

Being Chris Wilson-Smith

Editor pleased with allusion to famous movie in headline

From the moment I started this assignment, I knew it wouldn't be easy.

Going undercover as Chris Wilson-Smith, The Brunswickan's esteemed News Editor, would be a daunting task. Would our mutual love of Archie comics, manatees, and manatee-related novelty items be enough for me to comprehend the inner workings of Chris' complex psyche? Would Chris' friends accept me into their exclusive clique? Would I be ridiculed for this attempt at matching Chris' wit, charm, and comic genius? Would girls like me more?

It all began on a simple November day in the Brunswickan office. The air was crisp, the leaves were falling, and something kept brushing against my leg. Looking down, I saw Chris shining my shoes. Disregarding this oddity, I kicked him aside and continued to my desk, where I found a package of gummi worms awaiting me. Someone knew my one weakness.

A card was attached, and through the series of pictures and shapes contained within, I realized Chris was too busy with his Wave article (see page 8) to go undercover. Remembering



Kayte Toner/The Brunswickan

Mad scientist/ Sean has found a way to enter the mind of Chris Wilson-Smith. Will he ever be the same?

that he and I have similar hairstyles, I decided to begin immediately. Hurrying from the Bruns office to my waiting car, visions of Scott Bakula, best known as Dr. Beckett from the blockbuster TV show "Quantum Leap," danced through my head. "To Chris Wilson-Smith's house," I demanded, settling comfortably into the heated, leather seats of my sedan.

After a brief scuffle, I was escorted from someone's car and threatened severely. Assuming my driver must be having a bad day, I decided to walk the five kilometres to Chez Chris.

Entering the house I was

immediately struck with the stunning décor. A well-framed picture of a lovely older couple adorned the mantle, pictures of small children were scattered over the many pieces of antique furniture, and the smell of freshly-baked chocolate chip cookies was drifting through the entranceway.

Ascending the stairs, I followed Chris' instructions and opened the second door on the right. After entering I closed the door behind me, careful not to make too much noise. I had heard his roommates (known to me only as "Leachman" and "Cotter" – most peculiar names)

were prone to hissy fits and temper tantrums.

I was engulfed in darkness and attempted to feel my way around. "Geez," I thought to myself. "Chris sure does have a small room." I could feel towels, bedsheets, face-cloths, and other such items – but no bed.

Hearing shouts of "Morty, I think there's someone in the house," I figured it was time to leave. After all, there was no bed.

Disappointed, dejected, and feeling like a kitten without litter, I exited the house and continued down the street.

I hadn't walked ten feet when I heard someone yell, "Hey! Aren't you the News Editor for The Brunswickan?" Turning, I noticed a gorgeous young woman gazing in my direction. Realizing this assignment might have its perks after all, I opened my mouth to confirm her suspicions.

"No," answered a middle-aged man across the street, before I had time to respond. Nuts.

Clearly, the only solution was to grow massive sideburns (you know, to look more like Chris). After being told that, no, I couldn't grow sideburns in a couple hours and no, the hairdresser wouldn't go out with me, I figured beer was the answer. After all, Chris likes beer. That's where he's a Viking.

A couple hours later, a friendly policewoman (who, incidentally, also wouldn't go out with me) explained that public drunkenness was illegal and I would have to stay in my cell until my parents came to pick me up.

Reflecting on my situation, I realized three things. One, not even Batman could be as suave, cunning, and ingenious as Chris. Two, I really like girls in uniforms. And finally, I really should grow some sideburns.

NANB presents report to federal senate committee

Association voices opposition to health care privatization

By Kevin Plummer

The Nurses Association of New Brunswick reported to the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology on November 8th that the most effective way of sustaining the Canadian health care system is through primary health care.

In a brief presented to the Standing Senate Committee, the NANB said that primary health care initiatives are "the most appropriate and affordable approach to the delivery" of health care. The system must be reformed, according to NANB executive director, Roxanne Tarjan.

"The system remains illness-focused and reactive rather than health-focused and proactive."

The NANB brief argued that, although the Canada Health Act only requires that the public system cover medically necessary services for the patient, new programs, such as promotion of injury and illness prevention and curative care, should all be instituted. These proactive

programs would help make communities healthier.

In their report, the NANB also voiced their opposition to the privatization of the health care system. Their stance echoes that of other nursing associations across Canada. Citing that 'for-profit system' actually costs more, the nurses called for the federal government to provide predictable financial support to ensure equal services for all.

The report also warned that a shortage in the nursing profession would be inevitable unless the federal government begins national recruiting strategies. A shortage of dedicated nursing professionals would greatly hinder the ability of the system to provide adequate care to patients.

The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology was established in March with the mandate of examining the state of the health care system. The Committee has held public hearings throughout the fall to gather opinion from organizations of health care professionals. The general public's input on the debate is also being sought. In early 2002 the Committee will release a final report with their recommendations.

Tuition hike forum

Bruns staff

Do tuition hikes do more damage than good?

Students and the general public alike will have a chance to voice their opinions on this question at a forum on Wednesday, November 21st.

"We are doing this to get a dialogue going among students and the general public. We hope

that at the very least, it will get students thinking," said Student Union vice-president Kate Whitfield.

The forum, which will take place in the Tilley Auditorium at 12:30 pm, will feature presentations on both sides of the issue.

The Student Union has invited anyone interested in the issue of tuition hikes to participate in the debate.

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Mercury research begins at UNB

By Daniel Hill

A national initiative to study the growing presence of mercury in the environment has begun a study at UNB.

Heading one research group is Dr. Paul Arp, coordinator of the Nexford-Bowater Forest Watershed and Conservation Research Centre here at the university.

A second COMERN study, headed by Tom Al of geology and Kerry McQuarrie of civil engineering, aims to investigate the mobility and transformation of mercury in groundwater and surface water systems. The area for this research is located at the Murray Brook sulphide deposit in northern New Brunswick.

While low mercury levels occur naturally in the environment, increased industrialization and waste disposal inflate these levels, and endanger



Photo courtesy of Dr. Paul Arp

Dr. Arp is heading the mercury research group

wildlife and increase health risks to local inhabitants.

"Mercury and methyl-mercury in particular are neurotoxins," Dr. Arp explained. "Early stages of mercury poisoning affect muscle coordination, night vision and mental acuity." High levels of exposure could lead to nervous system disorders or and inhaled vapour can damage respiratory systems.

Due to the location and climate, the Fundy watershed provides an excellent research area. "Located downwind of several continental airflows from the eastern United States,

the Bay of Fundy is a choice location to study airborne pollution," Arp stated.

Increased mercury levels have been recorded in local wildlife, and regular consumption of these animals leads to the accumulation of mercury in the body. Sport hunters and fishermen as well as First Nations people in the area are at the highest risk of poisoning.

Through this research, mercury will be traced from atmospheric deposition in the environment through the local food chain and ultimately to the people who hunt and fish in the area.

The Capital

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