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Ben Conoley, Stephanie Brunet, Rachel Long, Heather Hickey, Andrew Sharpe, Marc LeBlanc, Samantha Robichaud, Kora Stapelfeldt, T.J. Essensa, Jeremy Elder, Patrick Reinartz, and anyone else we have forgotten.

This issue is dedicated to
Andy Kolbeck - we'll miss you!

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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Animal rights defended again

by Kathryn Asher

Here we are again. Mr. Daley, let's get straight to the point. The reason I and many other animal rights activists use the Holocaust example is not to demean the suffering endured by persons involved. We think in terms of suffering and have heightened emotions when it comes to recognizing suffering. We do understand the pain millions went through during the Holocaust and we recognize similarities in the lives of many animals and are determined to eradicate such maltreatment.

In my experience, groups who have suffered discrimination, such as homosexuals and people of different races and beliefs, often have a higher appreciation of what it is like to be treated without respect or be abused. So the Holocaust comparison should not offend Jewish people, rather they should recognize that a mutated form of the horrors of WWII is happening as we speak. They should use their feelings of oppression to help other feeling beings in similar situations.

Mr. Daley, in response to your claim that it would be more beneficial to focus on the problems of human society, I must point out that I am a Human Rights major. My entire education is dedicated to acquiring the skills necessary to fight for the amelioration of human's lives. The reason I bring this up is to show you it is possible to be concerned about eliminating such human inequalities as racism, sexism, homophobia, etc., as well as fight for the elimination of animals suffering. So Mr. Daley, what you should take from this is not that I should redirect my focus to helping humans but that I already have a passion for helping minorities and care for humans more than you could imagine. I include in my compassion the fate of animals. I urge you not to restrict your ambitions to the improvement of humans' lives. Why not help fight it all? Think big!

One main problem I have with your responses Mr. Daley, is your ability to twist facts and ideas so they work in your favor; fortunately for me in doing this they become completely unconvincing. To address your complaint that I bring up "putting mentally handicapped people in cages," you apparently missed the point. Society is very concerned with attaining equality among humans and dismissing stereotypical views. Most people have a heightened sympathy for the suffering of other humans, especially minorities. A good technique for drumming up

sympathy for animals is to compare their suffering with that of humans. This paints a picture and often results in a better understanding of what the reality of the situation is. The reason I use the mentally handicapped is not, as you put it, to reduce them "to the status of 'just like an animal,'" but rather to engage the imagination by stirring those who have an understanding of the suffering of the mentally disabled.

I guess I must say your use of scientific reasoning to contemplate whether plants have a level of consciousness in which they can feel pain is absurd. As you wrote, you can use scientific reasoning to give an argument for any theory which has not been disproved. This does not mean an argument for anything at all retains any sort of legitimacy. This weak reasoning completely misses the heart of these articles, which is that animals are suffering and should not be.

Animals are used in scientific experiments by the millions every year to stand in for the heart, brain, central nervous system, etc., of humans. This fact alone should allow you to come to the conclusion it is a widely accepted view that animals resemble people and feel pain. There are no studies which use plants in this way. I should also note that I understand plants are alive and I understood this without you spewing off characteristics which demonstrate it.

You say I "dismiss plants from ever belonging to the world of consciousness and pain simply because they lack a brain and central nervous system." You are right, this does mean they cannot feel pain and cannot be denied successfully. Even if your plant theory were true, at least I have the satisfaction of knowing I have taken a huge step towards eliminating pain and suffering. In other words, it would be far better to be able to claim you do not eat animals but you do eat plants, than to hold that you care neither about plants nor animals. Just remember, every little bit helps!

Just to clarify this point I do not believe you are morally unconscious (please note my use of the term extension), I do believe, however, if you can sit down to a dinner of an animal's body you lack some aspects of morality. You may be a moral person but you have a long path ahead.
Editor's Note: The Andrew Daley referred to in this letter is not the Andrew Daley who works in the Education department of UNB. The Brunswickan apologizes if Mr. Daley (of the Education department) suffered any embarrassment.

Just a thought...

by Joanne Barr

The Olympic Games are currently taking place in Salt Lake City. Athletes from around the world are competing in a variety of sports for gold, silver and bronze medals.

Much of the media's attention this past week has been upon one particular couple, Canadian figure skaters Jamie Sale and David Pelletier. They performed in the figure skating competition over a week ago and though many observers felt theirs was a first-class performance, Elena Bereshnaya and Anton Sikharulidze, representing Russia, were deemed to be winners of the "gold" by the judges.

The "public" did not accept the ruling and pressed for a closer examination of the judging procedures. It was discovered this sport is, and has been, guilty of institutionalized corruption. The judging had been influenced. According to Canadian Press, as quoted in the February 18th edition of *The Daily Gleaner*, "Sale and Pelletier... delivered a flawless performance a week ago that met with lukewarm marks and unearthed a sporting scandal."

