20 editorial

BY MARK MORGAN

For far too long the university administration has had the luxury of hiding behind an Iron Curtain of secrecy. It is not too often that the administration draws its drapes open to let the light of truth in.

Oh, I can imagine if they did, the rats would scurry and the dust would quickly be wiped. In fact, I believe a tidy room would ultimately show. This is what students want–a tidy administration and the truth, if not openness.

For the most part this year, the administration has been quite cooperative with the media, including *The Brunswickan.* But this week *The Brunswickan* has been stifled in its attempts to bring you the truth of the matter. According to a phone call the paper had with the Public Relations department, presidential nominee Elizabeth Parr-Johnston requested an embargo against the media, including *The Brunswickan.* When asked for a photo of Parr-Johnston they refused, after stating they did have a photo. The paper had been looking forward to asking Parr-Johnston some questions concerning her nomination as a possible future UNB President, and taking a quick photo.

One would be under the impression, that a woman of Parr-Johnston's past and intelligence would want to be open and co-operative with the media. Why she would request such a public relations *faux pas* dumbfounds me and my colleagues.

I sincerely hope that should the UNB Board of Governors approve her as the next president, Parr-Johnston would be more receptive to media and not appear to be hiding from the lime light. After all, university presidents should be able to deal with the media, not shun them. I would hate to believe Parr-Johnston believes she will improve her credibility by imposing embargoes.

I commend the university for setting into motion the first female president in UNB's 211 year illustrious history. The university must have felt she was the best person for the job to represent the students, faculty and administration. According to information provided by the Chair of the presidential search committee, Robert Burridge, the committee took only two days to nominate Parr-Johnston. For someone who will be around for 5 or more years to be nominated in two days, this either shows exemplary skills on her part, or a rush job by the nominating committee. I would like to sleep comfortably at night, so I believe its her skills that won her the nomination.

I do have one particular problem. Call me a xenophobe. But why not choose an alumnus of UNB, somebody internal, someone who knows and understands UNB and what improvements can be made? Outside parties usually bring outside problems and seldom outside solutions. This university is dynamic and unique like all universities, so what works at Mount St. Vincent probably won't work here. UNB has a different student base, larger campus and faculty. Moving from a small to a larger school must be quite a feather in Parr-Johnston's cap. We should all remember that she is wearing a cap, and not a crown, so she should present herself as more approachable.

Regardless of first impressions, good luck to presidential nominee Parr-Johnston. I wish you well in your endeavours.

The Mugwump Journal

"Yahoo. Spring break is finally here. I'm going to start drinking at 8...am and I'm gonna play my music so damn loud that it's not just gonna be the neighbours complaining, it's going to be the neighbouring streets, ha ha ha."

"Errr. Neil, what exactly does your prof look like again?"

"I mean. I am looking forward to nine long days of uninterupted research, unpunctuated by any of those lectures that I never miss."

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OK. It's a stereotype. But after two loooong months of snow and ice (and the pair of thaws which gave a pleasant two weeks of Glaswegian weather) and stress, I feel like doing precisely nothing which involves work, or even thinking. I feel lazy. I want to turn Much Music on and get my attention span down to three seconds - I don't think I can function any more; taking in everything this fast paced world has to offer; damn coherent sentences, damn thinking; I want to enjoy myself; won't worry about the consequences; I want a life of semi-colons: vaguely related to what comes before but not directly relevant; I want to be a multi-media kid.

Sadly I have a paper due on the 15th and another on the 22nd, so the brain cell destruction will probably have to start a little later than previously planned.

Which brings me back to the topic I had in mind, before my attention started wandering. Work. Large quantities of it. Flowing out of almost every corner of your mind. So much work that you don't really have time to do it all. But hey, you're working in a group, so it makes sense to *share* the spreadsheet file, or the Word file.

Someone covers your ass this week, you cover their's in an easier week.

This is a great real world skill. So is knowing what can be handed in on time and what can wait a couple of weeks. It's good to see university can be so useful. It damn well should be considering the cost of tuition.

But I think that university is supposed to teach you more than time management and delegation, it should enable you to learn something about the subject you're studying, not teach you how to program a spreadsheet to get the correct answers out. And what's the point in knowing the answer if you don't know it's relevance.

So. Whose responsiblity is it to ensure that you have time to learn? Perhaps it's yours, take it at your own pace - see what you can handle. Perhaps it's the Teaching Assistants, after all, they *are* paid to give you practical assistance. I say this because everyone knows that it can't be the university's responsibility to make sure that their programs mean something to the paying students. Not when there's research money to be wooed and international reputations to be kept up.

When a course's marks have to be fixed up using grading curves for appearance's sake. When independant course evaluations are discouraged because it's a mandatory course. There's something wrong somewhere and someone's going to have to fix it.

Neil Duxbury

Blood n' Thunder



The Bruns has stupid judgement

Letter to the Editor

SAPPY TREE HUGGER?

