

OPINION & EDITORIAL

Bruns Xmas Wish List

It's that time of mirth again. It's time for The Brunswickan to dole out its awards of merit, and the lumps of coal. Here's what we think are appropriate gifts for the following people:

Andy Scott, newly re-elected Fredericton MP - some new shoes to go with his new seat.

Raj Venugopal, PC candidate and UNB Alum - kudos for a good, clean run at the brass ring. Take heart, it's only four (3.5) more years.

Jean Chretien, Prime Minister - a "Get Out of Office Free" card. Use it sooner rather than later.

Paul Martin, PM wannabe - a Senate seat like, 'cuz you're never gonna be PM with Daddy JC around.

Stockwell Day - a crash helmet. Better luck next time.

George W. Bush - More of Daddy's friends to help him beat Al.

Al Gore - Hillary Clinton as his VP in 2004 or vice versa.

Kim Norris, SUB Director - an elevator, some tenants, a new office, a new computer and a new back.

Judy Mackay, SUB Administrative Secretary - a title commensurate with her responsibilities, and less mail.

Charles Goguen, UNBSU President - a kitchen with hot food, and less attention to the fact it's not there yet from The Brunswickan.

Marlene O'Neil - A bigger office and a paint job.

Marlene Brewer - A big, bad, snowmobile and snow days to ride it on.

Karen Miner - a title commensurate with her responsibilities

Doreen the HIL coffee lady - her own coffee shop - we'd all go.

Allan Reid, Russian prof - Brunships who do their homework.

Peter Kent, History prof - seminar students who are as obedient as his scout troop kids.

Sean Kennedy, History prof - more memorials in the middle of malls.

Ed Biden, MechEng prof - a kick-ass BioEng building with lots of parking.

Stephen Strole, University Secretary - front row seats at Dr. Fetherling's lecture, "Journalism and other Crimes."

Clint Hamilton, Director of Athletics - a sports program with a million dollar budget instead of just million dollar expectations.

Michel Ouellette, Residence - an all inclusive vacation to a tropical Island resort.

Jane McGinn-Giberson, Student Affairs - an all inclusive vacation to a different tropical Island resort. She is, after all, the "coolest lady on the planet" says a photographer who will remain nameless.

Dr. Elizabeth Parr-Johnston - more profs, and fewer VPs.

Gordon Loane, News - a new car and a few returned calls.

Michael Edwards, Bruns Games - a PlayStation 3, a Dreamcast 2 and a GameBoy Advance, the X-Box (not really) and the Game Cube. Plus something fun for Mabel (his pet hedgehog).

Bill Traer - that \$45,000 monitor set-up and some DVDs he wants but doesn't have yet (if they exist).

K Brookland - a chummie to have her way with.

Lise Doucette, proofreader - more respect from the Director of Science Centre.

Jeff Gagnon, proofreader - faster computers at work so he can play Quake all night.

Patryk Reid - a new chair, some respect for his coffee making skills and mortal combat with Cindy - "Finish her!"

Sean Patrick Sullivan - snow.

Dexter - yellow snow.

Kevin Molyneaux, ex-Bruns BoD chair - a program to write his thesis for him so he can take some photos.

MC Molyneaux, expecting - a French teacher who actually understands the language.

Jeff Smith, Sports & ME hanger on - tickets to see the Avalanche play before Patrick Roy retires.

Kevin Forneris, Photo Editor - lessons from the Drunken Master in Kung Fu and that camera thingy that he really wants. Plus a chair and a table (nudge, nudge).

Tanya Taylor, Bruns photo model - six more Kevins.

Dan Malone, Sports Editor - more embarrassing love letters from his girlfriend, but this time, posted in the office for all to read.

Cindy Brown, Managing Editor - more of those "coincidental" meetings with her fiance at UNB hockey games when she's supposed to be working here and he's supposed to be at class. And mortal combat with Pat - "Finish him!"

Joseph W.J. FitzPatrick III, Editor-in-Chief - a new van and a new computer.

The Mugwump

As the Christmas season approaches, it is important to remember those who are less fortunate. Christmas is so commercialized in our society and let's face it, it's a lot more convenient to leave it that way. I have found a way to renew the spark every child has at Christmas and this doesn't cost very much.

You walk through malls and the message put forth is buying, buying and more buying. Sure, I like to buy gifts for my loved ones but I know if I didn't have any money my family would appreciate quality time with me just as much.

