

# Enhancing children's learning atmosphere

**Press Release**

By the time they start kindergarten, children have a repertoire of rhymes, action songs, stories and lullabies.

Two researchers at UNB have launched a research project to examine how continuity between these so-called maternal literacy's and those learned at school can be enhanced.

Pam Nason of the Faculty of Education's Early Childhood Centre and Lissa Paul, a children's literature specialist, believe that home-school collaborations are imperative to the development of a literate community.

"School success is rarely attrib-

uted to early home literacy's, including the introduction of oral story telling, nursery rhymes, mother-child play, singing, proverbial sayings and the like," says Prof. Nason.

"We want to demonstrate the value of home literacy's and how they can be incorporated into what is taught in school."

Working in partnership with the New Brunswick department of Education, Professors Nason and Paul will help to develop curriculum materials and educational involvement.

This two-year project will bring mothers and teachers together to examine the complementary nature of their roles in developing literacy

in children.

A provincial archivist working in conjunction with the researchers will collect and catalogue the folklore of the participating mothers.

Another objective of the project is to increase awareness and appreciation of the contribution women make to literacy education.

"As mothers and primary school teachers, women prepare young children for the literate society in which they live," says Nason.

"While we recognize that fathers also make significant contributions to early literacy learning, our focus in this study will be on the contributions of mothers," she said.

"In New Brunswick, as in many parts of Canada, it is still primarily

women who are responsible for the education and care of young children in the home and during the early years at school," she added.

In co-operation with the provincial education department, research will be conducted at three elementary schools that serve children living in rural areas.

"The literacy's which rural mothers transmit to their children have yet to be documented and so they are the least likely to have been incorporated into the school curricu-

lum," explains Nason.

"Also, access to school is more problematic for rural parents than for urban parents. Consequently, these schools represent the biggest challenge for the development of policies which validate the mothers as partners in the institution," she said.

This action-research project is funded by a Social Science and Humanities Research Council strategic grant under the new Women in Change Program.

## STU's SU President resigns, once again

by Jonathan Stone

Once again, the President of the St. Thomas Student Union has resigned.

Doug Trevors has left the post apparently to put more emphasis on his studies.

Under STU's constitution, the VP Academic, Melanie White, has now

moved up to replaced him.

This is the sixth time in three years that there has been a new leader of the STU Executive, one plagued with resignations or forced resignations by the executive.

Tammy Yates of UNB said, "My advice to them is to get through a year with an executive without any resignations."

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## Days left until Graduation

- Our first social will be held Wednesday, November 10 at The Pub In The Sub.
- Attention all December Grads: Don't forget to donate to the project before you go. Stop by room 117 for details.
- Any Grad questions? Stop by Room 117 of the Sub.

## CHSR student poll mirrors election reality

by Jonathan Stone

Before the federal election, CHSR-FM radio polled 200 students to assess their voting preferences.

According to Kelly McGowan, CHSR's News Director, the poll's results closely matched the official results.

Of those decided students in the Fredericton-York-Sunbury riding, Liberal Andy Scott was the overall winner with 48% of the vote, while

NDP's Pauline MacKenzie and the Conservative's Bud Bird tied for second with 18% a piece.

In third was Neil Dickie of the Natural Law Party with 6%, Jack Lamey of Reform followed with 5%.

In the low end, the Toronto Blue Jays' second-baseman Roberto Alomar, The Rhino Party and CoR's Doreen Fraser managed 1% each Steve Gillrie of the Canada Party had 2% of the support.

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