

THE BRUNSWICKAN OPINION & EDITORIAL

Editorial

Farewell address: thank you

by Cindy Brown
Outgoing Editor-in-Chief

The Brunswickan can really get under one's skin. Once you are a Brunisie, a real Brunisie, there is no looking back. Ever.

I wrote my first story when I was in the middle of my first year at UNB and haven't looked back since.

In the four years I have been a part of this organization, this year was undoubtedly the best - and the most stressful.

For the first time that I can remember, the editorial staff of *The Brunswickan* has been filled - all of the seemingly thankless jobs taken by keeners.

I don't imagine the students or faculty realize the amount of work each issue of the *Brunsis* takes. In the past, the news editor wrote all of the News section single-handedly, while at the same time taking classes full time. Same goes for the Sports section. Photo and Entertainment, which are naturally more fun, entertaining, and creative, are easier to find staff to write for.

The Brunswickan has accomplished a great deal over the past academic year, a lot of which would not have been achieved without the help of a handful of wonderful people. Financial disaster was averted; the paper gained a new and much more charming 'face,' and we were able to send four delegates to the Canadian University Press national conference in January because of their

own fund-raising and the generosity of donors. As well, we hosted a very successful ARCUP conference in February.

As the outgoing Editor-in-Chief, I would like to thank a few people in my final address.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the students - without your willingness to vote yes in the September referendum, I would not be here today and UNB would be without its official student newspaper. The students are the lifeblood of this paper. The students who make the articles possible, write the stories, take the photographs and layout the paper.

Kudos also go out to Larry Guitard, our true savior from UNB. Without him, we would not have survived our financial toils. Thanks Larry.

Patryk Reid, Managing Editor, what can I say? Pat and I had a tendency to take turns freaking out when we were trying to save the *Brunsis* and get things done. What made us such a good team - we took turns - one of us always had the sense to talk the other down. Thanks for all your work Pat and good luck.

Chris Wilson-Smith, esq., News Editor. Chris knew little about writing a news story when he was elected and even less about digitally laying out a paper. Thanks Chris, for agreeing to bite off more than you could chew and doing an excellent job all the same.

Sean Patrick Sullivan, Entertainment Editor and Incoming Editor-in-Chief. Sean has the most creative mind I have

ever seen and long, late nights to prove it. The man is devoted to the *Brunsis*, and clearly represents just how much the *Brunsis* can get under your skin. My word of advice to my heir apparent: "Try to be a little less Sean with it."

Jeff Smith, Sports Editor and Online Editor. Jeff works full time as well as taking on the duties of Sports Editor and Online Editor. He revamped the website for us at the beginning of the year and has maintained it ever since.

Mark McGinnis, Photo Editor. Mark is humble and needs to take more credit but was ready to fill the previous photo editor's shoes and did a great job. This guy can shoot.

Dave MacCoubrey, Graphics Editor. Dave spent weeks giving *The Brunswickan* its new look - Dave's the man.

K Brookland, Administrator. K kept a cool head through it all and was indispensable on a daily basis. K started out years ago (in September, it will be 20) - a substantial proof that once a Brunisie, always a Brunisie.

Thank you to the UNB Student Union who helped us out as much as they could when we were trying to get our referendum passed.

I haven't mentioned everyone who should be thanked, but you know who you are. Thanks to everyone who helped out - *The Brunswickan* had a stellar year and it is all because of the people I have mentioned, as well as many, many more.

Thanks everyone.

From *Pillar* to *Post*

by K Brookland

I have recently become aware of some publications and events involving UNBF and STU students and find them deeply disturbing.

In the April 2002 issue of *The Pillar*, there was an article on page 12 citing a list of "events" planned to promote female enrollment in the engineering sciences. All five events displayed alarmingly bad taste and all demeaned women. One event, however, i.e. "fellatio night," was particularly insulting to women - to all people with a sense of the what is right.

The boys (obviously not adults) responsible for this edition of *The Pillar* are remarkably insensitive. My first reaction was "The children are at it again." My second was "Do they honestly think this is funny?" My third was "Do they really think this little of women?" My fourth reaction was "Are they inferring the only way women can get into engineering is by getting down on their knees?" My fifth (but certainly not final) was "I hope the parents of the 14 women who were murdered at Ecole Polytechnic in Montreal don't see this!" I could go on for days about this loathsome article.

(At the bottom of the article, the editor's note reads: "Our sensors weren't looking when someone snuck this puppy in. They're fired now. All of 'em." This apparently was another attempt at being funny. It is, instead, sad. Sensors are devices which respond to physical stimuli, such as light, sound etc., and transmit a resulting impulse. A censor, on the other hand, is one who examines publications or films for objectionable matter.)

Also on page 12, the misogyny continues. There was a spoof ad for Mr. Mullet (read: Mr. Clean) with a photograph of a toilet. The only words in the 'ad' are, "For all *her* cleaning needs." (Emphasis mine.) Need I say more.

