

THE BRUNSWICKAN OPINION & EDITORIAL

Editorial

It's go time

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 Canadian political icon.

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."

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 Bruns* 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.

So, get involved. It may seem intimidating to take those first few steps into a newspaper office, but it will be worth it almost immediately. You'll make new friends, learn more than you ever could in class, and become a part of something huge.

Staff meetings are held every Wednesday at 12:30pm in Room 35 of the SUB. Simply attending for a few minutes is the easiest way to jump aboard. Trust us, you'll be glad you did.

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.

Mugwump

Welcome to a sweaty week

by Ben Conoley
Managing Editor

If you're reading this, chances are you're a frosh. So allow me to welcome you to UNB, and *The Brunswickan*. Dag, the first week of school.

So there's a lot to look forward to, but I don't want to sugarcoat these first few weeks. Here's the stuff you might hate.

With a 30 percent increase in first year students, you're looking at pretty large class sizes. The first week of classes are always packed, and this year they're going to be packed to the max. It's summer still, the air conditioning, if even there, might as well not be working. You'll have no room to move your arms, making it especially hard to write the letter "W," which requires extra width. As you struggle to get through all this, if you're anything like me, you'll be sweating all over the place. By the time you arrive for your last period it'll be like you just ran seven miles while holding your arms at a 90 degree angle.

The bookstore is a small building, but all 10,000 people here have got to buy books and most of us do it in the first week. Again, the sweat in me always ends

up becoming the sweat all over me. If the books you want are there, and they can often not be, you're looking at waiting, and waiting, and waiting. So my advice is not to rush over to the bookstore the first few days of classes.

"Here's some spirit, take it, come on, take the spirit,"

But those are pretty petty beefs. I mean, sweating and waiting around don't really qualify as problems. Well, my sweating might, but the one thing I disliked the most my first year of university was that way too many of the people you meet will pretend they know everything. It's as though reading a chapter of Chomsky suddenly converts one into an expert on either linguistics or American foreign policy.

You'll hear people from your first period passing off lecture quotes as their own the next day in the cafeteria or at another class. Or you'll run into the people who've spent a lot of time reading select leftist literature and walk around preaching the gospel of Churchill. Buildings like ours breed an interesting blend of people, so be prepared to run into all kinds, because all kinds are going to make sure they run into you.

Have a good year.

A message from MASA

by Tim Gallagher

Men Against Sexual Aggression (MASA) wants to bring UNB a forum that gives students the opportunity to challenge sexual aggression.

MASA's goals are to provide to all the students of the University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University access to information on sexual aggression and what a healthy relationship can be.

Sexual aggression is everybody's business. It can happen in any relationship, whether it be lesbian, gay, bisexual or straight. In the same relationship, men and women can be both aggressors and victims.

A 1992 survey shows that the majority of sexual aggression comes not from strange men lurking in dark corners, but from dates, friends and classmates. Most frequently it was in their apartment and residences.

Many men view sexual aggression as primarily a women's issue. Implicit in this notion is the idea that all women should be concerned about sexual aggression because they are women. For the prevention of sexual aggression to succeed all men should be concerned with ending sexual aggression. MASA is enlisting men as community members who can do something to stop the violence around us.

As community members, men can respond to incidents of violence or harassment before, during, or after the fact. They can model healthy relationships and peaceful conflict resolution.

What is the solution for stopping sexual aggression?

There are many forms of prevention that are really important. MASA believes there is advice, skills, and a sense of empowerment that benefit men, women and children. MASA believes there are things that men, women and children need to know, before and after an assault, about protecting and taking care of themselves.

But what should be the first line of prevention?

MASA intends to challenge some common male attitudes towards their dates and friends.

While many men are not violent towards women and people in general, the ingredients for violence is common in our male culture.

MASA's goal is to help every man be aware of the dynamics between people and to take responsibility for his attitudes, values and actions; to help him to be authentic, both to himself and to others. Marcel Proust said "the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes."

To be effective, MASA needs to directly confront sexual aggression.

Unwanted sex hurts us all - talk about it.

If you have any questions or comments that you wish to make about sexual aggression, or our new radio show on CHSR 97.9 on Thursdays at 3:30, contact masa@unb.ca. Also, visit MASA's web page. It is very much under construction, but it is there: www.unb.ca/clubs/masa/

Look for the 2003 survey. Fill it out!

The Brunswickan

Staff meetings every Wednesday at 12:30 • Room 35 SUB



Brendan Doyle Illustration/The Brunswickan

Because everything is political

Some fun food facts!

The sordid tales of fruits and vegetables

by Tan-Nee Ng

I made the move up to Fredericton a few days ago. Packed all my belongings and rushed out the door. I couldn't wait to get out of my parents house: no more work, no more adults (well, except for myself!) and no more rules. What more could I ask for?

