David Miller

Several weeks ago I noticed an item in the Daily Gleaner by the freelance broadcaster John Porteous. Porteous is a journalist/broadcaster who writes/broadcasts highly opinionated items along with more normal news items.

Anyway, what I thought was interesting about this particular item, was that it talked about the perils of writing one's own column. Even more interesting, I thought, he was saying that the worst problem he had was people making suggestions with regard to what he should write.

I don't have that problem. Mine is somewhat different. What I find is a whole pile of people who want to tell me the "true facts" about whatever I have been writing about in the past few weeks.

The 'true facts'! Indeed! What in the name of God is or are the 'true facts!?

The Brunswickan is as mine Editor Werthmann once pointed out is not a place for "rose tinted public relations"or "*Daily Gleaner* chamber of commerce boosterism". It is a place for the airing of problems neither in a sensational way nor with rose-coloured glasses.

It is my personal tendency to try and find some good in something that looks bad, and to find some bad in something that smells too good. In addition I fee! quite strongly about not keeping things on simply because that is the way we have been doing it for the last years.

The thing I really have to laught at is the notion that we should check out stories with whomever they are about. Like hell. The Brunswickan is not the *Telegraph Journal* or the *Daily Gleaner*. The thing that makes me cry is that when people criticize our stories, they write long, boring, and irrational letters including such "useful facts" as perhaps 'the sky is blue', 'grass is green-brown' and 'mom and apple pie'. What is worse, they are often in absolutely terrible english. (instead of just poor).

What is this university teaching? I often think whem confronted with this drivil. It should be teaching that the interplay ot ideas is the thing, and not thinking you are the best, or what you do is best. When someone says to me "my opinion is" and they say something I don't agree with, I cannot feel threatened. Two reasons, first, he is a person and has a right to express opinions, and second if we debate the point, perhaps I will find out that he is right, or perhaps he will find out that I am right.

In any event *light* will be generated instead of *heat*.

¶¶¶¶

Someone once said that I am so right wing, that they had to add a piece on the platform to accommodate me. Perhaps. I think that it is in order to talk about a reversal of opinion I have had about desexing words.

No one could have been more against the use of such words as chairperson spokesperson and the like than I. After four months at The Bruns, I can say that the arguements often used against such words are as childish and immature as the activist women's movement. All of us should concentrate on the real issues in the socialogical problem of role of women in our country. Worrying about words is a waste of time and energy.

I still think that Ms. is a silly term and reflects insecurity, but whatever makes you happy. As my father once said to me "it costs nothing to say sir to someone".

I hold with what Jesus said about men and women. Men and women were meant to complement each other, and are equal in the sense that neither should be accorded priority. I think Saint Paul said the same thing, but translaters and revisers have corrupted his words.

¶¶¶¶

If werthperson is allowed to give away Christmas presents I can too:
to anyone who calls Christmas Xmas - the pox.
to Dr. Anderson - $630,000
to Bill Sanderson - a TMF
to Roger Smith - a Nikon
to Steve Patriquen - A Pentax
to Eric Garland - a holiday
to James MacLean - a bottle of good Scotch
to Ed Werthmann - $1,000 credit with the Tibbitts lady
to Sarah - dinner with Telly
to Mary - friendship
to Barbara - everything
to me - a big bottle of tranquillizers to get through next term and an MSc.

A reporter s dilemma-

Christmas is where you find it

By ANDY STEEVES

There once was a reporter for a college newspaper who found himself in a desperate position. Christmas was coming up and he figured that he should write a Christmas article for the paper. But he couldn't think of anything to write. Not a glimmer of inspiration could he find. And time was running short.

What made the whole problem even more complicated was the fact that this reporter wrote an engineer's column. It seemed impossible, the reporter thought, to find a connection between Engineering and Christmas. He though about re-arranging Christmas poems or Christmas carols but the best rhyme he could think of for 'Noel' was 'Civil' so he dropped that idea like a hot light. He searched libraries and asked people in the halls. But nothing changed. What could he do?

In desperation he went to see his faculty advisor, Dr. Perry the Prof.

'Dr. Perry', he said, 'I got a real problem. You see I write the Engineer's column for the college newspaper and I cannot think of an appropriate Christmas story. I was wondering if you had any ideas; the deadline for stories is tomorrow and my head is completely empty.'

Well, Dr. Perry hadn't been made a prof for nothing. He sat in his chair and put his plump finger beside his red nose. 'Ah', he said 'have you asked Cyril the Surveyor for any ideas? Those surveyors usually know the *lie of the land*. Maybe you could *plumb* him for an idea or two.'

'I already asked Cyril' our reporter said, 'but he had some computer project *lined up* for tomorrow. He just couldn't *angle* the time.'

'Well how about Michael the Mechanical?' Dr. Perry replied. 'Michael wouldn't give you the *gears* especially if he was well *lubricated*. Those Mechanical lads usually have their *heads screwed* on right.'

'You're right' was the reply 'but Michael had some design project due and couldn't spare a second.'

Our fat Dr. Perry was not to be denied, 'Ah I know just the fellow! Ed Electrical has just the *spark* of inspiration you're looking for. His mind has tremendous *capacity*.'

