

Andy Scott on politics, current issues

Fredericton MP sits down with Bruns reporter

by Ben Conoley

Honourable Andy Scott, Liberal MP for Fredericton, was home for the holidays and found time to talk to the Brunswickan regarding his political career and issues affecting students.

"I ran for office almost entirely for the purpose of changing the process so the people would feel they had a stake and an opportunity to feel they could decide for themselves," said Scott on why he decided to become a politician.

As one of the key figures in the Charlottetown Accord, Scott found himself trying to convince citizens to support the accord. "It was an imperfect document that represented

the best efforts of the leadership of the country. When the public feels they are not a part of the process they don't feel the need to make any compromise. So the fact that there are 300 sections and they like all the rest of them but section four, unless they are a part of the process they will not be prepared to compromise." This view on the importance of compromise, as well as global and national community, are some of Scott's more prominent ideals.

Speaking of the growing involvement of technology within politics, Scott recognized its importance but criticized its potential and current misuse.

"I worry a little bit about the digital divide. Governments see [the Internet] as a better way to get their message out, rather than to engage the public in the political process."

Scott also touched upon the latest discoveries in bio-technology. "Stem cell research is a value-driven issue.

You don't have to be an expert on the biology to understand the values behind it, so let's talk about what I need to know, that's the way the process should work."

Globalization and the war in Afghanistan are issues Scott touched upon, seeing them as major concerns for students today.

"I would suggest the people who are most frustrated by globalization are students. They have little allegiance to the process by virtue of age. They have not gone through the exercise to gain appreciation for compromise. To a certain extent, the people do not always agree with [a government's] position. I'm not sure why the rest of the country does not feel as concerned with this as I do. This is the nature of the city, the planet, there are different opinions. If you are going to try and formulate public policy including those disparate positions you automatically invite some level of compromise," said

Scott regarding the recent and continuing protesting of the Free Trade Area of the Americas meetings.

Speaking of a post-September 11th Canada, Scott generally agreed with actions taken by the Prime Minister, while admitting to imperfections to Bill C-36.

"I think that Canada, in the first couple of weeks, made themselves proud. Most of the other countries ended up coming to our position. The Prime Minister was saying things like 'be patient' and 'lets not overreact', and George Bush was talking about the OK Corral, and the public was too. Having said that, Canada exists in the same way that I would say about public policy, Canada does not exist in isolation, we exist in relationships, and when you exist in relationships you don't always get your way.

"If you compare us on these issues to other countries, the UK with a labour government, our positions on

all these issues are much more sensitive to human rights issues and civil liberties issues. People who are critical of our bill [C-36] should read the UK bill. It isn't the bill I would write, but I voted for it. I believe it's our best shot at something we can all agree on.

"For me personally, the largest and most important issue is access to higher education. The participation in Canada in post-secondary education is the highest in the world. Wealth is no longer determined by commodities and products, but ideas and innovation. If Canada is not allowing those people in the country to get a degree or go to tech school, we will deny ourselves of what they have to offer."

When asked about what he would do to assist current students, Scott said he would like to see interest-free payback, as that seems to be what makes it so difficult to get out of debt.

MMFF to host annual Gala Dinner

Pamela Wallen will be guest speaker

"You can't change minds if you don't speak up."

So says Pamela Wallen, broadcaster and journalist, who will be the guest speaker at the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation's annual Gala Dinner, January 29th, in Moncton.

The theme of the dinner is Family Violence - sharing responsibility. The funds raised from this dinner will go to the grants programs which will help fund grass roots organizations across the province - from transition houses to research - to end family violence. This work in turn will help thousands of New Brunswickers who suffer the effects of family violence, be they social, legal, psychological, physical or economic.

Family violence touches four in every 10 families, destroying more lives than heart disease, cancer, automobile

accidents and AIDS combined.