When I was a kid, I was more interested in the gifts under the tree than anything else. I enjoyed nothing more than tearing open the paper to check out my "loot."

It was not until there were very few gifts that I realized what was *really* important. After my parents separated, my mother and I had to be really frugal just to survive. That first Christmas after my father left I was 12 and, even though my friends were getting all of the latest styles in clothing and all of the cool "stuff," I began to realize it made me much happier to make my mother a homemade card and to decorate our little house together.

I know it sounds sappy but I would much rather spend time with my family and friends than have them spend money on me. A carefully chosen card can be much more meaningful than a hastily chosen gift.

Now that I am better off financially, I love to go out and choose gifts for my family and friends - gifts that are meaningful. I am also planning on picking out a gift to buy for a less fortunate child. I know what it was like to have next to nothing while all of my friends seemed to have just about everything.

If you are interested in helping a less fortunate child to have a happier Christmas, there are booths at the malls where you can pick gift wishes off of a tree. It doesn't cost much and it is an unselfish and worthwhile act.

This may be a commercial way to look at the meaning of Christmas, I mean, I did just say that receiving gifts is not everything - but to a child it is important. Try to remember when you were a child and how you felt on Christmas morning. Now take the gifts away. In a society like ours, there is a lot of pressure on children from their friends, and from TV, to have all of the latest toys.

If you still don't believe buying a gift for a child whom you don't know is part of the Christmas spirit - you should at least donate food to a food bank or clothing to Coats for Kids. I also know what it was like to be on the receiving end of a food box from a church. It was very embarrassing for my mother and I, but it was necessary for our survival.

Now, I want to give back. Christmas may be more commercial now than anything but it is much more satisfying to give than receive. Everything in moderation, however, give a little and receive a little and your Christmas, as well as someone else's, will be a lot more merry.

• *Cindy Brown, Managing Editor*

Letters to the Editor

'Hands off my ass' it could happen to you

To the Editor:

Saturday night at a local bar I, one of MASA's volunteers, was out having a drink with my friends. On the way back from the bathroom someone I didn't know grabbed my ass. Not expecting someone to touch me like that, I froze. I tried to confront my assailant but no words came out. I stood with my eyes and mouth wide open. As I looked around I saw his friends giggling in the corner. This situation made me feel intimidated, powerless, and embarrassed. I just walked away.

I rejoined my friends at our table saying, "how could I? I can't believe I just walked away." After months of workshop presentations I should have been a master of assertiveness, since these skills are the backbone of MASA's co-ed workshops which I coordinate. This term, I wrote a research paper on sexual harassment and I found that the usual response by women is to ignore it, which is exactly what I did!

Later, when I was telling the incident to my

friends, the first thing they asked me was what I was wearing. That's the thing! In the back of my mind I've always thought that there's a formula to getting sexually harassed, short skirt + tight shirt = someone grabbing your ass. I could not have been more wrong! That night I was wearing a black turtle neck sweater and loose fitting pants. It just goes to show that getting sexually harassed had nothing to do with me, and everything to do with the person who thought he could touch me without my permission. And even if I had been wearing a short skirt or skin tight jeans or t-shirt, that still wouldn't mean that I wanted to be felt up, and it certainly doesn't mean that I deserved to be.

When I think back to that night, I wonder if he even realized that what he had done was wrong. I wish that I could have put my MASA training into action. We do this very role play in the co-ed workshop, and I've gone over this scenario dozens of times. Not saying something to him after it had happened has stayed with me since the incident. I didn't enjoy myself for the

rest of the night, I just kept going over and over in my mind what I could have done differently after he had touched me.

Using my assertiveness skills after he had touched me would have made me feel better about myself, and it might have let him know that touching someone without their permission is not okay. I can't help but grapple with the idea that if I had told him how it made me feel when he touched me, that perhaps he would think twice about touching someone else's ass in the future.

I now realize that it takes more than just one MASA workshop to master assertiveness skills. That is why it's so important to practice your skills whenever you get a chance. Like, when your roommates do something that bothers you, or when a sales clerk tries to pressure you into buying something that you really don't want or need. Next time someone grabs my ass I hope I can remember my training, look him straight in the eye, and tell him I don't like you doing that. I'll probably feel a whole lot better.

Piece misstated Israel-Palestinian conflict

To the Editor:

In his article 'Behind the Palestinian Uprising' (The Brunswickan, Issue 12), Russel Maier identifies the root cause of the newly resurgent Intifada as "locked up in years of brewing frustration". He is certainly correct, but sadly misstates much which has given rise to that frustration.

