

THE BRUNSWICKAN OPINION & EDITORIAL

Editorial

Assaults unacceptable

by Cindy Brown

It appalls me to learn the female population on the UNB and STU campuses is unsafe. I found out Tuesday night that numerous attacks on women in the vicinity of our campus have occurred between November 2nd and January 15th. Some happened right behind the Aitken Centre. This is an unacceptable situation.

The women who were attacked all described the same white male, approximately six feet tall.

The worst part of the whole matter is that, supposedly, no one knew - no one was notified. Instead of choosing to help prevent future attacks by this same male, those who knew about the attacks kept their mouths shut. So, when I walk home, or my best friend walks home, or even just a classmate of mine walks home, she may be assaulted too, or possibly worse.

I am not pointing an accusing finger

at the victims. By no means should a victim be the one to spread the word about her attacker. That responsibility lies with the campus police, the university, and the city police.

The attacks on the victims I am talking about were relatively minor - there is no conclusive evidence anyone was raped, and few sustained minor injuries from their attacks.

Minor injuries. When is an injury substantial enough to spread the word? When is the injury substantial enough to try to prevent another attack? If the word had been out after the first or second attack, we could have saved some girls some grief.

Despite how minor these attacks may be deemed, the victim does not know until she is safe at home, what will come next. The emotional stress of just that should be enough to take some preventative measures against recurring sexual assault.

Although the University sponsors such programs as Safe Ride and Safe

Walk, they are at fault in other areas. Students who attend classes all day and must leave their cars parked by the Aitken Centre must sometimes walk back to their cars in the dark. They are at risk. Yes, they could have Safe Ride or Safe Walk escort them to their cars, but that idea would seem a little absurd when there is little or no threat. Many students, however, were unaware there was a threat to their safety.

I am, therefore, appalled the university community was not made aware of these attacks sooner. I would also suggest we all keep our eyes open when we drive or walk home or around town. If you see anyone suspicious, or perhaps someone being attacked or assaulted, stop and find out what's going on. If you are female, never walk alone - always walk in groups, with people you know and trust. Use campus facilities such as Safe Ride and Safe Walk.

We can stop the violence by making students aware violence will not be tolerated.

University formula

*Student=client=business
=money=profit
motive=silence*

by K Brookland

University. The term in my *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary* defines university as "an institution of higher learning providing facilities for teaching and research...."

Universities also commonly provide what I consider the basics, including student security on campus - in particular, in campus buildings - notably residences.

Part and parcel of security is information; i.e. universities should inform students when their security has been compromised - both on and off campus.

No representative of the administration of the University of New Brunswick informed *The Brunswickan* there had been six incidents of sexual assaults, indecent acts, and robberies; one on our campus, one on the Saint Thomas campus, with the others near our campus over the past three months. Five of the six incidents involved students. If they were aware these attacks were taking place - why would they not inform the university community?

This Tuesday, a City of Fredericton Police Department representative notified *The Brunswickan* of a press conference they were organizing for the following day - an information session to deal specifically with the issue of these attacks.

If the media is not informed - particularly in this case, the university's student newspaper - how can *The Brunswickan* inform its student readers there is a problem on and around our

campus? How can we suggest students take extra precautions? Perhaps if *The Brunswickan* and its readership had been informed earlier, the attacker/s may have been less likely to come on or near our campuses.

In brief, the university administration should worry less about its image and potential loss of income and more about its students.

Perhaps parents may be disinclined to send their daughters here if "word gets out" about these attacks - the university would undoubtedly be concerned about the financial ramifications if this came to pass. Despite the potential loss of income, however, I feel this is one of those situations where monetary concerns must be superseded by the well-being and safety of the students already attending this university.

Silence, in the end, may exact far too high a price.

Paideia

Choosing the new UNB president

by Shea Tompkins

As I'm sure many of you have noticed, there's somewhat of a problem with most political rhetoric. Namely, the fact that it doesn't mean anything. We live in a time and place with essentially no political accountability - to the extent that outright lying is actually a political expectation. Further, this public skepticism, and rightly so, is more often than not, carried over into any form of campaigning. Which leads me to the point of this week's column.

As UNB students, we have until January 30th (this coming Wednesday) to offer feedback concerning the selection of a new university president. The problem, however, is that, after hearing the two remaining candidates speak, and reading their press releases, there is not a great deal that separates them at face value. Furthermore, and because of the skepticism mentioned above, I don't think we could trust them anyway. Not because I think the candidates are dishonest, but because our experience of such political jockeying has been so riddled with dishonesty. To throw aside this skepticism would be naïve

of us, no matter who the candidates were.

