

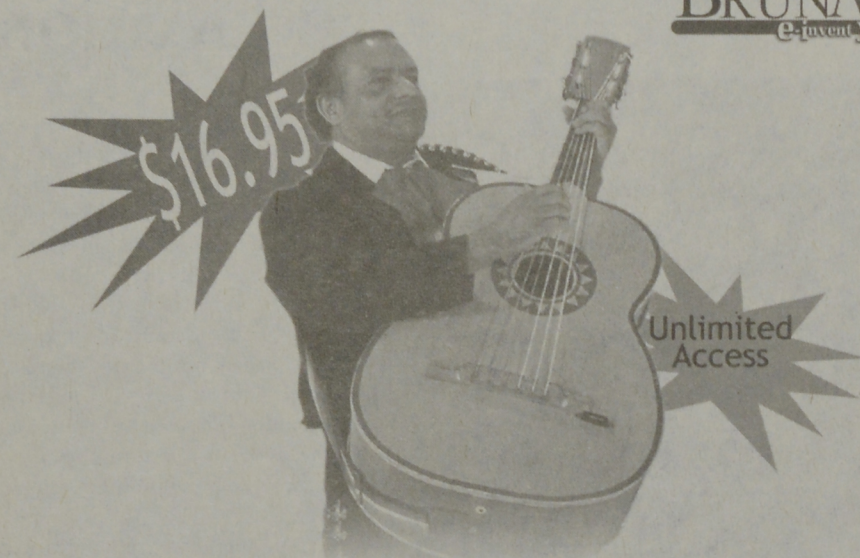
It's time for... The Brunswickan's Turkey Trivia!

John McCoomb

Did you know that...

- More than 45 million turkeys are cooked and eaten during Thanksgiving.
- Although the first colonial Thanksgiving was celebrated in the year 1621, it took George Washington to declare it a national holiday in 1789. Lincoln finalized the proclamation in 1864.
- Thanksgiving was considered a holiday in Canada in 1879. It was only considered a statutory holiday in 1957.
- A spooked turkey can run at speeds up to 20 miles per hour. They can also burst into flight approaching speeds between 50-55 mph in a matter of seconds.
- According to the Guinness Book of world records, the heaviest, fully dressed turkey (cooked with stuffing) weighed in at 39.09 kg (86 lb.) December 12, 1989.
- The turkey originates from North and Central America. Evidence indicates that it has been around for over 10 million years.
- The flesh under the Turkey's "chin" is called the snood. Commercial breeders remove the snood from young turkeys before they reach adulthood.
- In 1999, an estimated 1.25 billion kilograms of turkey meat was consumed in the United States. Of that total, 243 million kilos were consumed on Thanksgiving.
- Halifax was the first Canadian community to celebrate Thanksgiving as a way to give thanks for a bountiful harvest.
- Roosevelt moved the Thanksgiving festivities from the last Thursday of November to the fourth Thursday, due to the fact it originally fell too close to Christmas.
- Sarah Josepha Hale, the editor of Godey's Lady's Book, demanded that Thanksgiving be a national holiday. Her petition lasted from 1846 until she won the support of president Lincoln on October 3rd 1863. Were it not for a women, thanksgiving as we know it, might never have existed.

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World leaders unite against terrorism

Chris Wilson-Smith

British Prime Minister Tony Blair is ready to attack. Speaking to a Labour Party conference in Brighton, England, Blair ordered Afghanistan's ruling Taliban party to "surrender the terrorists or surrender the power."

Blair stated that the world now has to choose between defeating terrorism or run the risk of being defeated by it. In the past few days, the British Prime Minister has been the most vocal of the world leaders.

United States President George W. Bush is taking the same approach. Previously, Bush had made a statement that the U.S. wants Osama bin Laden "dead or alive." Bush has repeatedly warned the Taliban government that if the whereabouts of bin Laden remain unrevealed, attacks on Afghanistan

will be imminent.

Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect of the attacks on the U.S. September 11th, has been hiding in Afghanistan for weeks. From the beginning, the millionaire has stated that his terrorist group, al-Qaeda, had no involvement in the attacks. He blames specific failures in financial and governmental U.S. operations.

General Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan's Military ruler, initially said that their country had no idea of the whereabouts of bin Laden, but that they could communicate with him when they so desired. Recently, the Pakistan government finally admitted that they knew the terrorist's exact location.

Meanwhile, the Taliban group has been preparing its citizens for war. While refugees continue to be denied

entrance at the border, the Taliban is urging people to stay and fight for Afghanistan.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien has also weighed in on the international stage. In an interview on CNN's "Larry King Live," Chretien vowed to help President Bush as much as needed. Jean Chretien's Liberal government is currently planning a cabinet-level, anti-terrorism committee to co-ordinate responses by key ministries. However, Canadian parliament has yet to pass any bills relating to military action or support.

Presently, the U.S. is making initial strategic moves in what could possibly represent the beginning of military retaliation against Afghanistan. The U.S. Kitty Hawk, an aircraft carrier, has already been sent to the region from its base in Tokyo.

Scott worried about airlines

Chris Wilson-Smith

Airlines get hurt too, says Fredericton MP Andy Scott.

In a letter to Federal Transport Minister David Collette, Scott suggested various recommendations to support the sustainability of Canadian airports.

"While we are considering how

to assist the Canadian airline industry in the aftermath of September 11th, we must recognize the less visible victims, especially the airports," said Scott.

Included in the suggestions made to Collette, is the creation of a National Airport Security System.

"...an agency, which would be

highly integrated with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, would be useful as both functions could be better provided at the airport," said the MP.

Other recommendations made in the letter include the establishment of a government monitoring system, assistance for smaller airports, and the application of landing fees for Government of Canada aircraft. Currently, Air Canada must pay higher fees to land on relatively smaller landing strips. Scott contends that to help Canadian airports to survive, these suggestions must be considered.

"Canadian people are looking to us for guidance and stability during this volatile time. I believe the federal government can play an important role in ensuring our airports are safe and will remain open for business and vacation travel," continued Scott.

In the letter, Scott points to Fredericton's Greater Fredericton airport as an example.

"...[the airports] are vital to the economies of regions all across Canada. It is my hope that our government will ensure the sustainability of the Canadian airline industry."

On October 2, Collette asked cabinet to approve a short-term bailout of about \$150 million, in order to compensate for the slowdown created by the attacks of September 11th. In the long-term, however, he would prefer Air Canada deal with the problems it faces on its own.

Writer in Residence

Dave MacCoubrey

Wednesday, September 26th in Memorial Hall, UNB was introduced to this year's writer-in-residence, John Steffler.

The writer-in-residence aids aspiring student writers with their writing skills and helps them freely express their ideas in the written form. Mr. Steffler states he "[looks] forward to meeting young writers, not only to guide them, but to share in a fellowship of the writing craft".

Born in Toronto, Mr. Steffler has traveled throughout Canada and the world. After travelling, he settled down and attended the University of Toronto, where he completed his Bachelor of Arts.

He then worked as a substitute teacher for some time, before attending the University of Guelph, where he completed his Masters of Arts. Ironically, Mr. Steffler used to brag to his friends that he would never go to school.

He procured a professorship in English at Memorial University in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland. It was

here that he began to focus on his writing.

The Afterlife of George Cartwright (his first novel, and his favorite work) won the Smithbook/Books in Canada First Novel Award, the Thomas Randall Award, and was shortlisted for the Governor General's Awards and the Commonwealth Prize for Best First Novel.

"[George Cartwright] pushed me to learn about myself," said Mr. Steffler.

John has written four books of poetry; *An Explanation of Yellow*, *The Wreckage of Play*, *That Night We Were Ravenous* and the highly acclaimed *The Grey Islands*. He also has a children's book titled *Flights of Magic*.

Mr. Steffler is currently working on a novel. He says that prose fiction is his favorite writing medium. He believes that words can be arranged to be almost musical, like a topsy-turvy line of jazz.

If you are interested, John Steffler can be reached at his office at 452-6356. For further information, contact Mark Jarmin at the UNB English Department at 458-7398.

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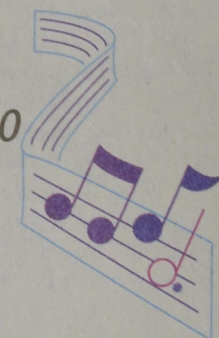
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