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This issue is dedicated to:

CHSR - for being such good sports
- we won, you lost! ha! ha! ha!

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.

The opinions and views expressed in this newspaper are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Brunswickan, its Editorial Board, or its Board of Directors.

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A lesson on the structure of our government

A response to "A Son of Liberty"

by Neill McKay

"A Son of Liberty" continues to show a certain amount of ignorance of our system of government, so I welcome the opportunity to have another go at straightening him out.

First, I would point out that the Constitution Act, 1867, is the correct name of the law the writer calls the British North America Act, 1867, having been re-named when the constitution was patriated in 1982. (I have serious reservations about my opponent's understanding of our constitution if he can't get the name right.)

He asks who chooses the Queen under this act and goes on to suggest that the House of Commons has no say about it. However, the Constitution Act, now an act of the Canadian parliament, can be amended any time the federal government chooses to do so, with the consent of the provincial governments. Consequently, the Parliament of Canada and the legislative assemblies of the provinces choose who, if anyone, will be our monarch. A change can be accomplished by revision of the Constitution Act (and certain other acts, all of them within the power of the federal government to amend). By not making such an amendment, the duly-elected and representative federal and provincial governments choose to have Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as the Queen of Canada. Our colonial days are long gone.

On the matter of cost, it is simple-minded

to say that "a presidential republic would be exactly half as expensive" as our current system of government. In our government, the ceremonial functions of the government are separated from the day-to-day running of the government. I remind the writer that both are currently full-time jobs. If the Queen (and by extension, the Governor General and the ten Lieutenant Governors) were removed, someone would have to be found to replace them. Simply adding their workload to the Prime Minister and the Premiers would not work. Perhaps that's why the United States has a person whose only function is to be the Vice-President. (Our own Deputy PM and Deputy Premiers have a variety of other responsibilities and are not full-time positions.) One presumes the Vice-President draws an ample salary and employs an adequate staff.

As to the matter of Royal Assent, the writer has missed the point. In simple terms, our government is based on trust, while the US government (which he seems to want us to emulate) is based on distrust. We trust the Queen not to abuse her authority and she never has. The US government seems to have been designed on the assumption that everyone is corrupt, and takes a great number of measures to control their corruption. In the cases of the two presidents I mentioned previously, that system has been found to be necessary. In the case of our Queen, no such system has been required.

I don't know about anyone else, but I prefer a system based on a trust that has never been abused to one that is based on distrust that is often seen to be deserved.

Finally, the writer attacks the notion that a monarch represents all of her subjects. The

simple reality is that an elected president really only represents the people who voted for him or her (currently about half of the people south of the border). While he may not agree with the Queen's role, she nonetheless provides the same protection to him as she does to every other Canadian. When the Governor General sits in the Senate chamber and gives a new piece of legislation the nod, she is doing so for all Canadians, regardless of their political or other views. The President, when he signs a bill (or vetoes it, as he occasionally does), has the political implications of it in mind. If he is in his first term, he also has re-election in mind. Neither of these distractions is consistent with the exercise of good judgement. If the writer disagrees with me on this point, I invite

him to consider whether or not he thinks electing judges (another US practice) is a good idea.

On the balance of merits, constitutional monarchy is an effective system of government, employed by most of the world's more desirable countries to live in. The United Nations Human Development Report 2000 (the yearly document that regularly proclaims that Canada is the best country in the world to live in) featured constitutional monarchies in eight of the top ten positions: Canada, Norway, Australia, Sweden, Belgium, the Netherlands, Japan, and the United Kingdom. (The other two were the US at #3 and Iceland at #5.) I believe that speaks volumes for the benefits of Canada's system of government.



by Kate Whitfield,
VP Executive,
UNB Student Union

I want to start by saying that the women who showed up Monday night for the first set of auditions for *the Vagina Monologues* here at UNB and STU were amazing!

Thirty-three women, of all ages, showed up to read a section from the play. My friend, who sat beside me, had never acted before but she wanted to see if she could get up on stage and simply try. Don't forget, this required saying "the word," out loud and in public. This is going to be such a wonderful production in February - watch out Fredericton!

