

# UNB Woodsmen go against the grain

by Chris Lohr  
Brunswickan News

This Saturday, an influx of woodsmen teams from Ontario to Nova Scotia and the Eastern United States will meet at UNB.

For the last 29 years, the annual Woodsmen Competition, hosted and organised by the Forestry Association (FA), has been an impor-

tant event to Forestry Students. Ken Sparkes, VP of the FA, is the head coordinator of the competition.

"The UNB Woodsmen Competition is the largest intercollegiate competition of its kind in this region. It has required an immense amount of organization and time to prepare for the competition," Sparkes said.

There are at least two reasons why students and faculty are tremendously proud of this event.

"The Faculty (of Forestry and Environmental Management) attempts to keep alive the traditional ways of pioneer forestry," explained Sparkes.

Despite forestry's changing role with respect to the environment, Sparkes stated that the Woodsmen Competition is "a demonstration of the old ways of the pioneer of the forest. It helps us keep in touch with a lost tradition in this age of mechanization."

The second major reason for their pride lies in the fact that the entire event is funded and organized by forestry students.

Sparkes explained that he had to delegate many tasks to fellow students to ensure a successful competition. There are approximately 15 coordinators, in addition to him, in charge of everything from site set-up to public relations and clean-up. Many others work as timers and/or judges.

Yet the competition can arouse controversy. Dr. Ted Needham, Forestry professor and Competition Advisor, stated that the controversy exists because some people believe it reduces professionalism in the forestry field.

"But the history of it is nostalgic," he said.

Needham views his role of Competition Advisor as a "stand in the shadows" role.

"The FA organizes and runs the event, and the faculty wants it to stay that way," he stated, "The competition is a very big learning experience for students. It is as vital as the learning that goes on in class."

The UNB Woodsmen Team, around which this event revolves, is a dedicated group.

"The women's A-Team and the men's A-Team won the competition in Unity, Maine on October 1," said Jillian Weldon, President of the team.

In preparation for this Saturday's competition, Weldon said that the team put in between one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half hours every day for the last month practising and doing jobs to raise money.

"They sacrifice a lot of time and effort in committing to this sport. The team raises money on their own... and receives additional funding from the FA," Sparkes said.

He concluded by saying that he would like to thank all those who have helped put this event together.

"It would never have been possible without you."

The event takes place this Saturday in Chapman Field. Admission is free and all are welcome.

## GALA holds Coming-Out Day



Photo by Kent Rainville

by Cheryl McLean  
Brunswickan News

Organizers of the National Coming Out Day campaign in the United States estimate that there are over 13-million lesbians and gays in America.

"The price we pay for the invisibility is enormous," the campaign literature notes.

"The poor government response to the AIDS epidemic, discrimination in employment and the military, and the perpetuation of anti-gay state ballot measures are but a few tragic examples of how costly our silence can be."

Gay/Lesbian Awareness Day has also been recognized in Britain for the past couple of years and at a few universities across Canada.

The campaign literature suggests lesbian and gay men should openly participate in society.

"It is critical to our empowerment, our safety and our well being."

"The gay men and lesbians who live in terror of being discovered is unacceptable," it notes.

"Future generations of gay and lesbian people count on our courage to come out now. If we don't commit to the process of coming out, anti-gay prejudice will continue. The future is up to us," the Washington based National Coming Out Day Campaign notes.

Each year, October 11 has been set aside as National Coming Out Day.

James Whitehead, last year's president of G.A.L.A. (gay and lesbian association) founded the Awareness Day and incorporated National Coming Out Day.

This is the second year that the event has occurred. What organizers hoped to accomplish was awareness. It is "designed to make people think for one day, basically about their attitude towards people's sexual orientation," says Whitehead.

The GALA co-President this year, Darren Elliot, added that UNB is promoting people to talk about homophobia.

"Ignorant people don't realize they have gay friends; gay people don't stand out. A common misconception is that gay people fit a stereotype," he said.

"It also presents a positive image. Gay people should not be ashamed of who they are, and they aren't," Elliot continued.

"The point of choosing Jeans to show support is that everyone owns a pair, and similar to being gay, one does not stand out, which is the whole point of awareness day."

Elliot says people find it so threatening, they don't want to be pegged as a gay-lover.

If you want more information on National Coming Out Day write to P.O. Box 34640, Washington, D.C. 20043-4640.

For information on GALA, call the Fredericton Lesbian and Gay phone line at 457-2156.

## Men of Aitken House out for blood

Brunswickan staff

Once again the Canadian Red Cross Society is holding its semi-annual Campus Blood Donor Clinic.

To help reach this goal, the men of Aitken House have issued a challenge to all students in the residence community.

The event is scheduled for Tuesday October 25 and Wednesday October 26 in the UNB SUB Ballroom. The clinic will be open on both days from 1:30-4:30 p.m. and 6:00-8:00 p.m..

The Red Cross encourages anyone who is interested in donating blood to participate in the event to reach a quota of 200 donors per day.

A trophy is awarded to the House with the highest participation in the event. This trophy has proudly remained in Aitken House for 30 of the last 31 clinics.

If there are any questions concerning the clinic, feel free to get in touch with Cathy Gilles of the Red Cross Society at 458-8445, or Mark Atkinson, clinic chairperson, at 450-6886.

## Bi-election, from page 3.

ficials do not wish to name, failed to initial 15 ballots cast, contravening election rules.

Seven other ballots cast at the Lady Beaverbrook Gym poll were properly initialled.

Under pressure from Physical Education and Recreation candidates Michael Redstone and a representative of the only other candidate Janet Morrison, CRO Smith decided to count the 15 ballots.

Later, because the ballots in question would not affect the final result, the CRO reversed the decision. Total spoiled ballots were 32, significantly more than the margin of victory.

Redstone won the vote over Morrison by a margin of 21 ballots. The final tally gave Redstone 58 votes to 37 for Morrison.

It was a frustrating night for Pat FitzPatrick, SU Vice-President University Affairs. He made it clear that the poll worker who failed to follow election procedures would not be rehired for future votes.

In other election results, Michele Hicks and Trish Davidson won Arts

seats on council, defeating the only other candidate Chris Rogers.

Hicks received 86 votes while Davidson polled 77. Rogers gathered 62 votes. Just 11 ballots were declared spoiled.

Kelly Lamrock was a landslide winner in the race for a seat on the UNB senate. The first-year law student defeated his only opponent, business student Gregory Moore by a margin of 392 to 158. A significant 74 ballots were spoiled.

One position was taken by acclamation. Bernie Boucher was unchallenged for the job of nursing representative.

Despite extending the deadline, no students came forward to declare their candidacy for the remaining Education seat on council. Those students have one other representative on council as Todd Muscroft was elected last spring to serve a one-year term. The last Education seat is expected to be vacant for the remainder of the academic year.

Voter turnout for the bi-election was nine per cent.



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This issue is dedicated to depressed, recently-dumped poets. We're with you buddy!

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