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This issue is dedicated to:

Everyone who supported us in the referendum. Booyah!

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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We are members of U-Wire, and a media exchange of university media throughout North America. We are subscribers to the Associated Press. We are founding members of the Canadian University Press.

The Brunswickan is owned and operated by Brunswickan Publishing Inc., a fully independent body. Since May 1999, our operations have been subsidized by the full-time undergraduates of the University of New Brunswick by a media fee of \$7 per student, providing approximately 20% of our operating budget. Advertising Sales accounts for the remaining 80% of our budget. Additional financial support comes from The Graduate Student Association, which represents graduate students at UNB.

The Brunswickan
21 Pacey Drive, Suite 35
Fredericton, NB, E3B 5A3
(506) 453-4983,
(506) 453-5073 (fax)
bruns@unb.ca
www.unb.ca/bruns

Anti-Terrorism Legislation & Social Studies Related Dialogue

Paideia: Analyzing The Inconsistencies Between The Theory & Practice Of Education

by Shea Tompkins

If the bill tabled in the House of Commons on October 15th by Justice Minister Anne McLellan is passed, it will be possible, for the first time in the history of the Canadian State, to charge someone with terrorism under the Criminal Code. Considering, then, that it is likely to be passed with ease, I think the emergence of this document offers facilitators such as ourselves the opportunity to engage students in reflective, challenging experiences with regards to a number of "important" issues that surface in social studies-related dialogue, and therefore, is worthy of discussion.

With regards to the powers proposed by the bill, the primary purpose is supposedly to facilitate the arrest of individuals suspected of terrorism. Police would not need a warrant, for example, to make an arrest if they had reason to believe they were preventing a terrorist attack. Further, the legislation will allow for the establishment of a list of terrorist organizations and individuals, as well as the collection and storage of alleged terrorist DNA. The bill would also make it easier for police to use electronic surveillance to monitor alleged terrorist communications such as phone lines and e-mail transmissions. In addition to the Criminal Code the bill would also enhance and deepen the capabilities of a number of other acts such as the Income Tax Act and The Official Secrets Act to name a few.

With regard to these aspects of the legislation, there emerges a current and meaningful space with which students can explore any number of topics from any number of directions with regards to the nation as an institutional body. The release of this legislation offers a "real world" starting point for the discussion anything from the passing of a bill or the purpose and function of governmental branches, to a critical perspective of those institutions by focusing on their validity and the interests they represent. There is also a great deal to be generated with regards to the encroachment of the state on the lives of individuals and so-called "civil liberties." Is there a trade-off, for example, between protection and freedom? If so, what kind of encroachment is justified? Does the state have the right to undertake such activities

without consent, and for that matter, what is consent? Can the authorities in question be trusted based on past abuses?

Any number of questions and issues pour out from these legislative changes, and the fact that it is unfolding in front of us offers important benefits. Because of the incredible media hype, a discussion based on recent events and reactions may make it easier to capture the students' attention, enabling the facilitator to widen the discussion to more general trends or "big questions," while at the same time enabling the students to understand the grounds or purpose of the given dialogue in the affairs of the "real world" – a predetermined context if you will.

This historical unfolding is also very beneficial because it is far easier to become acquainted with the facts, issues and dialogue that surround current events when compared with unfamiliar past events. We have the benefit of consulting ongoing and various forms of media and discussion that do not have to be actively "researched" in the same way. For these reasons, we should really take this opportunity, not only to become acquainted with the issues that surround the last four weeks and the reaction to those events, but how it fits into the greater trends and momentum of "history."

Perhaps the most interesting detail to be worked out will be the wording of the term "terrorism," and what constitutes terrorist acts. This is the most important aspect of the debate because the definition is the basis for which the bill will be interpreted and applied. Further, the definition rendered and the manner in which it shall be interpreted will play a large role in the clarification between "acceptable" and "criminal" political dissent.

The official definition is said to include any of the 10 offences of the United Nations anti-terrorism conventions and protocols, or, "any action taken or threatened for political, religious or ideological purposes and threatens the public or national security by killing, seriously harming or endangering a person, causing substantial property damage that is likely to seriously harm people, or by interfering with or disrupting an essential service, facility or system."

At this point, the saying "one person's terrorist is another person's freedom fighter" comes to mind. The most notable example of this I think would be Nelson Mandela who, if he was under the jurisdiction of this bill, would have been charged as a terrorist. In light of this, it seems as though, when we look at events historically, the

defining features between the freedom fighters and the terrorists are not static. The freedom fighters are the individuals who, more often than not, carry the same message we want to hear.

