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This issue is dedicated to:
All victims of the terrorist attacks in the United States on Tuesday; may your strength prevail

The Brunswickan, in its 135th year of publication, is Canada's Oldest Official Student Publication.

We publish weekly during the academic year with a circulation of 11,000. We are the largest circulation student newspaper in Atlantic Canada and the largest circulation community newspaper in New Brunswick.

All members of the University Community are encouraged to contribute, however, only students are eligible to become staff members and hold editorial positions.

While we endeavour to provide an open forum for a variety of viewpoints and ideas, we may refuse any submission considered racist, sexist, libellous or those containing attacks of a strictly personal nature. The Brunswickan reserves the right to edit for brevity and even levity. Letters to The Editor generally shouldn't exceed 300 words in length, though exceptions may be made. All submissions must contain your name, student number and a phone number where you can be reached or the submissions will not be printed.

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Stranded in right field?

This time last year, just a few hours drive away, Ralph Nader, head of the Green Party, was causing sweat to form through the shirts of George W. Bush and Al Gore. The American Left has become an influential voice in the American political field. Even though the Green Party walked away with less than five percent of the vote, it's tough to argue that what they did accumulate did not have an important affect on the outcome of the 2000 American federal election. In fact, many people have decided to place full blame for the Bush victory on Nader's shoulders. The Green Party has become home for many American leftists. Nader has become the choice for many gay rights groups, anti-globalization protesters and environmentalists. Yes, the American left is singing loud, and singing proud.

Meanwhile, here in Canada during election time, barely a whisper was heard. The Canadian left is suffering from a lack of representation in parliament. My ballot from southern Ontario listed five options: Liberal, Alliance, NDP, PC, and an Independent Right-Leaning fellow named Knight. I picked my poison and

checked off NDP, the best of the worst I figured. I went home to watch my NDP take a crippling 8.5 percent of the vote in a landslide victory for the Liberals. The NDP gathered a total of 13 seats, only one being in Ontario. So who did my counterparts from the Quebec City protests vote for? What box did the environmentalists check off? As expected, many young people did not vote this past year. In fact, only 64% of the registered population cast a ballot. And a popular reason why seems to be lack of choice. The NDP, although a little left of the center, is not a leftist party, at least not in the way that the Green Party of the United States is. But is all that about to change?

The NDP is holding a nation convention in Winnipeg this November, and many people are excited. This meeting will celebrate 40 year of existence for the NDP, and what may be a more important milestone as well, a possible change of direction. The NDP appointed a committee to look at the possibility of becoming a little edgier, and going for the left vote. On Monday the 10th they came back saying, "The NDP needs to

return to its roots to transform itself into a radical alternative to its political rivals." They went so far as to outline a few new guidelines that will play a major role in policy and decision making:

1. Protection for the environment in all policy decision making.
2. Encouraging stronger democratic principles including, for example, more NDP consultations with grassroots members and activists, and pushing for a system of proportional representation in Canada.
3. Promoting equity with strong policies on multiculturalism and tackling social and economic problems plaguing a rapidly growing aboriginal population.

The question of whether or not the left-leaning population will embrace this new NDP, if formed, is still unanswered, and is one for which experts will be hard-pressed to predict an outcome. Winnipeg NDP MP Pat Martin has expressed concern for this. "There's a feeling that the anti-globalization community haven't expressed any desire to have a political arm," Martin told the press but at the same time said, "How can you get any smaller than eight percent?" The only

Ontario MP for the party, Joe Camartin, of Windsor said, "It is a fairly dramatically different statement we're trying to make...it is definitely more radical. What we're saying is the message has to be harder and clearer."

Is the NDP simply seeing the left as a group eager to support any left leaning party? It's clear the entire left community will not run to the polls come next election to vote NDP. They won't get all the socialist or communist community on their side either. There are a lot of people out there that don't see any hope in our major parties and want an entire restructuring of the electoral system, or even to see its abolishment. The political left is divided in many ways. The NDP has to realize that it won't flock to the hope they want to offer. However, as much frustration as I and many others have in our government, I think that an NDP that is at least willing to listen to us, stand on our side of the fence at free trade protests, and give homosexuals the right to marry, is a push in the right direction.

• Ben Conoley

The "Day of Infamy"

Wednesday, September 11, 2001 is a day that will live on in our lives and in our memories as a day that changed the world. World War I, World War II and the Korean War were dramatic times for our beloved parents, grandparents and beyond, and what happened in this week in the United States of America defines our own "Day of Infamy".

