

Midterms. The only word I can think of as worse is Finals.

Students have a responsibility to themselves to maintain a satisfactory level of academic achievement and midterms act as an effective gauge for that level.

The Brunswickan has its midterms too. After all we are all accountable, even the media to gauge ourselves.

From the onset as Editor-in-Chief, I wanted to present you, the readers with an informative and poignant round up of events that effects UNB and its students in an entertaining and readable package. I believe we have, to a satisfactory level, for the most parts to myself, editor's, staff and hopefully our readers done so.

The Brunswickan is here for the students, however we admit that we cannot physically cover everything, and that is a short coming or short handing we are working to overcome, and thanks to the influx of new staffers its a dwindling problem.

The last three *Brunswickans* out and this one, are probably the best rounded issues I have witnessed since I was first introduced to *The Brunswickan* way back in junior high.

The best part for you undergraduates is that your subscription via the Student Union is approximately 24 cents per issue. Not bad with the rising cost of paper and technology.

In order to increase our readability factor we've have added Stepping Out, a Sports column devoted to the outdoor enthusiast. You'll also find that we've added a few new columns to Spectrum like the Left Jab and the brand spanking new quote concerning women and women issues called "Womyn Say." Entertainment is trying to rid itself as a review section by throwing in interviews, different columns, and contests. Blood n' Thunder is orchestrated in such a way as to encourage debate and input. Distractions has now taken on a more literary look to reflect the changing trends and interests of students. As we read more we learn more and that is what Distractions is trying to place in the forefront of the reader–but have fun doing it. News has put the Student Union (SU) in the spotlight. Maybe it's too bright for some of the SU, but I doubt it because, they realise they need to be liable to the students as well, and *The Brunswickan* is that outlet. Being in the media we have the dubious distinction of trying to make the administration or the council accountable for their actions by presenting the facts, and we do a fair job, contrary to popular opinion. By no means are we the extreme in our presentation of the facts. We're not left wing or right wing, just open minded and a sounding board for you.

We have had an increase in the scope of our distribution and visibility with our paper occasionally making it to the Saint John campus and our Web Site on the 'Net.

Friday mornings are worth the countless hours of sleep and avoidance of homework because when I see the SUB Cafeteria full of Bruns' or the Blue Lounge flooded with discarded Magic Cards for *Bruns'*, I am proud of the product and the people who put it out and hopefully you are too.

A SHORT TALE OF SMASHING PUMPKINS AND OTHER ASSOCIATED DISTRACTIONS

The Mugwump Journal

Halloween. A magical time, a mystical time. Of course, you know that its name is derived from All Hallow's Eve. This name seems more appropriate than ever with Fredericton's honoured guests, the mighty Green Day, of November the First.

Anyway, if you're at UNB around the end of October, you know what Halloween means - Harrison house's pumpkin sacrifice. Even if you missed the ceremony, you probably heard the midnight howling at some point in time over the week or so before. Now the mystery shrouded event itself...a darkened double file of house residents through the green to Lady Dunn, where they mysteriously - even the folks sitting on people's shoulders were muttering about only being able to see smoke and a crowd of heads - transformed into a lit procession for the way back. And so the attention returned to Harrison House. From the elevated patio at the back the pumpkin was "blessed" before it's intestines exploded into white light and it began it's rapid descent.

An awful lot of foreplay for such a short release. After all, if you deconstruct the ceremony to its basic parts you get: the destruction of a large vegetable, a procession of the house and some unknown organist destroying a classical piece of organ music that others like Bon Jovi have done considerably more justice to.

However, this event adds up to more than the sum of its parts. At the most basic level it shows what can be accomplished by a dedicated group of people. But more than house spirit, events like this promote university spirit, better than many of the more orchestrated attempts. It is a highly visible, fairly unique (I've never heard of one before - but then I come from overseas, what do I know?) event, which brings a large group of students and other members of the university community together.