I feel for Alison Mesheau, the director, who has to cast this play. Everyone who got on stage last night offered something unique and amazing. I commend the high-school students who appeared before us and the many women from the Fredericton community. I can't wait for the second set of auditions Tuesday night to see who walks through that door.

The production of *the Vagina Monologues* will take place February 14th - 16th at the Ted Daigle auditorium on the STU campus. The play is part of the V-Day campaign to stop violence against women.

Both the STU Students' Union and the UNB Student Union are covering the production costs. All funds raised will go towards local charities which work to end violence against women, such as the Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, Fredericton Transition House, Gignoo

Transition House, and Liberty Lane.

When the people in the university community and the Fredericton community heard about the possibility of *the Vagina Monologues* coming to UNB/STU, it was wonderful to watch groups literally jump up and get involved. One such event is the UNB Art Centre exhibit - "Mother of Invention: Sex Toys for the New Millennium," to be held in Memorial Hall January 18th - February 24th.

It is believed by the people at the UNB Art Centre that knowledge is power against violation. They want to promote knowledge of body/self as a means to sexual awareness and empowerment for both women and men.

Artists and craftspeople of all media are invited to participate in this group exhibition. The UNB Art Centre is asking for confirmation of participation before December 14th, and the pieces delivered by January 7th. For more information contact the UNB Art Centre at 453-4623 or e-mail Marie Maltais at mem@unb.ca or WhiteFeather at snazzy@unb.ca.

I am grateful to the people who are welcoming the V-Day campaign with open arms and to the others with open minds - that is all I ask. When I've talked to the media to promote this event in Fredericton, they always want to know why I say everyone is so excited. I haven't figured that out yet - I guess it is a little to do with the element of controversy, a little to do with something new happening in Fredericton, and a lot to do with making a stand to end violence against women - and celebrating them a little along the way.

Yet another view on monarchy

by Kristian Llewellyn

Neill McKay and Bryan Cheron have both voiced their opinions in favour of keeping the existing system, however, I feel the need to vocalize my very strong opinion in favour of A Son of Liberty's point of view. I agree the monarchy in Canada is expensive and wrong, however, I'd like to approach my reasoning from a slightly different point of view.

While there are many issues to consider whether the monarchy should stay or not, we should first look at why it exists in the first place. Once upon a time, many nations across the world were run by one ruler. This is still true today and it can be in many different forms, however, the traditional monarchical system we know today was very common across most of Europe, from which North

America was mostly colonized.

For generations these countries had a ruling family, who I might add most likely originally came into power because they held the most land and troops, not because God came down from the sky and appointed them. Now, whether anybody liked this system or not, they actually had a purpose to them. They functioned as a government. This included collecting and disbursing tax revenues, declaring and enforcing laws, and often embarking on aggressive military campaigns to increase the size of their empires.

Eventually this form of government was abolished in many nations, mostly because this type of administration was often an oppressive tyranny. One example is the case in France. The people decided the monarchy was wrong and the country was hurled into a major

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Thurs, Nov 8, 9-11 am

Alternate Evening Slot:

Tues, Nov 6, 6-8pm

Finding articles from Elsevier
Science, Academic Press,
Project Muse, JSTOR and
free publisher web sites.

www.lib.unb.ca/instruction/Labs.html

ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY UNB and STU

Worship Services in Edwin Jacob Chapel

Friday, November 2 - 12:30 PM - Holy Eucharist (BCP)
Sunday, November 4 - 4:45 PM - Holy Eucharist (BAS)

In the homily, I will talk about "saints, souls, and all that stuff!"

Everyone is welcome at any of the services which I conduct twice a week in our beautiful little chapel - regardless of your denomination - or your degree of church involvement!

We would love to have you join us!

Regardless, I assure you of my prayers. As always, I encourage you to contact me by phone or e-mail in the UNB campus ministry office in Room 10 of the Alumni Memorial Building - or in person if you see me around the campuses doing my "intentional loitering", or in my capacity as sessional lecturer at STU and UNB - if there is any way that I can be of service to you.

Wishing you every blessing,
Wilfred+

THE REV. WILFRED LANGMAID
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