Stunned silence, raw anger and sadness have greeted each of us in Western civilization and shattered our ignorance of the plight of people around the world. What happened could have happened in any civilized country with an enemy determined enough to make it happen. The fact that this act was perpetrated against the American people in no way should diminish the evil that was done. The attack was an attack on us. It was an attack on our way of life. It was an attack on our ideals, on our freedom and on our spirit. It was an act of War on the United States of America, on Canada, on Great Britain and on all other great democracies all over the world where freedom is prevalent.

For all of us, the world that once was will never be again. It has become the price of our freedom that our democratic system geared toward enforcing those rights can, at the same time, expose us to this style of attack. For all of the sorrow and pain that has been caused we will live on, our rights and freedoms will never yield to the threats posed to us by those who have no respect for precious human life. Sure, we will have to be cautious in what we do and turn a critical eye towards our society in a supreme effort to make sure that an act like this never happens again. But also we must turn our eyes outward, not in a suspicious or paranoid way, we must make sure that we can identify where the threats can come from – and we must be prepared for this new style of warfare where the majority of the casualties are victims rather than willing participants.

We can, and we will, rebuild our societies to adapt to the world as it has been revealed to us:

- 1) No cost should be spared to rebuild the World Trade Center Twin Towers, surrounded by small parks containing monoliths to the remembrance of those who have perished, those who have sacrificed. It was a symbol and it should return as a symbol.
- 2) Never again should Canada be considered a low risk country to groups wishing to attack our civilization, our friends and our fellow citizens.
- 3) No expense and no effort should be spared in any and all efforts to track down those individuals responsible, those groups responsible and have them bear witness that we will never tolerate terrorist acts again.
- 4) Terrorism itself should be put on trial, convicted and eradicated as a crime against humanity.

Our thoughts go out to those families who have borne the brunt of this attack. We feel for you. We are there for you. You are in our thoughts.

• David Penney

A tribute to Trudeau

Has it been one year already since Pierre Elliott Trudeau died? My God, how does time fly?

I remember the exact spot where I was located once I found out the sad news. I was picketing in front of the Irving Golden Ball. I remember Arthur Irving and his son Kenneth were getting out of their fancy truck and I shouted, "Hey Guys? It would be a great gesture for Pierre Trudeau if you lowered the big Canadian flag that flies on top of the Golden Ball!"

They sort of gave me a OK sign and proceeded through the doors of the Billionaire headquarters. Around 30 minutes later, I noticed two employees on top of the building lowering the flag at half mast in respect of Pierre Trudeau. I felt a good feeling inside of me once this good gesture was done! It showed me that Trudeau reached different levels of lives during his stand in Canadian Politics. He affected many of us with his straight forward approach!

I remember that during the frigate program, I told the guys that I was going to write a letter to the editor on a certain issue. The co-workers told me that I wouldn't dare.

I always asked them if they knew what Trudeau said years ago? I answered "Just watch me!" I used that line on many occasions.

That single line is along the same line as General MacArthur's, "I shall return!", Winston Churchill's "We shall never surrender!", or Ronald Reagan's "Mr. Gorbachev bring down those walls! Trudeau was the master of all speakers and Canadians loved him for it!" We remembered his famous dance step (Performing the pirouette).

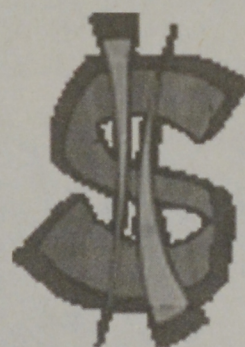
The anger of western Canadians towards this man (the famous middle finger, the appointment of Jeanne Sauvé, Canada's first woman Governor General 1984, he was a supporter of women rights, his retirement, which was decided during a walk in the snow during the evening. His return by promising not to raise the price of gas (which he later almost doubled), his famous line, "the state has no business in the bedrooms of the nation, his quest to reach world peace - Ronald Reagan told him, "Damn it Pierre! I'm trying the best that I can!" The Official Languages Act. Wage and Price Controls in 1975, his marriage to a young farmer daughter. Later on divorce, the war measure act, "Just watch me!", his love for his three sons, his pride for Canada - English and French - Our new constitution (except Quebec), his famous battle with another fighter Rene Levesque, let's not forget his return to speak out against the Meech Lake Accord. Mulroney hated him for this).

Yes, there's all kinds of issues that Trudeau said or acted on affected us in our minds and hearts.

I truly believe that Canadians have the right to pause for a minute to reflect on this unique individual on September 28th because we'll never witness a Prime Minister of that calibre for a long time to come!

He sure made politics interesting for many Canadians. May god bless his soul!

• Charles LeBlanc
Saint John
New Brunswick
Canada



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