However, there still remains the question of klannish overtones that some interpret in this ceremony, particularly in the white cloaks and nomenclature of the hierarchy. Whether intentionally part of the ceremony or not, these overtones are still a factor because of the effect they have on these people. Whether the ceremony needs to be changed because of these, is a different, if related matter. Still, as I've been hearing quite a bit recently, "The personal is political." Applied to this case my interpretation comes out as: if you find the event personally objectionable then complain, it's your voice - make it heard. If you enjoyed the event then stand up for it. You also have your voice - make it heard.

Personally I enjoyed the event, and hope to see another like it should I be here at the same time next year.

Neil Duxbury

Blood n' Thunder

Unity Rally Bus not a bust but dry and hungry

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to comment on how the trip to the Unity Rally in Montreal was handled by the Student Union. They used very misleading information to convince people to go. I spoke with one organizer of the trip who told me that there would be a lot of free beer, pizza and McDonald's food on the trip. I most likely would have went even without these freebies, but with them, I thought, the trip would be really fun as well as for a good cause. I was also told that the bus would be back at UNB about 10:00 pm Friday night, which would give me lots of sleep before I had to work at 8:00 Saturday morning.

To make a very long story short, I didn't get back to UNB until 5:00 am Saturday. On top of that, the only thing provided free besides the bus ride was one 28 gram bag of chips and a can of Coke, and that was on the way up. This was really bad because I didn't take any money (why would I need money if food and drinks were free?) and I had to ask other people on the trip to give me food.

I don't mean to sound like I don't care about the Quebec separation issue, because I do, but if anybody knows where I can pick up my case of beer, my Egg McMuffins, and my Pizza Hut Pizza (all of which was promised), you can e-mail me at p730@unb.ca.

Sincerely as circumstances allow,
James Dickie

Irked over IRC and and UNB CSD

To Whom it May Concern at *The Brunswickan*,

Just this afternoon I returned to my home and sit down before my computer to pump out a couple of email to some friends and family. However, almost by accident (some would call Fate), I decide to telnet to my MUSIC account at UNB and read what's going on in the news groups there. It is there, on the group "unb.talk.students", that I found out that UNB is shutting down it's IRC server.

IRC or Internet Relay Chat is a real-time (asynchronous) form of text based communication over the Internet. Essentially there are hundreds of rooms, called "channels", and thousands of people on-line at any one time. Why? To put it simply: They are there to communicate.

Every night between Midnight and 8 a.m. UNB students have been able to access IRC through both their MUSIC and Jupiter accounts. but as of November 1st this privilege has been discontinued for all but Campusnet users (who have the software). And for what reason?

UNB Computing Services simply does not have the resources to support such an application. This decision was made in the interest of UNB by the Computing Services Department (CSD). [Dwight Spencer: Posted 30/10/95 to unb.talk.students and a variety of other forums]

I am not sure what to make of this "official reason". The claim they do not have the "resources to support such an application". What type of resources are we talking about: computers or people? If it is computer related what has recently changed to upset things? I am highly dubious of it being a people oriented problem since there has been traditionally, according to what I have been told, a number of Computing Science students helping out with the administration of the server.

Possible suggestions that real reason they are cutting off IRC is not because of "resource utilisation" but because the labs and dial-in links are being tied up by IRC users. First of all, I find it hard to believe that between Midnight and 8 a.m. are peak hours of use. Secondly, many of the users I know at UNB use terminals to access IRC and not computers in the Novell Labs.

What I do believe, however, is that there is a general feeling among the decision makers in the CSD that IRC is nothing but a "game" and they have only been looking for any kind of an excuse to remove it from UNB altogether. It looks like they have finally found it.

It is time that IRC is used for nothing but social interaction by most of its users. But what is wrong with this? Nothing as far as I can tell. Has not the growth of the student through social interaction with others been one of the primary goals of post-secondary of cramming a mish-mash of textbook and lecture information into their skull. It is about meeting and making friends to last a lifetime. Obviously there are some that cannot fathom the possibility that people meet in "non-tradition" ways. What is perhaps most upsetting is that as a CSD they should be more receptive to this form of interpersonal communication. Residences, bars, concerts and other more "traditional" forms of social interaction are one way to meet people. Yet they are not the only way to meet people. The removal of IRC is effectively discontinuing a vital source of social interaction for UNB students, a source that reaches around the world. As our "Global Society" comes of age, is UNB prepared to become so nearsighted as to limit their student's options at communicating with other cultures and expanding their mind.