Since then, Sale and Pelletier have been awarded gold medals along with the

Russian pair. This incident captured news headlines around the world and has been the hot topic of conversation everywhere.

A colleague of mine gave me the following by Rene Fumoleau which he found among his papers. In light of the recent turn of events at the Olympics, I think that it is definitely "Something to think about..."

From February 2 to 8, 1997, Toronto and Collingwood hosted the "Special Winter Olympics." Seventy-two countries sent 2,000 athletes, ranging from eight to 66 years, all with mental handicaps.

The Special Olympics, founded in 1968 in Chicago, are held every two years, and are less concerned about winning or losing than about participation.

Few rich countries pay attention; an individual medal tally is not kept, and national anthems are not played. Business cares little for that kind of sports; the 1997 budget was only \$9.4 million, and not one of the athletes was for sale.

A Canadian stood on the podium to receive his second gold medal in downhill skiing. He turned to his U.S. friend who had placed second: "I've got one gold medal already, but no silver medal. You don't have a gold medal yet; can we trade?" "Retarded" people?

STUDENT UNION ROUNDUP

by Kate Whitfield, VP Exec, UNBSU

The last column was dedicated to why the UNBSU is not doing a tuition freeze campaign on campus. It is important to note this decision involved input from student forums, this column, and E-Newsletter responses, and passed unanimously in council.

Now I think it is important to discuss what the UNBSU is doing instead. Words got thrown around a lot lately about why someone isn't doing something about higher tuition fees. Everyone in this debate uses the same statistics and when another chooses a different route, they are accused of not caring. We all want the same thing in the end - accessibility to post-secondary education for all.

On a provincial level, the UNBSU is working alongside the NBSA (the New Brunswick Student Alliance). We are lobbying to get the provincial government to implement more of the recommendations from the Working Group on Accessibility. A number of solid suggestions were made and the province decided only to implement a few. One program was for people who are at maximum debt loads, which is a back-end solution. It does not deal with the psychological barrier to accessibility of a huge debt upon graduation.

Meetings are currently underway for the private sector matching funding for scholarship programs. Again this is only a start. The province needs to be lobbied heavily in order to get them to take advantage of the Working Group's report on Accessibility and implement more initiatives.

With respect to the UNB administration, the UNBSU is working hard to gather student input to be used in discussions with the administration concerning tuition. We have a lot stronger argument when we can say the students are behind us. It is not a simple task to be the one student at the table expected to be the complete student voice and understand budget sheets at the same time.

Attitudes also are a hard thing to change. We are working hard to convince the university they have to show students where their money is going. We pay more each Fall only to feel we are getting less. It will only work if students are made to feel they are an important part of the process.

One solution may be tuition increases tied to the consumer price index (CPI) plus one. Being relative to CPI shows that

students recognize the costs are increasing for a university to operate, and the plus 1% is there to deal with gaps that exist in the current budget. Using the current tuition rate, a 1% increase is equivalent to \$275,000 to the university's operating budget. This would mean approximately that amount would go to improving technology at UNB one year and to student services another, for example.

The provincial government would not be let off the hook because they are still responsible for post-secondary education - regardless of what happens, an increase in government funding is required. The NBSA is currently working on a campaign for a 10 to 12 percent increase to universities' operating budgets from the province, as well as eight percent to the student financial aid system and 10 percent to bursaries.

Our university will always need more money, whether it be for snow removal or for the libraries. It is up to the province to finally recognize the value of post-secondary education in society and create legislation to regulate tuition rates, while increasing funding. Long-term planning is required - this does not mean the university can assume six percent every year for three years and then debate how much it goes up above that. UNB needs to cut down on what it is trying to do and restructure. You can not go from 10 snow removal employees to six and expect them to do the same work. The model needs to change.

We also need to be innovative - what do you think about having your final year paid for by the province if you agree to work in NB for two years upon graduation? How about more emphasis on co-op programs for all disciplines to gain work experience, as well as earn money to offset costs?

What is the UNBSU doing about increasing tuition? We are working to change attitudes within the university administration that it is okay to go for student's pockets to cover the shortfalls of government funding. We are lobbying the province to increase funding and are participating by brainstorming to solve problems. We recognize the public needs to get involved in order to get the province to listen. This is done by demonstrating the value of post-secondary education in society and breaking any stereotype that UNB is 'a place up the hill' for the elite. Last, but not least, we are working to get students informed and to give them a reason to get involved - but this is where you step in.

Lordy, lordy, look who's 50



Photo by Cathie Evans Weldon

Happy Birthday to Sharon Fillmore, Bookstore Manager

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