

# NEWS

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DEADLINE: Noon Wednesday

## Blind athlete seeks place on team

By MAUREEN BANKS

For any UNB student balancing a full course load and a competitive sport, the combination is difficult. For Kim Umbach, a blind freshman, the challenge has been multiplied.

Kim is a seventeen year old first year phys-ed student at UNB. She is not only battling the plights of the frosh, she is learning to cope with her blindness in a new environment, both as student and athlete.

Kim attended a regular high school in Ottawa where she says her needs were met adequately. She attended the Brampton School for the Blind for three months but quit when she found the environment too restrictive for her capabilities. "The problem with an institution is you don't learn to deal with sighted people. You become institutionalized. I needed to learn to deal with the social aspects of life."

Kim began competitive cross-country running and cross-country skiing in high school with both sighted and blind

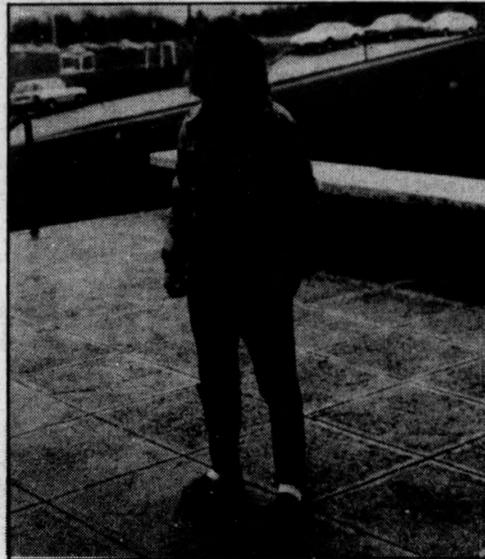
athletes. Her father assisted her as a guide runner and she admits: "he really pushed me alot."

She has been a member on the National Disabled Cross Country Ski Team. In April of 1986 she won a bronze medal in Sweden at the Disabled World Cross Country Skiing Championships. Nineteen other countries attended.

Kim is presently a member of the National Disabled Track and Field Team. She recently captured two gold medals in California, as well as setting two records at the US Nationals.

This year Kim is competing for a spot on the Lady Harriers Cross country team at UNB. She finds the calibre of competition much more intense at this level.

While she finds few obstacles as a student at the university, the work-load is hard for her. Her room in residence resembles a computer lab. Tape recorders help with the lectures, but her greatest assistant is a Voyager XL Visual Tech machine. It allows her to magnify written work on its large screen, and its computer board and print-out enables her to magnify her typ-



ing and print her essays. It is a slow process.

Kim feels the professors at UNB have been very helpful. Essays are generally recorded on tape and exams are taken orally. This presents some problems because she feels written exams would be easier to organize than oral tests.

Regardless of the extra effort required in school, Kim still finds time for the nightly cross

country running practices. Most weekends are spent travelling with her teammates throughout the province.

The only problem she en-

counters with running is a fear of racing in unsurveyed areas. She says: "sometimes the cautiousness slows me down in a race if I am not familiar with the course. But once I get to know a course and it's an open area I can really let go."

There are ten girls trying out for the six member team. The decision will be made on October 17. Kim hopes to be one of the six chosen and to be racing in the AUSA Championships in Moncton on October 24th.

For Kim the challenges at UNB have been rewarding. Living in residence has helped her develop the social interaction skills she feels are essential. "At first the girls reacted awkwardly to me but they have adjusted. There is always that initial fear for people dealing with something they are not used to dealing with."

## Earth to Spaceman...

By CHERYL NORRAD

Rhinoceros Party leader Bill "Spaceman" Lee recently presented a lecture at Saint Thomas University as part of his informal campaign for the U.S. Presidency.

Formerly of the Boston Red Sox, the Montreal Expos, and the Moncton Mets, Lee feels more than qualified for the position.

Lee's platform for the party is eclectic, at times bizarre and in others frighteningly sensible. For instance, did you know that the world ozone environmental crisis is caused by New Zealand sheep farts?

Lee based his party platform on the book by Bukmonster Fuller entitled *The Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth*. This book employs the philosophy of Heraclides, i.e. everything is flux.

Lee stated that the foundation of today's society is beginning to crumble. Governments are ruining the planet by

allowing the use of technology and chemicals. He believes people will have to change and adapt to a totally organic lifestyle to save the Earth.

Only the Spaceman would find the need to legalize the growth of organic substances. Perhaps this is his way to keep the masses "happy" with this new lifestyle.

When asked if he could realistically win the Presidency, Lee answered by saying: "I'm about as likely to win as the Island of Aruba to float

down the Restigouche River." Lee also added he wasn't going to allow any "monkey business" to ruin his candidacy. Gary Hart ruined his with the goodship lollipop. I guess that excludes "Rice" from Lee's list of organic materials.

In closing Lee stated he believes in the need for a fourth party like the Rhinos. Besides, what other party would put a ballfield on the Whitehouse lawn?



U.S. Presidential candidate Bill Lee leans on the Presidency.

## Plans for woodshed conversion collapse

By CARMEN MISENER

Draft drinkers will have to continue going off campus to satisfy their habit, now that plans to turn the Woodshed into a tavern have collapsed.

"The Woodshed will not become a tavern, and will re-

compliment to the Social Club as well as to the students.

Small spoke to Woodside about the idea and said that the ball was in the Social Club's court, and that the S.U. as well as the administration were behind the conversion.

Woodside countered by saying



main a coffee house," said Alison Woodside, manager of the Social Club.

James Small, VP External was in charge of a study that looked into the possibilities of changing the Woodshed into a tavern. In an interview with the Brunswickan, Small stated that the Woodshed would be a

that she was willing to make the Woodshed a tavern, but that (she believes) the order for the cancellation of the project had come from the administration.

The Woodshed will soon be opening for business as a coffee house; the same as it was last year.