22 editorial

St. Thomas is like six fingers...

My roommate being the jolly old soul he is, once told me, "Mark, St. Thomas is like a sixth finger (on one hand)." In between sips of my McCain Fruit Punch, you know the stuff that tastes like perfume and, no Robbie Alomar the fruit taste *isn't* there, I asked him "Why?" He responded with a candidness and insight that has been unparalleled since I first heard his offbeat thought. "Because, like a sixth finger, St. Thomas is useful, but cosmetically ugly." Needless to say some might disagree with him. However thanks to the past STU Student Union elections, I've been thinking we just might be duplicating digits. Money digits. Some number followed by lotsa and lotsa zeros. Instead of St. Thomas University (STU) being viewed as "cosmetically ugly", the University can be a strong internal contributor to the University of New Brunswick (UNB) school system.

By way of preparing for transfer cuts, the Nova Scotia government has tabled a Consortium Plan to combine Metro Halifax's universities. This would mean universities like Dal, TUNS and St. Mary's would share resources and services but maintain them at a quality level. The Consortium Plan, which stamps out duplication of services, is expected to save millions of dollars, even in the short term for participating universities.

Thanks to an agreement between STU and UNB, STU has accessible rights, shared rights to the libraries, the gyms, security, physical plant, and of course, the SUB.

Face it, St. Thomas is a small university, and nowadays with cuts to transfer payments there will be less inflows for it. Nature dictates if fishes share the same pond, the bigger fish eats the smaller fish. Instead of having two very expensive Presidential Offices, there would only be one. The same goes for the Registrar's Offices and other administrative positions. Teaching positions would remain relatively unchanged. However we could go further and cut duplication of athletic departments, Student Unions and Arts and Education faculties. This would, however, lose the individualism of the schools. We all want to be distinct, but we have to be frugal in order to ensure affordable quality education. Mainly by cutting bureaucratic red tape positions the universities can combine themselves into one complex organisation rather than two complex organisations competing for the same government funds.

A process like this would, of course, have to be studied and done on the basis of objectivity (i.e. saving money, increased efficiency) and subjectivity (i.e. how do people in the university communities feel). I believe that most St. Thomas students feel they would be swallowed by the girthy might of UNB, but the point is UNB St. Thomas is looking more and more like a reality and students will have a healthier pocket book to show for it.

...and someone is all thumbs about it.

The Mugwump Journal

There has been a crime committed. Not really a big crime, more of an amusing (if slightly pricey one). Someone stole one of our school flags.

Now please, please settle down, it's not polite to be rolling around on the floor in laughter so early in the day, but I promise it's true. Some varlet absconded with it.

They must have done it on a dare, as apart from certain wealthy alumni, I don't see what the market is for used UNB flags - and are the aforementioned alumni really likely to buy one off some dodgy looking guy in a pub? I think not. Which is why I have scoured far and wide looking for the best conspiracy theorists to spread some light on this startling, daring and frankly engineeringesque prank.

Dean Craighead: It must have been Neill House. If they drink out of pails then they'll do pretty much anything. And if you hear anything about more pail use will you give me a call at.....

Jeff Clark: I'm pointing my finger directly at Jeff Melanson. He had the opportunity, after all he was working campus security that night. I think he's trying to pull some kind of spirit stunt on the night of the election.

Mark Morgan: The way I see it, it was President Armstrong doing the dirty deed. He was doing it to get a souvenir before he left. After all, who'd suspect a president?

Oliver Stone: Through my eyes its an impassioned plea from a youth mentally impoverished from not living through the 60s trying his best to capture some of that revolutionary fervour.

Unnamed source: Colonel Mustard, at the back of the Old Arts Building, with the large knife.

Security: Grumble grumble grumble. Bloody illegal parkers.

Anyway. You get the idea? Good. Because The Mugwump Journal is getting really jealous of all these other sections in the paper with big competitions and great prizes. So here's my small competition with no (designated) prize. Just come up with the best reason why or how the flag was stolen. The idea can be your own, or in the style of someone else. I don't care. Just find some paper and scrawl your explanation on it or do it the digital way and e-mail it to *The Bruns* (bruns@unb.ca), and we'll see what happens. NB if no bothers then I'm just going to pretend that this part of the column never existed - despite the 10,000 copies lying around campus which prove otherwise.

Neil Duxbury

Blood n' Thunder



Thank you Glenna Bell, you're the best

Dear Editor of *The Bruns*

This is just a note to say a big thank you to Glenna Bell in the HELP Centre.

It was most reassuring to find that there is a place on campus that treats one like they talk. There is no such thing as a "stupid question" at the HELP Centre. Ms. Bell is always willing to help or find someone who can help.

I read about something called "Random Acts of Kindness" weekend I thought to myself - self.... random acts of kindness are an everyday occurence at the HELP Centre... so why do some folks believe it should only be for a week.

Glenna Bell is the heart and soul of the centre and must have a crystal ball or a direct line to JO-JO, as she finds answers to all kinds of questions. It helps one keep one's hair on and hold one's water before drowning in a sea of bureaucracy and stuff.