And yet again on page 12 is the "Civil Engineering Reference Wallpaper," which shows a photograph of a woman in a bikini at the beach, on her back, with the legend displaying formulae for analyzing curves. Another crude example of the objectification of women.

Administrative action: an e-mailed apology to all faculty, staff and students.

Other recent events organized by boys on and off campus include a pub crawl. The participants received a T-shirt with the legend "Tour of Duty," listing the names of the bars they were going to visit with the last stop being "Dunn and Tibbits," two of the women's residences on campus. What does this imply? Too many things on too many levels to cite here, however, one thing is clear: the boys who made up the legend on the T-shirt, and those who wore it, degraded women. I need not go into detail as most adults will know why.

Administrative action: they're talking about it. (read: none)

Another event was organized by the Jones House committee. It involved paying two strippers to perform in a rented room

of a local club which is rumoured to have resulted in a live sex show. I don't feel either incident is worthy of comment.

Administrative action: they're talking about it. (read: none)

MacKenzie House was planning their pub crawl. For their T-shirts they wanted to print "Show us your tits."

Administrative action: did not allow the T-shirts to be printed.

Why is it the administration responded to *The Pillar* controversy so quickly? Could it be because it was in print for everyone to see? No, that can't be it because the administration prohibited MacKenzie House from printing what they wanted on their T-shirts, but wait, they didn't do anything about the Jones House T-shirts. What, I wonder, was the rationale behind action in two cases and inaction in the others?

Another concern: what kind of message is the administration sending their lack of response in some instances? The "Tour of Duty" T-shirts and the 'social event' at a local bar are examples of grossly misogynistic conduct. Demeaning women, it appears to me, has become a campus-wide form of recreation at UNBF - all this while the administration plays flip flop. (Like Nero playing the fiddle while Rome burned?)

UNBF, however, is not the only campus with problems. *The Aquinian's* spoof issue, page five, has an article entitled "Gay love triangle behind hockey coach change," which has as its lede: "After weeks of rumors surrounding the firing of STU head coach Garyle Smith, *The Aquinian* has uncovered the truth, and folks it ain't pretty. It's a tale of unfulfilled desire, unrelenting lust, and some good old fashioned fudge packing."

What, of course, *The Aquinian* is implying is simple - the act of love between two same sex partners is unacceptable; which in turn tells me there are some narrow-minded, immature staff members on the STU student newspaper. Why, why, why, in 2002 are we *still* making gays the target of such sophomoric attempts at "humour"?

And what of the former hockey coach? His wife? What if he has a child and s/he happens to see a copy of the article? This was obviously not a matter of concern to the writer.

Another potential problem is the photograph of the two men in hockey uniforms which accompanied the article. Did *The Aquinian* get permission from these men to print the photo under these particular circumstances? If not, how will they feel when they see the article? Consideration - a word with which the author obviously does not have a nodding acquaintance.

The fact this was a spoof issue is entirely irrelevant. One still has to take into account how articles will affect the targets of their "jokes," their families, not to mention the sensibilities of their readers.

If *The Aquinian* staff actually believes this article is funny and, worse, if any *Aquinian* readers do, there is much work

to be done here on our campuses.

All that being said, however, I do take exception to the actions taken by the Dean and Assistant Dean of Engineering with *The Pillar*. While the official line is *The Pillar* staff met with the Dean and Assistant Dean and *jointly* (emphasis mine) concluded to withdraw the paper from circulation, and the editor and staff vacated their offices, I highly doubt the decision was made voluntarily by the editor and staff. I feel it is rather likely they were coerced into these "decisions," especially in light of the fact *the administration* (emphasis mine) and student representatives will, according to a UNB press release dated April 9th, be working together to develop guidelines for *The Pillar* before it resumes publication in January of 2003. (Weren't they originally going to print in the Fall of 2002? If so, does this mean the administration in effect, has closed down *The Pillar*?)

The Pillar, according to this same press release, is "an independent engineering student publication at UNB..." therefore, the actions of the Dean and Assistant Dean of Engineering is tantamount to censorship. While I find the sexist material printed in *The Pillar* thoroughly objectionable, I also have a distinct problem with censorship. Yes, guidelines are needed, however, they cannot - and should not - be dictated.

In an ideal world this sort of rubbish would not even form as a thought, let alone be printed, however, we don't live in an ideal world. We have to take into consideration that *The Pillar* is an independent publication (as UNB's press release was quick to point out), and as such, the staff has the right to print whatever tripe they choose. We as readers, in turn, have the right to write diatribes (like this one) condemning what they print.

Readers misinformed about NSERC scholarship

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in response to the article entitled "UNB Student Awarded NSERC Scholarship" published in the April 5th edition of *The Brunswickan*. Upon reading this article, someone who may not have been well informed about the NSERC awards might be led to believe that Mr. Neilson was the ONLY recipient of one at UNB. I can understand that from time to time someone may be worthy of having a story published about their successes, but I believe it is poor journalism to neglect to mention the fact that seventeen other UNB students also received an identical award from NSERC. If Mr. Neilson is to be recognized on the front page for this award, then surely the other successful UNB students also deserve recognition.