"In its 16-year history the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation has been dedicated to the elimination of family violence in New Brunswick through the funding of action-orientated research, public education and awareness initiatives," explained Aldéa Landry, Community Dinner Chair.

The MMFF, a charitable trust, was established to fund research into the causes, incidence, and forms of treatment of family violence, as well as to promote and sponsor effective public education programs to counter the widespread ignorance of this problem.

The MMFF is committed to the elimination of family violence through collaborative action-oriented research (funding and education partnership with the MMF Centre for Family Violence Research), and to promote effective public education programs to increase public

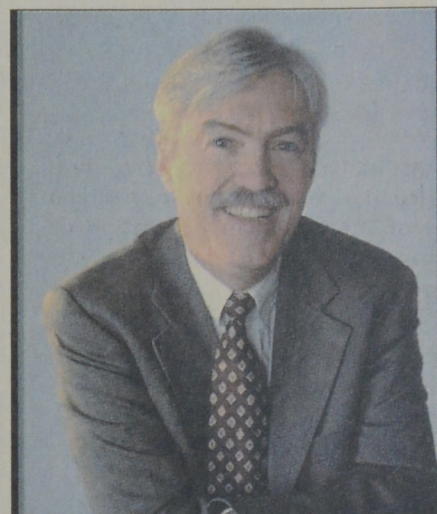
awareness about this pervasive problem.

Money received by the Foundation is obtained from individual and corporate donors, memorials, and fund-raising initiatives apart from funds specifically designated for direct support of the Centre for Family Violence Research. The Foundation raises money to support the education program of the MMF Foundation including the MMFF Award, Grants program, NEVP Month, Chapter Development, Program Implementation, and Community Partnerships across the province.

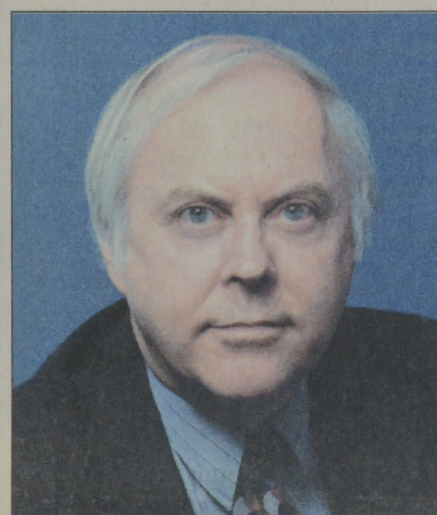
The MMFF is at the forefront in the fight for the human rights of women in New Brunswick, and events such as the gala dinner to be held later this month will help thousands of people in their quest to eliminate family violence.

Family violence permeates every society; yet fear of speaking out stymies efforts to gather information regarding

its scope. Silence changes nothing. The Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation provides the families of New Brunswick with a voice.



DR. DAVID MARSHALL



DR. JOHN MCLAUGHLIN

UNB President (continued)

an institution to a university in 1992. According to Ontario's performance indicators, Nipissing has since achieved the distinction of being the best university in the province.

Marshall's academic career has taken him all over the country and his expertise for distance education and educational technology is known worldwide. Before his tenure as president of Nipissing University, he served on the Faculty of Education at the Universities of Manitoba and Alberta.

Marshall has also served on numerous professional boards and community groups in North Bay, including the city's Economic Development Commission and the North Bay Centre for Entrepreneurship, and is currently active with the Council of Ontario Universities.

The Joint Nominating Committee invites written comments and feedback on either or both candidates. Please send your submissions in confidence to Roderick Nolan, Chair, Board of Governors and Chair of the Joint Nominating Committee, by campus or inter-campus mail; Canada Post, c/o the office of the University Secretary, UNB, Fredericton, PO Box 4400, Fredericton, E3B 5A3; or e-mail rnolan@unb.ca or the University Secretary (ssrople@unb.ca).

