

OPINION & EDITORIAL

Editorial

As I reach the end of my third year of my Bachelor of Arts degree, I find myself reflecting more on what I want to achieve. I love to learn, and I really enjoy being in the faculty of history with some philosophy courses on the side. I seem to ask myself more and more what I want to do with my life and now, I reach a cross roads of sorts.

Ever since high school I have planned on going to law school. Why? Well, I enjoy law, in high school I worked at a Legal Aid office through a Co-op program. I know it isn't always glamorous to be a lawyer, especially if you are working for the benefit of those less fortunate, such as the lawyers at Legal Aid were, I enjoyed shadowing the lawyers there and I thought, *I can do this and I would enjoy this.*

Now, I am not so sure. I think I would enjoy going to law school as I had always planned and I would be able to make a career out of it. But is that what I really want? I don't think so.

Over the past year I have thought about how nice it would be to stay in school forever so I would never have to stop learning. That may sound corny and silly for someone my age to say but I actually enjoy learning. It is rewarding. I am also aware that I can continue learning whether I'm in school or not.

So, what is my purpose of devoting this column to my struggle as I stand here looking at my future? Well, others must be in the same position as I am right now. What to do, what to do? Leaving school is scary, entering the real world is scarier still. I don't really think that is my problem, however. I have worked at a crap job, and still do. No I don't mean here - I have two jobs, one here and one at a grocery store. I have paid my own way and I have essentially succeeded up until now.

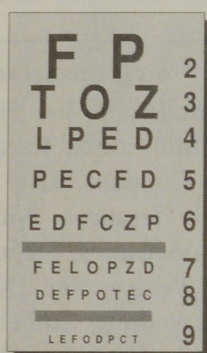
No, I am not *afraid* to leave school because I already know how cruel the real world can be. (Some would say that I don't know.) Others would say that school, whether high school or university, offers a sense of security one cannot find in the real world. I think in some cases it does. Some students get student loans, live in residence and do the bare minimum to get through school. I have not. I have a student loan from first year, which only counts for half the year and after that, I got a job to pay my own way. I take school seriously and I want to do well.

What am I trying to say? Well, in sappy terms - follow your dreams. Do what you want to do. Life really is short and full of very tough decisions. Don't make your choices based on what other people want.

Finally, you only have so much time to devote to academics in your life - use it wisely and don't take it for granted.

• Cindy Brown, Editor-in-Chief

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Mugwump

It is perhaps appropriate time to step back and look at what we have at this university, a time to appreciate the fact that we have access to a virtually unperverted source of information: The Brunswickan.

In recent months, certain segments of the Canadian community have become divided over the way, and extent to which, people ought to be allowed to express their views on socio-political issues. In particular, the primary focus of attention has been on the impending protests at the Summit of the Americas, taking place April 20-22 in Quebec City. It is reasonable to assume, by the nature of common discourse, that most Canadians support the establishment in hosting the conference. The aim of the protesters, then, is to draw attention to the fact that they challenge the status quo and the establishment, and, it is assumed, as to *WHY*. Yet marching and propaganda do little more than convey a person's position to those that already have their minds made up, and are, moreover, reliant to a great degree upon those that portray their efforts. The television and radio media can do a great deal to influence one's perception of events by what images and sounds they choose to show. The written word, on the other hand, is among the few ways that one can be guaranteed her/his opinion will be conveyed in the manner one has presented it.

The 1999 Freedom House organization's press freedom survey ranks Canada at the top of an international list in terms of providing freedom of the press. However, it would be a mistake to suggest that the political opinions of a news company's owner do not have an impact on the bias of its content, even in the case of a mainstream newspaper. Meanwhile, most of the typical newspaper's content is provided by paid writers. It is my position that the student newspaper is among the few news media available to Canadians that facilitates the possibility for the expression of one's views in something like a free way. We are fortunate to have such a service at UNB: The Brunswickan.

In a nutshell, the role of The Brunswickan is to generate information pertaining to the students and their interests and communicate it to the population of UNB Fredericton and members of the surrounding community. This information consists of news, sports, entertainment, and otherwise. And its weekly distribution of 12,000 papers is wide-ranging, as they are delivered to centres across the whole of New Brunswick. Perhaps more importantly, the Brunswickan is not owned by any outside company, nor the Student Union. Its (measly) income consists of ad revenue and student fees. The Brunswickan is a not-for-profit organization, and is thus run and directed by the students and volunteers that directly contribute to its content, with the guidance of various members of the university community which sit on its Board of Directors.

Some argue that the Brunswickan is lacking in the quality or variety of its coverage. If a student thinks something is important enough to be in the paper, then that individual probably wants other people to know about it. So, that person should write about it, cover it, or bitch about it to the Brunswickan staff.

