

THE BRUNSWICKAN OPINION & EDITORIAL

Editorial

It's time to make some noise

by Sean Patrick Sullivan
Editor-in-Chief

The late Dalton Camp once said the role of a journalist was to "comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable."

Described as an "activist journalist," Camp spent his time as Editor-in-Chief of this newspaper tackling contentious issues and ruffling the feathers of the city, university, and government before going on to become a revered political figure in the country.

Fifty years later, we're still trying to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.

The student media holds a unique position in Canada, in that we have the power to write whatever we see fit. In a country where corporate dominance has turned newspapers into PR sheets for their owners, student newspapers are often referred to as "the last free press."

Think about it. The three major English dailies in the province (*The Daily Gleaner*, the *Telegraph Journal*, and the *Times & Transcript*) are all owned by the Irving Group. A multi-billion dollar corporate empire has total influence over New Brunswick's print media.

According to Dr. Erin Steuter, a professor of Sociology at Mount Allison University and the author of "The Irvings Cover Themselves: Media Representations of the Irving Oil Refinery Strike, 1994-1996," this results in a great deal of self-censorship on the part of the journalists.

In a recent interview with journalist Dru Oja Jay, Dr. Steuter said the papers are very in line with the Irving family ethos.

"My impression from the journalists and the journalistic community is that they know exactly who they work for,

and they know what will be accepted and what won't be," she said, adding that articles not amenable to the Irving family don't make it through the pipeline.

This is happening all over the country. Take a look at Southam Inc., which owns over 60 newspapers, including 11 metropolitan dailies (such as the *National Post*, *Ottawa Citizen*, and *Montreal Gazette*, to name a few). Editors have resigned and writers have pulled their bylines to protest the sweeping editorial policies the owners brought in just a few months ago. For the most part, the free press has ceased to be free.

That's where we come in.

The Brunswickan is a voice for alternative news. As an autonomous newspaper, we're not under the wing of the Student Union or administration - we don't answer to anybody. As such, we're free to cover whichever stories and issues we choose without the threat of censorship. This gives us the power to ask tough questions and to tackle stories the mainstream media wouldn't touch.

Just watch how often *The Brunswickan* will publish a story, only for it to end up in *The Daily Gleaner* or on CBC the next day. We aren't just a little college paper - we're the largest student newspaper in Atlantic Canada, the largest weekly in New Brunswick, and a leading member of the Canadian University Press.

We welcome all opinions and viewpoints, and encourage readers to write to us in response to letters, stories, or, well, anything. Since this is your student newspaper, it should reflect the views of the students at this university.

It's you that makes the paper, so come volunteer. Write a story, write a column, take some pictures, or just help out. We're your voice.

by Ben Conoley
Managing Editor

Mugwump

Revisiting the facts

"You're either with us, or you're with the terrorists," spoke George W Bush during the grand kick off of America's new favorite cause, the War on Terror. Nearly a year later, it's evident he meant it.

As the United States works towards implementing a US-dependant government in Afghanistan, Bush and Co seem to be actively seeking ways to justify their \$379 Billion military budget, \$50 billion of which will be used to fund the War on Terror which, until now, hasn't really been the success we've all been told it is. Osama Bin Laden has still not been caught, nor have many of his highest-ranking officers. And all that's left to show for it is an unstable government and 5000 lost, innocent lives.

The most terrible irony lies in the unwritten text of American history. America is directly responsible for the political power held by their greatest enemies, the Taliban and al-Qaeda.

John Pilger writes in his essay, *The Colder War*, "On July 3, 1979,

unknown to the American public and congress, President Jimmy Carter secretly authorized \$500 million to create an international terrorist movement that would spread Islamic fundamentalism in Central Asia and "destabilize" the Soviet Union. The CIA called this Operation Cyclone and in the following years poured \$4 billion into setting up Islamic training schools in Pakistan."

"Young zealots were sent to the CIA's spy training camp in Virginia, where future members of al-Qaeda were taught "sabotage skills"- terrorism. Others were recruited at an Islamic school in Brooklyn, New York, within sight of the fated Twin Towers. In Pakistan, they were directed by British M1^ officers and trained by the SAS," continues Pilger.

America wanted to overthrow the previous Afghan government, which had implemented equal rights to women, health care, and literary programs. Fearing an educated and no longer poverty-ridden population, the United States needed a way to secure Afghanistan as a trans-shipment route for oil and gas coming from Central Asia.

Similar interventions in Somalia, Cambodia, Iraq, and Vietnam left countless victims slaughtered by troops working to keep people poor, so they could better serve the interests of the United States.

As the anniversary of September 11 rolls around on Wednesday, it is our moral responsibility to at least think twice about supporting Dick Cheney and George Bush as they fuel the war machine in preparation to invade upwards to 50 countries that have been blacklisted as terrorist supporters.

I hold incredible sympathy for the innocent people whose lives were lost or shattered nearly a year ago, but perhaps we've been pointing the blame in the wrong direction. Perhaps its time we ask the question "why" and not allow the government and flag-waving patriots to answer the question for us. Perhaps it's time to pick up a real history book, such as Howard Zinn's, *A People's History of the United States*, and find out for ourselves why America's history of blood-stained foreign policy led to yet another day which will live in infamy.

More readings on the "War on Terror"

by Bruns Staff

As the anniversary of September 11th approaches, many independent news organizations have stepped up their critiques of US foreign policy and the events leading up to September 11th.

Compiled below are a few websites that offer some really great reading.

- FTW - From the Wilderness (fromthewilderness.com) has a wealth of information, including an incredible timeline of the events leading up to September 11th. Revealing and provocative, it's a must-read.

- The Jeff Rense Project (www.rense.com) updates its news list daily, and has a wealth of links to

breaking news all over the world.

- Freedom and Accuracy in Reporting (www.fair.org) is a national media watchdog group, and has a wide-ranging collection of articles that critique mainstream news coverage. Their specialty is exposing neglected news stories and advocating a greater diversity of the press.



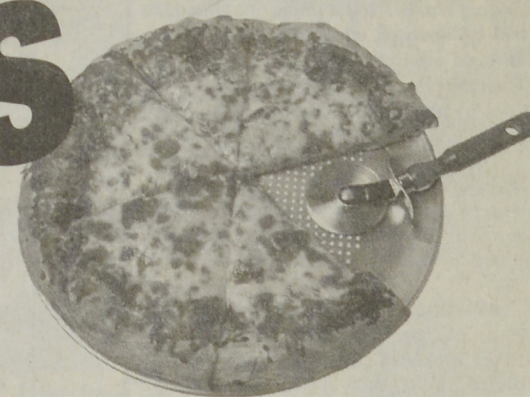
Are you interested in air & water quality, population & consumption, biodiversity, climate change

Attend an Environmental Studies Information Session

Wednesday, September 11th, Singer Hall, Room 108.
Courses can be taken for a minor or a single elective.

JACKS

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Saturday September 14th
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