First, let's get our facts and history straight. Israel was born as a State over 50 years ago, its mid-wife the United Nations, which in 1947 adopted as a solution to the armed struggle between Jew and Arab, the partition of mandatory Palestine into two states, an Arab and a Jewish one. Thus, both Palestinian Arab Nationalists and Jewish Zionists found legitimization in their claims to statehood in this considered action of the international community.

It is well recognized that the Jews of Palestine acted upon that resolution by proclaiming the State of Israel in May 1948. It is equally recognized that neither the Palestinian Arabs nor the neighboring Arab States accepted the legitimacy of either the United Nations Partition Resolution, or the establishment of the State of Israel. Five Arab States (Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon) attacked the nascent Jewish State with an outcome with which we are familiar. By the time of the 1949 cease-fire the territory of Palestine under the authority of the State of Israel had expanded beyond that originally allocated to it by the 1947 UN Partition Resolution to include all that territory within the so-called 'Green -Line' ie the Sept 1949-June 1967 borders of the State of Israel.

It is these borders which are referred to in UN Security Resolution 242 (1967) as those to which Israel was called upon to withdraw after its further expansion during the June 1967 war, in which three Arab States took up arms against Israel: Egypt, Syria and Jordan. Israel has withdrawn entirely from the territory of Egypt which it occupied following that conflict as a result of the historic Camp David Accord (1979), a peace treaty brokered by Jimmy Carter and signed by Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin on behalf of the two States. For the first time, an Arab State recognized the legitimacy of the Jewish State. Much more recently, (1997) Jordan did likewise, entering into a peace treaty with Israel. Syria and Lebanon have yet to enter into peace treaties with Israel, the continued Israeli occupation of Syria's Golan Heights still to be addressed between the two States. In the case of Lebanon, Israel's total unilateral withdrawal from territory occupied in its ill-fated invasion of the mid-1980's, is as yet too recent to have matured into a full peace settlement, but doubtless will.

This leaves for resolution the continued Israeli occupation of Palestinian Arab Territory i.e., the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, both occupied in the June 1967 War. It is important to stress that it is only these territories of which we are speaking. Russell Maier speaks of "Israeli occupation over the last 50 years" thereby intimating that Israel's pre-1967 territory is not legitimately held - but that is simply not so. Indeed, the Palestinian Authority

itself has recognized the legitimacy of those borders by its acceptance of Security Council Resolution 242 as one of the bases upon which peace with Israel is to be built.

The Oslo Accord too (1994), which forms the basis of the recently suspended peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, is premised on the legitimacy of the June 1967 borders of the State of Israel, leaving for direct negotiation between the parties their exact contours and shape. Israel has already commenced a staged withdrawal from both the West Bank and Gaza, and it is a gross exaggeration to assert, as does Mr. Maier, that existing Israeli settlements "take up 60% of the area" of the occupied territories. In reality they comprise less than 10% - granted however of territory hard by Palestinian towns and villages, and so a highly visible presence.

Most international observers, and not a few Israeli commentators,

consider the Jewish settlements established on the West Bank and Gaza to be illegitimate at international law. Indeed it is precisely because of their questionable status that they comprise one of the three critical points for further discussion between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The other two are the status of Jerusalem (which in 1947 the UN awarded to neither party, favoring its internationalization), and the future of the Palestinian Refugees.

As to Jerusalem, Israel has signalled its readiness to consider a solution which would see some variation of shared sovereignty, so that both it and the yet to be born Palestinian State could claim the City, including its Holy Sites as their respective capitals. The Palestinian Authority has not signalled a similar readiness, insisting on sole Palestinian sovereignty over all of historic Jerusalem ie the walled City

and its eastern environs.

It should be noted that, since 1967 to date, Israel has consistently left the traditional Islamic authorities (the Waqf) in full control of the al-Aqsa Mosque, the Dome of the Rock and the surrounding compound, a site holy to all three monotheistic faiths of the Middle East: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Indeed the Islamic holy places sit on the Temple Mount, the site of both the first and the second Jewish Temples, yet the Israeli secular authorities, recognizing Muslim sensibilities, prohibit the holding of any religious services by Jews on the actual Temple Mount compound. Rather, as they have since the destruction of the Temple by the Romans (save for the 19 year period (1948-67) when prohibited by the Jordanian authorities) Jews worship below the Mosque compound at the Western Wall, the retaining wall of the Temple Mount

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