So while I would encourage students to have their say, the decision on who to endorse is less than obvious. As well, we technically have to ignoring the fact that, just like the world of politics, we had absolutely nothing to do with candidate selection, which reduces the entire process to a meaningless and arbitrary decision that has more to do with choosing the lesser of two evils than real democratic choice. None the less, and despite the superficial nature of the say we do have, I would still encourage students to take the opportunity to make their opinion known. Not because of some nostalgic desire to participate in 'democratic' processes at any cost (no matter how little they have to do with us), or the unsubstantiated claim that if you don't vote, you don't deserve a say.

Instead, I encourage participation because an intense reaction to this appointment on the part of the students gives warning to the new president that the issues that surround campus and student life do not miss our attention. It would be a positive demonstration to let the new president be aware that the campus will not be as complacent as it has been in

the past with regards to pressing campus issues. With this rational in place, however, is it even possible to make an informed decision that goes beyond the rhetoric?

As stated above, at face value the choice is difficult and full of skepticism - talk becomes cheap in the world of political campaigning. Actions, on the other hand, I think speak volumes. By this, I am referring to the past experiences of the candidates (academic, professional, volunteer and recreational). Based on my own experience, I've never seen a better guide to future action than past action.

Now, while I realize the pitfalls of such a stance, namely the fact that we run the risk of prejudging an individual based on the paper they bring with them. Given the reasons stated above, however, it unfortunately may be the most 'trustworthy' variable to refer to, given the situation. When taking this stance, the candidates begin to look less similar.

The resume and experiences of David Marshall, the current president of Nipissing University, looks tailor-made for a university president. For starters, his formal studies and much of his publications concern education and educational administration related areas (MED in Secondary Education and a doctorate in Educational Administration). Given the fact that UNB is supposed to be an educational institution, then, and the position concerns the administration of this institute, such a background would seem to be an asset. Further, Marshall's experience is far more diverse, with degrees that cross disciplines, community service and awards that suggests a well-rounded individual. Not to mention the fact that he has also already proven his track record as a university president since his appointment to the Nipissing University position in 1990.

John McLaughlin, on the other hand, our current vice-president (academic), especially when compared to Mr. Marshall, has virtually no experience outside of his professional field of engineering. Keep in mind of course that it is not the field of engineering that is the problem, but the lack of diverse experiences. It would not matter if his background were English, forestry, history or computer science. Marshall as well began in what could be called the physical sciences (BSc, chemistry) - the point is that he did not stop there.

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Being Single, Again

by Troy Neilson

Relationships can be so complicated. I just recently ended a one-year relationship with my girlfriend and in the process I am also losing my best friend. Now I face the somewhat difficult task of being a member of the singles' pool again.

Simply put, I feel that I am a kind, friendly, hard-working and intelligent person, but who is a bit shy around new people. Now I know that there have to be single people, of the opposite sex, who also share these characteristics, but how do I meet them?

Don't get me wrong; I'm not really looking for a girlfriend, because I've found that the best opportunities usually come when you're not looking. Nonetheless, opportunities only present themselves when you're meeting new people. Lately, I've been hanging out with some great friends who are helping me have fun, which is very important in life. However, this situation rarely presents new faces. So where can I turn?

The first option that pops into mind are the university's clubs and recreation programs. Being a hip hop enthusiast, I recently went to a free-trial lesson for

the urban/break dance class (offered on Friday at 6:00 pm). It was a good time, and a perfect opportunity to meet others interested in hip hop. However, I only have three months until I graduate, so this option remains short term.

Next, comes the stereotypical bar scene. I'm not the most assertive person, so my chances at "picking up" are quite limited. But I ask myself, do I really want a relationship with a complete stranger that I am able to "pick up" at a bar? No, I don't think so. I'd much prefer some "mind sex" to that. ("mind sex" - stimulating non-sexual conversation).

Thirdly comes the notion of online/phone dating services. But for some reason, I would feel so low resorting to something of that sort. I much prefer meeting someone "in person" rather than on the Internet or via the phone.

So, where do I turn? To be honest, I'm not really sure. So in the meantime, I'll just keep hanging out with my friends, enjoying myself and hoping that somehow, someday, opportunities will present themselves. Maybe at the young age of 22, I'm walking blindly into a life of singleness. Or maybe I'm just beginning to learn how to live my life to the fullest.