I recently written (sic) an article for the forest breeze (sic) outlining my concerns for the Christmas mountains (sic) . I would just like to express my displeasure and disappointment in the handling of this article. I wonder if the person responsible for the layout actually read the article, if not I am willing to spend time with this person to explain the content and the point that I was trying to establish. Once again, I like to emphasize that bridging the gap between environmentalists and industry people is very important. The article seemed to come across as a left wing environmentalist if one was to glance at the larger print and that unrelated cartoon above the article. The message is different that (sic) *the* (sic) *Bruns* viewed it. This is exactly the problem facing the effective communication between industry and environmentalists, bad media. In this case *the* (sic) *Bruns* is guilty of misrepresenting an issue and just plain stupid judgement.

Jason Northcott

Dean Craighead lacks interest or common sense

Dear Editor

As a resident of the house which has become *The Brunswickan's* latest focus, I feel I have to respond to the Dean of Resident's blatant lack of interest or "common sense" in relation to the welfare of the residents in Neill House. To anyone who knows the truth of events which have taken place recently, Dean Craighead's response in the paper portrays him as either a propagandist or a man who is truly detached from reality.

Last week Craighead said that when he attended a house meeting, and explained the concept of an associate Don, this idea was met with "positive" questions about the position. What Craighead fails to mention is that the meeting consisted of him in a room for two hours with a house full of angry young men voicing their complaints and frustrations . There were some "positive" comments such as if the house could vote on the decision to have an associate Don or if the associate Don could be a 4th or 5th year student from within the house. These comments were quickly shot down by Craighead in a less than positive fashion. When asked whose interest was being considered concerning recent events, Craighead could not clearly answer. What was made clear, however, is that the interests of the residents (who are in reality his employees) were not the administrations main priority.

Craighead could not clearly explain why he thought an associate Don would be of help. I live in a residence where over 75% of the inhabitants have problems with a Don who has been here all year. According to Craighead's "common sense" principle you would think that when someone had a problem they would go to a friend in the house such as an ARP or Proctor before they would go to some stranger appointed by a Dean they are not happy with.

Craighead mentions that he expects a fair number of residents to return next year. However, this is not because they agree with the administration or are happy with the way things are. Rather people will be back because in this hard year they have learned the concepts of House spirit and pride. I will not be back to cower before administrative dictatorship, I will be back to stand up for what I believe in .

"Vincere Vel Mori!"

Resident of Neill
(Name withheld by request)

Lamrock: Own up to your own mistakes

An Open Letter to Kelly Lamrock,

Kelly, I saw your letter in *The Brunswickan* (Feb.23rd issue) responding to comments made by Paul Estabrooks, former UNBSU President. Upon reading it, I was struck by a funny feeling of deja vu. It reminded me of a similar letter you wrote for *The Aquinian* (Jan.31st issue) criticizing two St. Thomas Students who wrote to the Editor in regards to concerns they had with the operations of the St. Thomas Student Union. It's nice to see that you obviously have extra time on your hands during your office hours-time to write retaliatory letters about students who dare express their comments and co[illegible]rns about people involved in positions of student leadership.

Please note that I didn't use the term "student politics". I don't have much respect for student politicians. They spend more time worrying about their personal agendas and good publicity than they do about the concerns of the students they were elected to represent.

The concerns of Paul Estabrooks, Tim Daley and Dave O'Pray aside, let's take a look at what the UNBSU has done this year under your leadership. Remember the scandal involving personal expenses being charged to the Student Union's credit cards? And how about the budget full of errors your council passed? And what about all those "exec only" decisions you guys have made this year? How about the constant slamming of the UNB Administration and UNB Board of Governors? You don't see the folks up the hill doing that. These are just some of the key things you've been involved in this year that the average "Joe Student" knows about, courtesy of *The Bruns*.

Yes, let's talk about *The Brunswickan* for a moment. They've kept us (the student population) informed all along the way as to the happenings of the UNBSU and I'm glad they did because God knows you'd never admit this stuff yourself. I agree wholeheartedly with Mark Morgan's editorial on how you never take any responsibility for any of the things you've done (or neglected to do as the case may be). You always have someone else to blame besides yourself.

I guess what I'm trying to say, Mr. Lamrock, is, that despite your personal opinions of yourself, you are a mortal human being like the rest of us on Earth. You make mistakes- FOR ONCE OWN UP TO THEM! Stop bashing concerned students and start representing them and their interests instead of your own.

Concerned
(Name withheld by request)

Abortion increases sexual exploitation of young girls

To the Editor

The Universal Law Is to love one's neighbor as one's self. But we are suffering for our failures to heed this Law. Legal abortion has ruptured the tales that bind us, delivering the message that human lives have value only when wanted by those more powerful. This has deepened the alienation, anger, rebellion and hopelessness that feed crime and other social ills. "Every child a wanted child" has made every child a conditional child to immature parents, contributing greatly to postnatal child abuse (contrary to popular myth, abused children were wanted - for the wrong reasons - more often than those not abused).

Abortion's easy availability has exposed women and young girls to increased sexual exploitation and subsequent coercion to use this deadly cover-up. It has been disastrous to the physical, emotional and spiritual health of women, the breast cancer connection alone now killing far more women than illegal abortion ever did. A more powerful vehicle for the abuse, subjugation and suffering of women could hardly be imagined.

Human history is littered with failed attempts to mistreat others without consequences. How much must it cost us before we concede that the Universal (sic) Law is as real and immutable as the laws of physics?

Sincerely,
Alfred Lemmo
Dearborn, MI