite Style Residence, and the SUB Parking Lot. Anyone who has walked from the SUB towards Suite Style Residence knows the dangers that have amassed because of the height of the snow. One has to literally walk onto the road, and cars have no way of seeing any pedestrians on the right hand side when coming up the road.

What has happened now is pedestrians are guessing when the right time is to cross, while leaving drivers blind to the potential pedestrians that may come out of nowhere in an attempt to safely cross the road.

All I ask for is to have maybe two feet of snow cleared off of this section, and I understand that it is difficult to clean the snow. Perhaps, instead of cleaning up a relatively clear residence parking lot at 12 AM, maybe one should look at all dangerous spots on campus and clear those sections first, before we have a dead pedestrian on our hands.

Sincerely,

Jason LeBlanc

Election SU fee bylaw makes student politics disheartening

Dear Editor:

Student politics, like other political endeavors, are often instructive, valuable and inspiring; however, similar to their larger counterparts, they are occasionally disheartening or even asinine.

In a recent SU decision, David Rabinovitch has been disqualified from candidacy in the current election for not having paid his SU fees earlier this academic year. According to the Chief Appeals Officer, Chris Samuel, their ruling in this matter is final and cannot be revisited.

This decision is based on a bylaw which, stated simply, says that an individual may not run for SU office without being a SU member by virtue of having paid their SU fees.

This bylaw is essentially correct and, in some cases, may be justifiably enforced. It makes very clear sense that a candidate for SU office should be an SU member. However, it is not correct to enforce this bylaw in such a manner that does not first give an individual the opportunity to correct this minor infraction.

In most cases, I support the following of rules to the letter. This puts necessary onus on law makers to ensure that the wordings of their laws are clear and support the spirit of their laws. In denying Rabinovitch his candidacy in this matter we have a clear example of the enforcement of a law contradicting the spirit behind its creation. The intention of the relevant bylaw is not to bar candidates from running for not having paid a small sum of money by a certain date, but rather to ensure that candidates are members of the SU. Rabinovitch claims, that for reasons unbeknownst to him, a banking error resulted in him inadvertently not paying his SU fees.

I have not read the relevant bylaw and,

consequently, I am unaware of its specifications. However, it appears it may allow for a decision by the CRO that would provide Rabinovitch the opportunity to pay his SU fees and remain a candidate in this election. If it does allow this ruling it is in the interest of justice and sound judgment that the original ruling be revisited and changed. If, after having been given this opportunity, Rabinovitch does not pay his fees then it would be a justifiable decision to bar him from running for SU office.

If this mistake is not corrected and David Rabinovitch is not given the opportunity to remain a candidate in the current election I would suggest that the relevancy and character of the SU bylaws and the actions of current SU officials are more asinine and laughable than they are valuable and inspiring. However, they will remain instructive. Yet, in this case the lesson to be learned is not a positive one.

Matthew MacLean

Resident thanks UNB engineering student

Dear Editor,

An honest engineering student found my son's wallet two weeks ago, and walked to our house to return it to my son.

I just would like to publicly thank him for being so honest. I am glad there are still some honest students out there.

A huge thank you to Colin T. from Halifax.
Thank you Brunswickan.

C. Smith

UNB and STU elections structured unfairly

Dear Editor,

The recent student union elections at STU and UNB have offered students of both universities excellent lessons on how to run unfair elections.

For its part, UNB made the decision to use unverifiable online voting—a system that might be compared in fairness to the infamous scandals that have occurred in American Presidential elections ever since the implementation of electronic voting machines. Not only are the results completely unverifiable, online voting also encourages the campaign tactic of going through residences door to door (laptop in hand) and asking students, who have not taken the time to review a single platform or walked a few blocks to a polling station, to vote.

STU, on the other hand, had paper ballots, but made up for this improvement by printing ballots that cropped a portion of presidential candidate Craig Mazerolle's name. Despite this serious irregularity, he still managed to only lose the election by a slim margin. It is highly probable that we would have seen different election results had this error been corrected.

As president of Fair Vote NB, I strongly encourage both universities to review their electoral processes. Elections must be free and transparent, and elections results must be verifiable. Both UNB and STU's recent student union elections failed miserably on both counts. Clearly printed paper ballots and monitored polling stations would fulfill the minimum criteria for free and fair elections. For more information about fair voting, visit www.fairvote.ca. To join Fair Vote NB, e-mail nbchapter@fairvote.ca or gznzk@stu.ca.

Sincerely,

Courtney Mills



the following Brunswickan editorial board positions are open to all UNB students for application until March 17 at 5 p.m.:

Managing Editor, Online Editor

Send your cover letter, resume and relevant clippings to editor@thebruns.ca.

**the
twenty/20 club**
THE RIGHT SPOT

SUNDAY "STUDENT NIGHT"

\$2.50 Moosehead Bottled Beer

\$2.50 Rum

\$2.25 Selected Shooters

DJ from 10pm-2am

FRIDAY "LADIES NIGHT"

No Cover for Ladies

\$3.00 Drink Specials 9pm-11pm

Live DJ

SATURDAY

\$3.00 Drink Specials 9pm-12am

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Chicken Fingers • Brew City Fries

Mmm Mmm GOOD!

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