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Brunsbits

A conversation between two blue fuzzy creatures overheard through a window on Sesame Street:

"Cow?"
"Yah, Cow!"
"Mooooooh!?"
Brief pause...
"Nope, nope, nope, nope, nope, nope, nope, nope, nope."
"Book."
"Yah. Book."
Another pause...
"Telephone!"
Suddenly, the phone rings...
"Yup, yup, yup, yup, yup, yup, yup, yup, yup, yup."
"Yup, yup, yup, yup, yup, yup, yup, yup, yup, yup."

UNB rank in Maclean's 4th survey

by Jonathan Stone
Brunswickan News

We're number six!

Or so claims the fourth-annual 'Let's rank the universities' issue of Maclean's magazine which appeared on newsstands earlier this week.

UNB fell behind Victoria and Waterloo, which tied for first, Simon Fraser, Guelph and York, while Windsor brought up the rear in a category the magazine dubbed 'Comprehensive Universities.'

These, according to Maclean's, are institutions "with a significant amount of research activity and a wide range of programs—including professional degrees—at the graduate and undergraduate levels."

Maclean's noted that six other comprehensive universities chose not to participate in the survey, but overall, 36 universities took part.

Despite its unimpressive showing, UNB was first in its class for library budget, number of library holdings per student, and tied Victoria as the leader in library expenses. However, the Harriet Irving was seventh overall in acquisitions.

The survey said UNB was number one in small class sizes from first-year to fourth-year, and number two in classes taught by tenured faculty. We were third in alumni support, with 19.7 per cent over a five-year duration.

UNB boasted a second-place showing in the number of first-year students from outside the province, while an impressive 31.9 per cent of international graduate students put us in the forefront of that category.

Kay Nandlall, who has been the International Student Advisor for six years now, said that good old-fashioned word-of-mouth brings those students to Fredericton.

"I think we have a very good reputation," she claimed. "The students really develop a good relationship with UNB, and they tell each other that they're treated OK here. They like UNB so they tell their friends and relatives."

Nandlall's office offers an outreach program which includes orientation and retention, a host family program, a spouse's program and a speakers' bureau program, where international students visit area schools as special guests for cultural days.

"We have a very comprehensive program. Modifications to its structure are always ongoing," she said.

This allows international students to make suggestions to improve the learning experiences, both for themselves and for future international students.

On a more sombre note, UNB

was last in average entering grade (76 per cent), proportion of students with an average of 75 per cent or higher (58.4 per cent), and proportion who actually graduate (72.9 per cent.) We also had the lowest percentage of faculty with PhD's (76.8 to Guelph's 95.2,) and the smallest average student budget (\$6,195 to Simon Fraser's \$7,492.)

Both UNB's president and vice-president academic were unavailable for comment by deadline.



UNB not expected to participate

National student strike planned

by Pam Easton
Brunswickan News

The Canadian Federation of Students is voting this week on organizing a nationwide student strike.

The national executive feels that students should not attend classes to protest the federal government's proposed social reforms, which include major changes to the current system of post-secondary funding and student loans. The length of the strike and when it will commence

will be decided at a conference currently underway in Ottawa.

Kelly Lamrock, chair of the NB Student Alliance, is "horrified" by the idea. Lamrock is the author of *No More Smoke and Mirrors*, a paper offering alternatives to the proposed reforms.

"Make yourself a part of the debate," Lamrock said, stating that presenting suggestions is a better approach than striking.

"Grassroots support on these [NB] campuses is next to nothing

when it comes to a student strike," he said.

Some of the UNB Student Union Executive members are expressing their negativity towards the strike. Pat FitzPatrick, VP University Affairs, said that he doesn't think the student council will go for it.

Lara Rooke, VP External Affairs, said that a student strike is "totally defeating its purpose." If CFS National votes to strike, she assumes UNB probably won't.

Falling trees not too 'poplar' with prof

by René Ross
Brunswickan News

If a tree falls behind the archives building, does anybody notice?

Some environmentally friendly individuals have, and are upset over the recent disappearances.

Just last week, a small lot of trees was cut down behind the archives building on campus, including a massive Carolina poplar.

This was the work of UNB's Physical Plant who stated that the cutting was for "safety's sake."

"We've noticed a couple of loose branches on one of the trees," said grounds foreman Stephen Gilbert. "We were afraid that it would fall and hit a car or a pedestrian, so we cut all the trees down."

Gary Whiteford, a geography professor, was shocked at the recent disappearance of the archives' trees.

"Even if one of the trees was seen as a danger, there was no need to hack them all down," he noted.

Whiteford would like to see a policy implemented at UNB and STU whereby no tree should be "in-

discriminately cut." He attempted to bring this proposal before the university Senate about five years ago, but his efforts, and his policy, were soon rejected.

Whiteford is also leery of what is in store for UNB's leafy inhabitants when the SUB expansion gets underway.

"A larger SUB means a bigger parking lot and fewer trees. I don't want to see that mistake made again. Once they're gone, they're gone," he said. "This is a university, not a woodlot."



If you've walked behind the archives, you may have been stumped. Photo by Paul Mysak