"Well he *resisted* the idea, sir,' the reporter replied. 'He had been *induced* to do some Christmas shopping. Otherwise he would have been *delighted*.'

'Fred the Forestry Engineer usually has *loads* of ideas', Dr. Perry offered. 'If you *embarked* on asking him I'm sure he *wood offir*.'

'Fred too is as *busy as a beaver*. Not only that but he has to *log* several hours of work on a hist*ree* program', was the answer.

Plump Dr. Perry was getting desperate, 'Surely you've asked Syd the Civil Engineer', he offered 'he doesn't get *washed* away in the *flood*. He always has his feet on the *ground* and is full of *constructive* thoughts...'

'Sorry, sir but Syd says he's being *railroaded* and that his schedule is *structured* so that It'll fail at any *moment*.'

'I suppose you've already asked Curt the Chemical, too' Dr. Perry asked.

'Yes' came the answer 'Curt thought the problem was *elemental* but his work had *compounded* on him, leaving him nearly *insoluble*'.

By now it was 5 o'clock and time to head for home. As Dr. Perry and the reporter stepped outside into the cool night, Dr. Perry said 'Well I don't know what you can do. Maybe you should forget the whole idea.'

'Maybe' was the reply 'maybe'.

Suddenly an old Chev stopped in front of the duo. 'Hey Dr. Perry and reporter, why not come along with us down to the tavern?' It was Syd Civil, with a Ed Electrical, Mike Mechanical, Cyril Surveyor, Fred Forester, and Curt Chemical.

'Hey what about all the work you guys had to do' the reporter asked.

The boys shrugged their shoulders, 'Ah, we'll get it done later. It's the last day of classes, why not have a get together?'

Dr. Perry joined the crew and away they went. Our reporter trudged alone away up the hill with still no story ideas in sight. He thought he couldn't afford to go out for a good time.

Meanwhile at the tavern all the guys and girls were having a great old time, drinkers and teetotalers alike. The crew of Engineers fitted in easily with the merrymaking crowd. A few sacred and popular songs added to the mood.

After a beer or two Mike turned to the plump Dr. Perry and asked "Do you think the reporter will get a story for the paper?'

Dr. Perry looked around the noisy room and the looked at Mike, 'He might have a story idea but it won't be about Christmas.'

'Why not?' Cyril asked.

'Because' the good doctor answered, 'Christmas is not something you should have to search for to find.'

And they all drank bottoms up to that one.

THE END

From Head Hall to you all:

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Separate department needed

Special by John W. MacEwen and Nigel Allen

HALIFAX (CUP) -- Canada should have a separate fisheries department, says Bill Jarvis, Conservative environment critic.

Jarvis, MP for the Ontario riding of Perth-Wilmot, told The Dalhousie Gazette Nov. 25 that Environment Canada was formed as a response to the pollution protesters of the late 1960's. These organizations, such as the Canadian Wildlife Federation, have matured, but Environment Canada, despite several reorganizations, has not.

"We should give Environment Canada the status it needs," he said. The department has had four ministers in the past 23 months.

The cost of surveillance of the new 200-mile fishing limit is uncertain, Jarvis said. He cautioned against robbing the research budget to pay for surveillance. He noted a number of priority areas for research: the B.C. coast and interior, the Great Lakes, especially Superior, the Atlantic region, especially Labrador, and the Arctic.

Pollution

Jarvis thinks that a "reasonable consultative process" in the field of pollution control is best. What industry wants, he said, is a fair lead time, and an assurance that the ground rules won't change in the meantime Hamilton's Dofasco foundry, Jarvis pointed out has done "a hell of a good job" not because of any threat of prosecution, but because of Dofasco's "real sensitivity to the community."

Pollution penalties should fit the criminal as well as the crime, Jarvis said. Some pollution penalties may be too high. A given fine might wipe out a small operator, while a large corporation might consider the same fine "license to pollute".

Jarvis, a lawyer, considers the courts, not administrative tribunals -- "a law sometimes reluctant to prosecute because of the relatively low fines or the fear that the polluter will win. Jarvis thinks that if some sections of anti-pollution law won't hold up in court, we should find out now. He is a long way, he emphasized, from having Environment Canada impose fines itself.

In one Ontario city, Jarvis said, enforcement of anti-pollution law was a problem, as there were several inspectors for the various levels of government. After the three levels of government agreed on one pollution inspector, levels of suspended particulates and sulfure dioxide dropped dramatically without any prosecutions.

Municipalities also pollute, pointed out Jarvis. But, he asked, can the inhabitants of a town of 5000 pay the $1500 pollution controls would cost each of them?

Energy

"We should be looking at all sources". The conservatives don't think we should export nuclear reactors, but they won't go as far as to advocate a half on nuclear research in Canada. Jarvis said that according to some scientists nuclear energy could be the "best and cheapest" energy source once the problems of the rish of catastrophe and waste disposal were solved. He declined comment on the MacKenzie Valley and tidal power, except to say that the Bedford Institute of Oceanography wants to continue its study of tidal power.

Canada should only adopt a special tax on high-energy products if education efforts fail. "It's hard to change Canadians to change their habits," Jarvis said.