In closing I should like to say thanks for being there, Glenna, and I look forward to sharing many more crisis and good times with you.

Sincerely,
Kathy Casey

A couple of lights and benches isn't campus safety

Dear Editor

We are writing to express our displeasure with the proposed 1996 Grad Class project. Despite having made our concerns known to the Grad Class Executive in a previous letter to *The Brunswickan*, as well as at the second vote on the project, the Executive has shown little desire to address any legitimate problems that our campus faces. A full 75% of those at the meeting where the second vote was taken voted in favour of a proposal which was presented as a campus lighting project which would address safety concerns on campus in high-risk areas. A member of the Executive went so far as to physically sketch out areas where security lights would be located. Given this, those who voted for this option were doing so on the assumption that this project would be designed to improve lighting on dark path-ways and poorly lit areas.

Unfortunately, the Grad class Executive has instead chosen to establish a "Benchmark for Safety" program which will supposedly provide greater lighting in one of the best lit areas on campus; the area between the SUB, Harrison House and Bridge House. Clearly the purchase of two lampposts, garbage cans and park benches will do little to remedy the problem of inadequate campus lighting. Obviously this project (just like the original proposal of iron gates for the university entrance) is simply another attempt to "beautify" the campus, without bothering to address any of the more pressing problems that students face. Anyone who has walked between Carleton Hall and the Physics building in the evening, will attest to the pitch darkness in that area. Similarly, areas around the Forestry Building, and the Archives are also very poorly lit.

Rather than contribute to the proposed park-bench project, we have approached a local company to arrange to buy a number of floodlights which can be mounted on the sides of buildings in high-risk areas. Surprisingly, the cost of each floodlight is only $250. Thus, for every ten students who direct their $25 donation to this effort, another floodlight can be erected on campus. UNB's Physical Plant will mount each purchased spotlight free of charge.

Grads who would like to contribute to this effort to improve campus safety, can make a donation by contacting us at RC37@unb.ca or by phoning 450-6986. Also, please contact us with any suggestions as to areas where lighting can be improved, and we will improve as many of these areas as we can.

Sincerely,
Jodi Andrew
Ellen Thorne
Shelly Schurman
Stephen Mason
Luke Peterson

You're gonna turn this Earth into a wasteland

Geoff Peters

I read your article in *The Brunswickan* the other week, and I realize now that with a "unique" attitude like that, you and people like you will turn this Earth into a wasteland. I am not an activist, nor am I part of a rallying group against some government decision. I *am*, on the other hand, more concerned about living in a clean, fresh world than putting dollars in your pocket. Yes, you do have a point. There are ways of doing things, and ridiculous little "uprisings" against government decisions are indeed useless, but so is the attitude you take on . We no longer live in a society in which the cobbler makes the town shoes. We no longer have to wonder what the moon looks like because we now have the technology to view it first hand. My point is that the world is changing, FAST. Pretty soon, there will be no more forests to cut down, and we will all have to sit and wait about 500 years for a new forest to grow back to where it was before. Heaven forbid we should let a forest, and its inhabitants live! You explain to me how much more important our lives are than theirs. I'd love to hear it. And this time, don't be so cross and ignorant as to generalize all those concerned as a bunch of rambling activists with "pipe dreams," or insult those who attend other universities. There are a hell of a lot more people concerned about the Christmas Mountains than just students of Mt. Allison University. Don't be so closed-minded, and although you are probably sitting back in your chair and laughing, not taking any of this seriously, try thinking about the whole picture, not just those behind the chainsaw.

Luke Vallee

Yaqzan: Media and politicians not always truthful

Mr. Mark Morgan,
Editor-in-Chief

Your *editorial-letter* to Senator Jesse Helms of the United States raises some serious questions behind the mirth and laughter it is supposed to evoke. It reminded me of a letter I wrote to Mr. Clinton last year about the holocaust in Bosnia. You are welcome to publish it (unable to publish due to space constraints) in some suitable format. It might explain how deception and intrigue dominate international politics. What the politicians say and the media broadcast, are not always truthful.

Your editorial questions the justification for the United States to penalize countries that trade with Cuba. Since China and Cuba are both accused of human rights violations, are the Americans being consistent in trading with China while condemning Canada for trading with Cuba? You wonder if it is hypocritical to do so? How can the United States give the *favoured nations status* to China and *most unfavoured nation status* to Cuba?

You point out that Senator Robert Dole *"doesn't like movies with make-believe hurt and people pretending to die"* but he would be willing to send *"many real people to die if he had the chance."* You hope that he *"doesn't live in the big white house."* You think that Senator Jesse Helms said some *"nasty things about Canada"*, because he is getting too old and forgetful that Canada is a friend of the United States and he*" shouldn't tell friends what to do."*

As I wrote to Mr. Clinton, *"There is too much deceit deception and double-talk on the part of those who claim to be civilized and feel superior to others."* As for hypocrisy, it can be dignified under the cloak of *"diplomacy"*, and almost any evil can be justified in the name of *"national interest"*.

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