Sincerely,
Anonymous

Mugwump

Misogyny: UNB's best kept secret

by Ben Conoley
Incoming Managing Editor

Let's try to keep this campus safe for women, but first, there's a live strip show over at the Chestnut for Jones House. The residence office and university community has been keeping information from the students regarding student -sponsored strip shows, and have taken months to take even the most minimal actions against those responsible.

Last January, Jones House's house committee used house money, although verification of that could not be obtained, to hire two strippers for a live sex performance at the Chestnut for the all-male residence. Although all attending were allegedly sworn to secrecy, word eventually got out to other members of the residence community.

Jones initially tried to cover up the event, and has changed their story since it became public. So to break it down, the house committee used house money to get girls to have sex, hid it and covered it up, and in the end, they got away with it.

In addition, their pub-crawl shirts included Dunn and Tibbits as the last stop for the evening's "Tour of duty," and Mackenzie house was told they couldn't print shirts that had "Show us your tits," printed on the back. Why was one allowed and the other not? The Mackenzie slogan was definitely more aggressive and crude, but Jones' was certainly not innocent. John Craighead claims the shirts weren't stopped because it is a subjective slogan that doesn't necessarily mean "sex." I'm sure the men at Jones Hose planned on stopping by for a few hours of television and board games. The shirts implied sex on the 'tour of duty', and nothing else.

Although the actions are without doubt, entirely inappropriate, the real shocker is the cover-up that followed. Some dons in other houses heard about it and demanded that residence heads, including John Craighead, take immediate action and punish those involved in the organization of the event.

This kind of residence activity is wrong, simple as that. But even more shocking is the manner in which the

university has dealt with it.

John Craighead and other residence officials initially stated that none of this should be an issue, essentially implying that boys will be boys. All of this coming after a year when sexual assaults were at the forefront of student concerns.

This year there were a number of reported sexual assaults either on, or near campus, not to mention the ones that went unreported. Rape, as horrible as it is, is a part of present university life. It happens - a lot. It took public outrage before the university decided to do anything about it, and tries to hide the events from the students. UNB has since put more money towards creating a safer campus, to much applause. But now this. Putting up phone booths, and then allowing the creation of an environment which encourages sexual predators is more than just a ridiculous double standard, its encouragement.

Sure, Craighead promises to set out new guidelines for next year, so that such events don't take place in the future, but that's not good enough. Students need to know what is happening on campus, and those responsible should be fired. To hide something like this, and then for the university to do nothing about it is disgusting.

The university should have contact ed those guilty and immediately punished them. Although the 'big picture' is of great importance, how can you expect student to change their behavior when their leaders aren't punished for indecent actions? A full investigation of residence activities would shed light on many of the things houses are involved with, and would have been a great way to kick off a developmental strategy.

It would be incredibly hard to deny the link between taking students to see a couple of strippers for the house event, and sexual assault. Encouraging such behavior is solidifying the idea many people have of women as sexual objects. By remaining silent, UNB does not seem to be fully involved in the struggle for women's safety.

People have knowingly done something wrong, lied, and have not been punished. The university needs to step in, and it doesn't want to. A safe campus indeed.

Editorials out to lunch

Anonymous

First a bit of disclosure: 1) I am a friend of Kathryn Asher 2) I am neither vegan nor vegetarian.

Before I began reading the editorials by Ben Conoley (No sympathy for Wendy's loss), Andrew Daley (Letter against Thomas insulting), Kathryn Asher (A response to the misinformed), and J.C. Ford (Capitalizing on Thomas' death morally wrong) I had expected a discussion on veganism/vegetarianism. Instead, I found outrageous comparisons, ill-formed arguments and a milieu of personal attacks. Perhaps it is time to debunk the irrelevant and focus on the central issues.

Our society is one in which people demand beef. In response to consumer demand, farmers raise cattle for human consumption. The fast food industry is founded on this consumer demand, not on cruelty. (Whether or not people are cruel to demand beef is a separate question). At no point is Dave Thomas responsible for generating this demand and, therefore, the entire industry.

Therefore, the hyperbolic parallels between Thomas and Hitler are highly contentious. Powerful parallels are not required, accurate ones are. Retorting with further ridiculous parallels, as did Andrew Daley, is just as inappropriate.

Remember Canadian Peacekeepers

To the Editor:

It is easy to forget Canada's 54-year peacekeeping heritage in the aftermath of September 11th, as our country and its coalition partners undertake military action in pursuing and defeating international terrorism.

This might be an appropriate moment to remind ourselves that the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal is being awarded under the authority of Her Excellency, the Governor General of Canada, to eligible Canadian peacekeepers.

This prestigious medal is being awarded to eligible Canadian citizens who have served with a United Nations or international peacekeeping or observer mission for a minimum of 30 days. A list of eligible missions is available at the Department of National Defence website at www.forces.ca/hr/dhh. The purpose of the medal is to honour the nearly 125,000 Canadians who have contributed to promoting world peace since 1948.

See *Peacekeepers* Page 17