In addition, I believe that the CSD is being short-sighted about what it will contend with down the road. IRC was only the beginning. New applications will come along (in fact many are here now) that will take up much more computing power, tie up many more lines and fill many more seats than IRC ever did.

Lastly, on a personal level, I am deeply hurt and disappointed by the discontinuation of this Internet application. As a MA of Sociology at UNB I was just about to present my thesis proposal which dealt with IRC. Now, I have to re-work that proposal some more because of the shut down. I mention this academic problem because I want you to realise that IRC is not so easily dismissed. Computing Services did not take away some "game" from a bunch of children. They have removed a valuable research tool and stolen a vital avenue for social interaction for all UNB students.

Sincerely,
D. Andrew Dickinson

Taking a jab at the Left Jab

To the Editor

I am amazed by the spectacle Nik Carrier insists on putting on and this time managed to restrain my laughter long enough to type this
response out with regards to the Left Jab in the October 20th *Bruns*.

Perhaps Mr. Carrier would visit one of those libraries he is so hell-bent on saving and look up the history of the concept. I would suggest as starting points looking up "Alexandria, Great Library of" and "Monastries, Medieval". And less he becomes confused by the dates, yes indeed the Great Library dates from before the Christian era and those pesky monks were creating libraries for centuries after the fall of the Roman Empire, in other words quite a few centuries before the oppressed workers in England he trumpets even existed.

And before he rants on about state-run education (a socialist complaining about that? Will wonders never cease) he might be wise to consider the fact that government-sponsored schools have done to equalize the learning gaps between poor and rich than would otherwise exist. I'd imagine that Mr. Carrier himself is the recipient of twelve or so years of tuition-free education. The word "hypocrisy" come to mind.

Keith Morrison
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Case closed and the winner is...?

Dear Editor:

Shawn Corey, in the last issue of *The Brunswickan*, claims that my previous letter was a "hostile distortion" of the International Socialists' (IS) views on native rights and the Quebec referendum ("IS try and clarify position - again", Oct. 27). Well, I hoped that his subsequent "clarification" would shed a little light on the issue. Unfortunately, the Socialists' position, as outlined by Corey, is so muddled and contradictory that I just couldn't resist adding further comment.

According to letters by Corey and Nik Carrier, the IS feel that the *Quebecois* and the Aboriginals, as "oppressed" peoples, both have a right to self-determination from the "oppressive federal state" of Canada, and that the results of both the Quebec referendum and the Crees' earlier polling should be accepted so that both can renegotiate their positions with the Canadian government. First of all, the insinuation here seems to be that the French of Quebec have been treated as badly as the natives - a proposition too ludicrous to merit further comment. More importantly, the Socialists are trying to support two concepts that, at the moment, contradict each other. Jacques Parizeau and his band of separatists have, on numerous occasions, stated that Quebec's borders are inviolable in the event of separation. In effect, they want to keep Northern Quebec regardless of what its native inhabitants want and as we all know, the Cree, in their referendum, overwhelmingly rejected Quebec independence. If Corey can reconcile these two positions, he's a better political scientist than I.

Corey also criticises Cree leader Matthew Coon Come for stating that Quebec nationalism is a greater threat to native rights than the Canadian government, writing that Coon Come is "wrong" to make statements that play into the hands of "anti-Quebec forces in English Canada". In other words, the IS are better qualified to talk about native rights than the natives' own leaders. How silly of me not to realize this.

By the time this letter is printed, we will know whether Quebeckers have opted to separate from this "oppressive federal state" or to remain in Canada. Either way, the Cree will be a major factor in whatever happens to Quebec. This is a very complex issue, in which we will have to look closely at all sides and work out the best deal we can.

This, apparently, is more than we can expect from the IS, who are trying to simplify this issue beyond recognition. I will conclude be reiterating what I wrote in my previous letter: by supporting the natives and the Quebec separatists, the Socialists are trying to have it both ways. Case closed.

Damian Penny