Just a thought...

by Joanne Barr

I have spent the past several days painting the hallway in our home. This has meant (because I felt it was the time for a change) using a different colour of paint. The hallway is now "done" and what a change! The entranceway now seems much more welcoming and the lights in the hallway seem to cast a warmer glow than they did before. I am really happy with the "change."

I came across an article in a magazine recently which depicted the kind of person I am. Apparently, I'm a "nester." Nesters are individuals who are happiest when they are making and adding "changes" to their surroundings. For instance, they are the people who add cushions to the living room couch, to make the space that much more inviting.

They are the neighbours who place a wicker chaise on the front porch, or set out a pot of pansies to "enhance" the front entrance. Nesters love baskets. When they don't know what to do with something, they put it in a basket. In fact, baskets abound in their places of dwelling - holding mail, towels, newspapers, magazines - even other baskets.

Nesters love to rearrange furniture.

And nesters love books. They add bookcases to many of the rooms in their homes. Their bookcases overflow with volumes of poetry, cookbooks, classics. Coffee tables hold books devoted to home decorating, antiques, travels.

Nesters can't bear to throw anything away. And nesters adorn every room with candles - candles of all kinds - ready to cast a warm glow.

In the kitchen of the "nester" a coffee pot or teapot is always at the ready. Nesters take every opportunity to invite others in to their space to relax with a cup of tea or coffee. Nesters collect things...of all kinds.

After reading the article, I glanced round the house and noted that yes, I have placed candles everywhere. There are candles in the living-room, dining-room, bedroom, bathroom, even the kitchen; cushions are nestled in the corners of sofas, atop beds, and on chairs; books line the shelves in the family room, are stacked atop the living-room coffee table, are set in baskets in corners; the coffee pot sits on a handy trolley in the kitchen; and 'collections' of different kinds are displayed throughout the place. I have concluded that I fit the bill - I am your typical "nester."

Guess who just rearranged the dining-room furniture? Didn't someone once say "a change is as good as a rest?"

Letter against Thomas insulting

Andrew Daley

I was shocked recently when I read "No sympathy for Wendy's loss" by Ben Conoley in the January 18th edition of your paper.

I am by no means the President of the Dave Thomas fan club. I felt sympathy, but no grief upon hearing of his passing. Mr. Conoley's article outraged me, however, as it was insulting not only to the memory of Dave Thomas, but also to me as a human being.

To demonize a man who sold hamburgers for a living by comparing him to, arguably, the most evil man in history is absolutely absurd! I'm sure the thousands who have benefited from the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption would agree with me!

Mr. Conoley, you say that parallels between Hitler and Dave Thomas must be drawn? I would venture to say that the parallel between you exploiting this man's death to spread your vegetarian message and the Nazi propaganda machine seems the more appropriate comparison. The poetic license you

employ throughout your article stretches the truth past the limit. Did your young calves confide their trauma to you Mr. Conoley?

To debate the ethics of vegetarianism vs. "fast foodism" is not the focus of this reply. I would like to point out that before you convert all cow pastures to wheat fields you should ask yourself, "How does the wheat feel?" I know if I were wheat I wouldn't be too thrilled about being cultivated for human consumption and then brutally harvested! Your plan to provide three loaves to every person in the world is commendable Mr. Conoley, but wait; are you suggesting we stop feeding cows? Murder all those cows by taking away their sustenance! Oh, the humanity!

The point is, Mr. Conoley, that you have the choice to be a vegetarian. You are entitled to your views. But to express those views at the expense of the dignity of a human life, at the expense of a man's long battle against cancer? Mr. Conoley, that is at the very least appallingly tactless, inhumane, and cruel. At the very most it reeks of Hitler-esque propaganda.

Editorial Policy - letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be dropped off to the offices of *The Brunswickan*, SUB, room 35, no later than 5:00 pm Tuesday to be published in that Friday's issue. Letters on disk would be appreciated, but they must be typed. Letters can be e-mailed to the Editor-in-Chief c/o bruns@unb.ca.

The Brunswickan reserves the right to edit any letters for clarity and will not publish any letters deemed to be racist, sexist, libelous, or hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words in length and will be edited down if longer. Your name, student number, and phone number must be

included with your submissions but may be withheld by request.

Interested in writing a column? Students who wish to write a regular column for *The Brunswickan* must provide a sample column to the editor for consideration. Columns can be no longer than 750 words and will be edited for length and clarity.

Have a talent for drawing? Can you see the humor in politics? (if there is any). Send us your editorial cartoons - you may just become famous.

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IVORY TOWERS