The Brunswickan belongs to the UNB community. It gives the student a chance to get her word in and say what he thinks, to make sure that things are covered the way they should be, and make sure people know what they should.

• Patryk Reid, Managing Editor

S.U. Roundup

With the school year coming to an end our UNB campus calander is full of events.

On Saturday April 7th at 8:00 p.m., the 53rd Annual Red 'n' Black Revue will take place at the Playhouse; a night full of singing, dancing, monologues and music performed by your fellow UNB Students. Tickets are \$6 for students and seniors, and \$8 for adults (plus a \$1.50 building improvement fund fee for the Playhouse). For more information, phone the Playhouse at 458-8344.

The Student Activity Award Banquet is set to take place on April 6th at the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel. Graduating students and executives of UNB Clubs and Societies will be honoured for their contributions to UNB government and student life.

Another major event on campus is the Student Union elections which will take place March 28th, 29th and 30th. Polling stations will be set up all over campus so you can vote for the positions of President, VP Executive, VP Finance and Administration, VP Student Services, and VP University Affairs. All of these executive positions were uncontested making it a yes/no ballot for each.

The main competition in the election surrounds the positions on the university senate; five students have run for the four positions available. This is also the case for the Board of Governors elections. Both are important decision-making bodies for the university, which makes the elections for the student representatives an important matter to consider.

Faculty representatives on the UNB Student Union Council is another area where the student voice can be heard. In these elections, there is competition for the representative spots in the areas of Engineering as well as Business. It is important to know that some faculties do not have students running in the election to represent them on council, such as nursing and computer science. These positions will be filled in the by-election in October.

The positions of Valedictorian, for graduating ceremonies A, B and C, will also be voted for. The candidates who win will represent their graduating class this spring by giving a speech at their respective ceremonies.

With all the positions available to be voted on in these elections, voter turn-out is usually less than 10%. We, as the Student Union, are attempting to increase this percentage. One way is by more advertising on campus, including an election pamphlet that hopefully every student received in the mail with detailed descriptions of the positions available. Polling stations will also be located all over the campus to make voting as accessible as possible. The best reason I have heard to get students to vote is that it gives you the right to complain!

The last event to be mentioned in this column may not be considered as all that exciting to some, however, it is important and needs to be reviewed. The Student Union Budget! This week is the second reading of the up-coming budget, which means a question period will follow the reading. This is important because it reflects the accountability of the Student Union as well as ownership of your Student Union fee.

A third reading will take place April 5th at the 6:00 p.m. Council meeting in Room 103.

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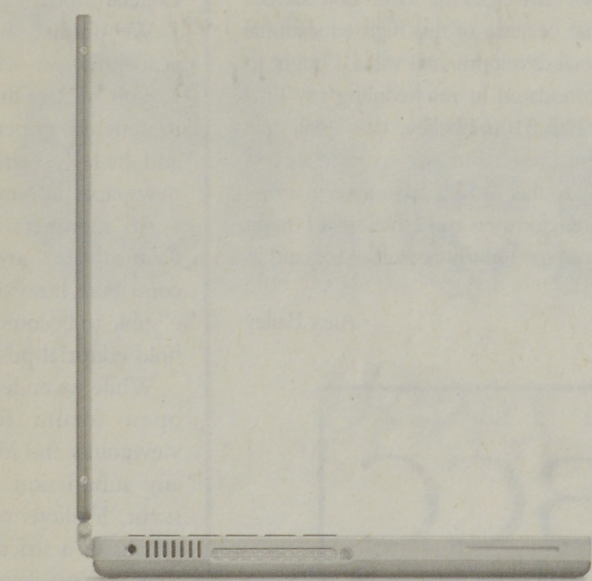
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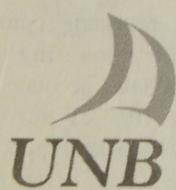
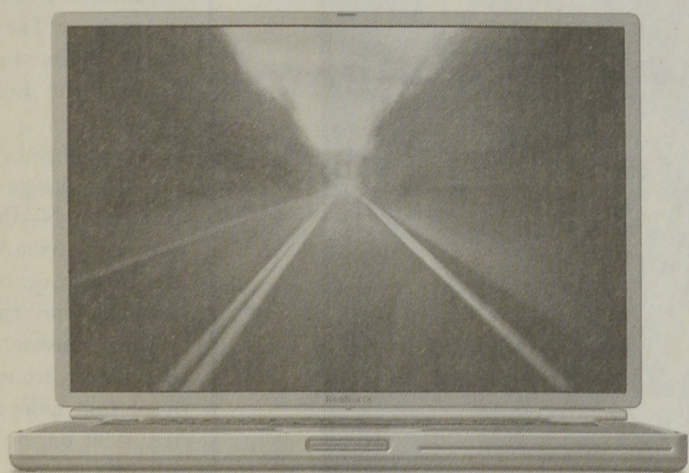
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