Learning disability support group formed

by Jane Simpson

"Learning disability" is the term currently used to describe a handicap that interferes with someone's ability to store or process information.

Brent MacPherson, a member of the Learning Disability Association of Canada, has formed an Adult support Group for people with learning disabilities. The first meeting was held November 13th, and the second meeting will be held on December 11th. A guest speaker will be present for the meeting in December.

Considering the fact that 10% or more of the population has some form of learning disability, one would think that it would be relatively easy to have an assessment test done. For university students, at least, this is not the case. It is a very costly and frustrating experience.

Those who have the courage to admit that they have a learning problem find it difficult to get help here on campus. Strangely, there are no funds allotted for handicapped services here on campus, and Brent MacPherson feels this is a big problem for students.

Strangely, many people do not even realize that they may have a learning disability. These disabilities can show themselves in various ways, problems with memorization, spelling, reading, even organization.

Illiteracy is also a widely misunderstood problem. Students with learning disabilities often have not undergone a test of assessment, so they do not realize they have a problem. They are pushed slowly through the school system feeling extremely inadequate.

Those students who do graduate from high school and move on to the university level, despite their learning disability, may find problems coping with heavy workloads and unsympathetic professors.

If you, or someone you know, have a learning disability, Brent MacPherson encourages you to contact him at 459-5521 during the day or 452-1039 in the evening.

Symposium on government policies and proposals at UNB

by Jeffery Czopor

Recently, a number of UNB students attended a political symposium at the UNB Forestry Complex for the purpose of becoming more attuned with civic and governmental issues.

As well, those in attendance had the opportunity to voice their opinions as young voters, citizens, and community members.

Primarily, speakers at the symposium, Bud Bird, Member of Parliament, York Sunbury, and Michael Wilson, dealt with the issues of Quebec Separation, Multiculturalism, poverty and new proposals directly involving the people made by the federal government.

Tammy Yates, Vice President External of Student Union rose to speak of the importance of education in proposing new constitutional amendments which she believes have been neglected. Bud Bird responded that he agreed but seemed to be rhetorically avoiding the issue for the most part.

The meeting was heated, and raised many stirring issues such as Fredericton's homeless and the unavailability of good jobs. As always, there existed tension between language related topics.

The community was indeed privileged to have the channel to directly approach two men that are certainly instrumental in representing them in Ottawa.

Childcare Action Team discusses daycare

by Melanie Jane O'Hara

There will be daycare at U.N.B. but the question of when remains unanswered.

A meeting to discuss option of Daycare facility at U.N.B., was held last Friday at the Old Arts Building conference room; however, as Jamie Van Raalte, SU Vice-President for finance and administration, says, "not much was accomplished."

Van Raalte is heading the recently established Childcare Action Team.

"We (the committee) were really disappointed that more wasn't accomplished at the meeting. A few ideas on who should run the facility, and where it should be set up, were mentioned but basically we just bounced around the options. We were looking for a committment from the U.N.B. faculty and other committees," says Van Raalte.

Another meeting will be held in two weeks for interested parties, but an exact date and time have not been set.

"We'll be trying to answer a number of questions such as where and what type of structure will be needed. And we'll have to decide whether the Day-Care should be run by the University or other independent bodies," states Van Raalte.

> We're optimistic that the $250,000 will be put to use in the near future.
>
> -Van Raalte

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education, or MPECH, has already approved the allocation of $225,000 for either the renovation of an existing building or a new on-campus DayCare facility.

Van Raalte and his committee are optimistic that the money will be put to use in the near future.

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