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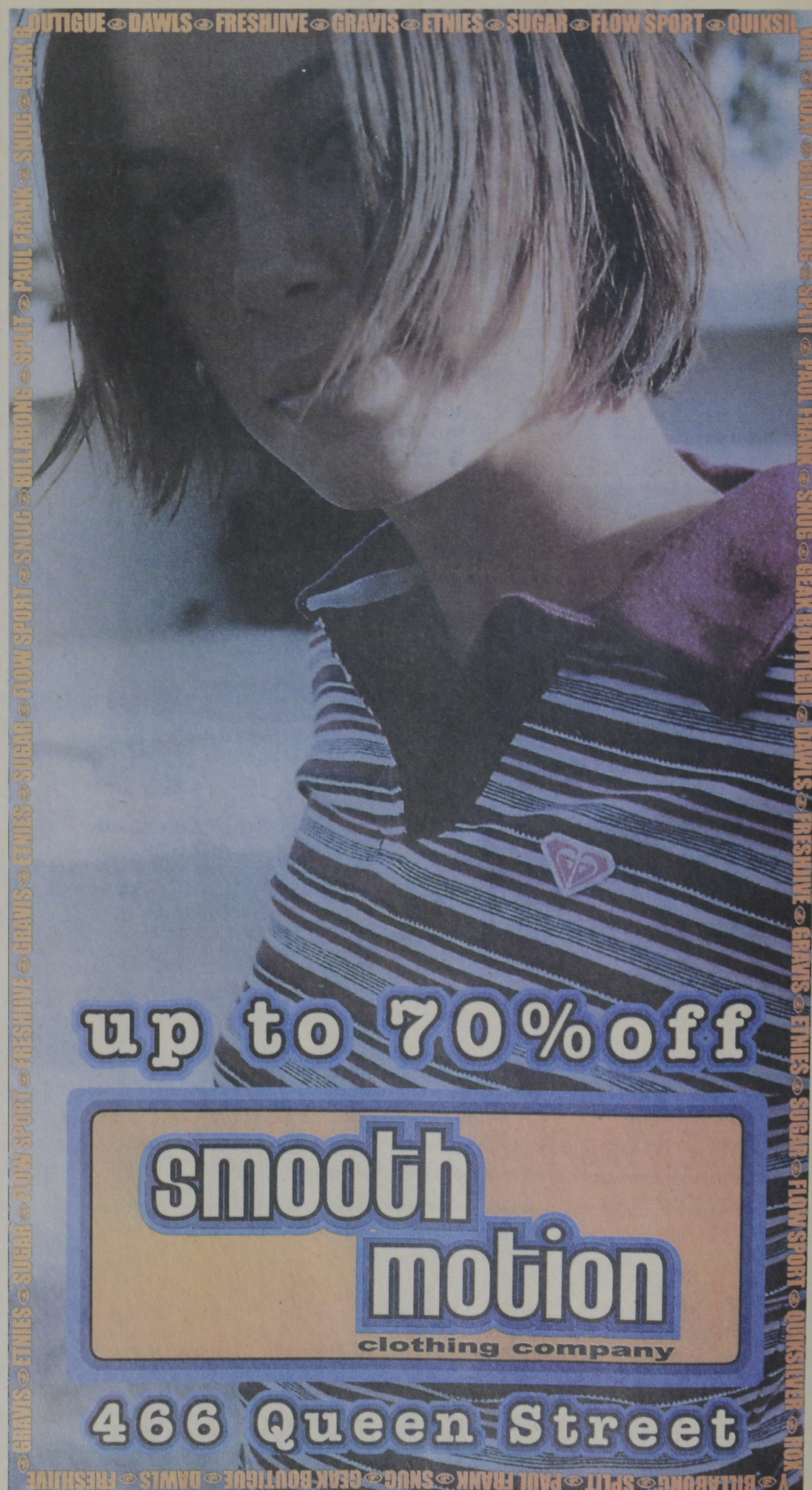
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