Now remember, I am in no way dismissing, offering excuses for, or justifying the events that brought about the anti-terrorism legislation. Rather, I'm trying to show that it would be a very positive experience to think about how the events of the past month will be seen when they become "history," and that depends on how they will be seen by the individuals who will be telling it. There is an opportunity to discuss 'multi-perspective' notions concerning the nature of history, authority, and the difficulty of justification in a postmodern world.

Possibly most important, however, is the legislation's ability to act as a tool for analyzing our 'behavior' as a nation state in a way that holds us accountable to our own principles. Because the bill will necessarily, directly or indirectly, be a statement about how states or communities should act in the world, especially with regards to the use of force to push agendas, we can use it to analyze our own legitimacy and the manner in which we interfere with cultures all over the world. It is a chance to use the Canadian fairy tale against itself.

For example, if we are to accept the above definition, the entire founding of this country is illegitimate, illegal, and based on acts of violent terrorism. We used fear, violence and horrible acts of terror during the colonization of this land. What, then, does it mean now that we have legislation that actually defines this "founding" as illegal, as an act of terrorism? As gross and embarrassing as it is, the Canadian State has also given support through loans or arms sales to governments and organizations all over the world that fit the definition of terrorism in order to push our own interests and agendas – often at the expense of innocent life. This amounts to the aiding and harboring of terrorists, period. In fact, based on our own definition, most western states have been participating in ongoing and sustained terrorist actions since their creation.

It therefore becomes important to understand that legislation such as this often seems, at first glance, to be positive. However, the supposed good intentions often reveal unfounded assumptions and/or inconsistencies in behavior. We as educators have the great job of routing around and discussing such issues for the improved understanding and reaction of students.

Monarchy over A Son of Liberty

Neill McKay

I'd like to take a moment to refute the arguments made by "A Son of Liberty" in his column "Why the monarchy must go" in your October 5th edition. I don't usually bother with opinions expressed by people who are too weak in their convictions to stand behind them and publish their names, but I think this issue is important enough to rate a few minutes of my time, and perhaps yours as well.

The first group of arguments is that the monarchy is "ridiculous" because the Queen lives some distance away, she came to the throne only by virtue of her father having been there before her, and acts of Parliament do not take effect until they've been given Royal Assent.

Distance is a very weak argument in an age when communications and transportation have made the world rather small; however, I would point out that London is closer to New Brunswick than the west coast of Canada is. Would the writer bar his proposed new head of state from living in Victoria on that premise? At any rate, the Queen's authority is exercised by the Governor General, who is, happily for the writer I'm sure, a resident of central Canada.

The hereditary nature of the monarchy means that the Queen does not come to power by kissing babies, promising patronage, currying favour with anyone, or making promises that she cannot or will not keep. Nor does she have to concern herself constantly with getting re-elected. She remains above the divisions of politics and provides a unifying force, something which I'm sure we can all agree is needed in Canada. Her motives are never in question; I invite you to find that property in an elected politician. (When you have elected presidents, you get people like Bill Clinton and Richard Nixon running your country.)

Royal assent is simply a means to guard against abuse of power by the government. The Crown will not withhold assent when the bill in question has been passed in accordance with the established procedures of our parliamentary system. I don't think this has happened in the writer's lifetime.

The writer's second point concerns the cost of the monarchy. This was studied by the Monarchist League of Canada, and assessed at about 74 cents per citizen per year, inclusive of salaries, residences, royal visits, and all other expenses. I can hardly call this expensive, and I invite the writer to explain why he thinks it is. I would note, in passing, that the Governor General makes considerably less than the Prime

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The services for the this weekend are as follows:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19 at 12:30 P.M. Service of the Word with The Rev. Joanne Barr in Edwin Jacob Chapel

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21 at 7:00 P.M. Youth Service at Christ Church Cathedral with Captain Bonnie Hunt and the Cathedral Band

Please contact me in person, by phone, or by e-mail if I can be of service to you. Wishing you every blessing

In Christ's Love, By God's Grace,
Wilfred+

THE REV. WILFRED LANGMAID
ANGLICAN CHAPLAIN, UNB AND STU,
ALUMNI MEMORIAL BUILDING, ROOM 10, UNB
506-453-5089
langmaid@unb.ca