A good vegetable stir-fry. I decide to head down to my local supermarket, and as I approach it, I notice a few hundred shopping carts near the store entrance. According to a Food Market Institute Report, to find out how much money a supermarket makes, one must simply count the number of shopping carts it owns. One cart brings in, on average, \$1000 in weekly business. So, for example, if a store had 100 carts, it probably makes \$100,000 a week and \$5.2 million a year.

I enter the store and wonder, "Why is it that the first section in a supermarket is always the produce

section?" This is because it gives you the sense of real food - you can smell and feel it. Meat is packaged in plastic, chips come in bags, cereal in boxes, and juice in cans. The smell of fresh fruit and veggies can make your mouth water.

Speaking of fresh fruit and veggies, did you know that the average supermarket has 243 different items whereas 20 years ago they only had 12 of that amount? Why? Because of globalization, my friend! Now produce suppliers can import seasonal fruits and vegetables from such places as California, Guatemala, Venezuela, and Mexico. Despite the fact that this might sound pretty great, the reality is that our veggies and fruits are reared more for looks and transport than taste.

For instance, red delicious apples are bred to be virtually tasteless. After being hauled over thousands of miles, not only does it look good (red, shiny, and blemish-free), it also smells good. The very fact that these apples are "bred" is cause enough for concern. Today, genetically modified foods make up a growing percentage of our food supply. Over 50% of soybeans are genetically engineered, more than 30%

of corn is grown from genetically engineered seeds and overall more than 25% of our total cropland grows genetically engineered crops.

And as if that wasn't bad enough, most of the foods we buy have an even darker side to their story. Young children are often tricked into slavery, or sold as slaves, to plant owners in the third world. These children, usually 12 to 14-years-old but sometimes younger, are forced to do hard manual labor 80 to 100 hours a week and are paid nothing, barely fed, beaten regularly, and end up never seeing their families again. They help harvest items such as pineapples, sugar, tobacco, bananas, cotton, and cocoa (aka chocolate) for us folks in the west. Is it surprising that third world nations export more food, often for Western luxury consumption, than they import for simple subsistence?

All of these thoughts make me feel kind of sick, so I decide to forgo the veggie stir-fry, pick up some ibuprofen for my nausea, and think to myself: For everything in life, there's more than meets the eye - Because Everything is Political.

Afghanistan mission a mistake

by David Shipley

Imagine being in a fight blindfolded with both of your hands tied behind your back and a broken ankle.

Doesn't sound like a whole lot of fun does it?

That's the situation facing Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan as they struggle with the difficult and thankless task of policing the Afghan capital, Kabul, as

resignation of Major General Cam Ross. Maj. General Ross was the senior army officer in charge of operations. It was Maj. General Ross who presented the list of options to the government with the Afghan mission listed as "not recommended."

The mission to Afghanistan is a mistake because Canada does not have the capability to sustain this operation, let alone the ability to send more forces should the situation deteriorate.

Calling this mission back-breaking for the Canadian military is an understatement.

According to senior defense officials, this mission will also leave Canada without the ability to contribute forces anywhere in the world for a period of up to two years.

In the post-9/11 global security environment the fact that Canada will not be able to contribute to any new missions for two years is totally unacceptable.

Not only is this mission a bad idea because it is bleeding our military dry, it's also a pointless mission.

The ISAF is only "responsible" for policing Kabul while the U.S. led coalition continues to search out for Taliban and Al-Qaeda holdouts. I use the word responsible skeptically because I find it doubtful that a 5,600 strong force can police a city of over two million people.

The reality is that Kabul, like the rest of Afghanistan, is still under the control of the warlords. In Kabul the ISAF operates under the good graces of a local warlord who controls 37,000 troops in the city alone.

In its rush to get out of Iraq the Liberals have committed our soldiers to a pointless mission that will strain, if not completely sap, the resources of our military.

Adding insult to injury, the strong possibility of Canadian casualties on this mission only adds fuel to the fire. Of course, none of this is news to Canadians who have watched our military deteriorate over the last 10 years.

This mission simply underscores the desperate need for increased military funding and a new defense policy that reflects the realities of the world we live in today.

If Canada wants to be a serious player in global security the Liberals have to realize that it can't be done on the cheap. Trying to do it on the cheap is a recipe for disaster.



Department of National Defence

Soldiers are on a pointless mission that will bleed our military dry.

part of the UN backed, NATO led International Stabilization Force (ISAF).

It's a mission that army brass had put last on a list of options for the Liberal government in February during its desperate search for a way out of contributing to the impending US invasion of Iraq.

It doesn't surprise me in the least that Chretien is risking the lives of Canadian soldiers to satisfy his ego. It's entirely consistent with his government's contempt for our men and women in uniform.

What did surprise me was the