

THE BRUNSWICKAN OPINION & EDITORIAL

Mugwump

Not really homeless

by Ben Conoley
Managing Editor

This weekend's 12 Homeless Hours raised a lot of money for a worthy cause, however 12 homeless hours it was not.

While raising a large sum of money for a worthwhile cause is a commendable act, I was kind of shocked to hear one participant claiming they have had a glimpse of homelessness.

You want 12 homeless hours? 12 real homeless hours? Here's a start.

Don't invite 30 groups (over a hundred people) to go camping all night in Officer's Square. Homeless people aren't allowed to choose who they want to spend their nights with; not too many people volunteer their time. Take a hundred people and drive them through town dropping them all over the place. Maybe leave one or two people beaten in an alley.

Don't give them the materials needed to build a shelter. Homeless people aren't allowed to line up outside Staples and wait for duct-tape, scissors and cardboard to be

distributed. Give them a wet winter night and the mall garbage bins. Give them dirty fast food boxes. Give them tarps strewn with holes.

Piss all over their clothes, and steal what they're not holding onto.

Don't give a pizza party to the group with the most creative shelter. Instead, I propose giving moldy sandwiches to the group who'll show the most desperation. Don't give them pepperoni and double cheese.

Don't give them a comedian to make them laugh. Don't give them a "game show" to make them feel like winners. Don't give them a DJ to fill their ears with music all night. Instead, give them hecklers, give them abusive police officers, or better yet, bored, abusive, suburban teenagers.

Why don't you give ten of them AIDS, get another dozen or so hooked on heroin or crack cocaine. Hire some pimps to beat a handful of the women into prostitution.

Kill some of them.

Give them dirty looks as you walk by, not congratulatory remarks. Give them a government and general population that doesn't care about them.

The U.S. "War On Downloading" includes pre-emptive strikes.



Step away from the iMac!

David Wilson McLeish & Ayanna Parker / The Peak (CUP)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Terrorists south of the border

Shipley's article no more than propaganda

by Michael Belyea

In response to David Shipley's article ("Lightning and terrorists," Oct. 1):

I too am not crazy about Gwynne Dyer's lightning analogy. But aside from this point, Mr. Shipley's article is mostly delusional.

The "left's" lack of "common sense" and "consistency" seem to be the crucial issues—the "left" meaning, I presume, anyone who does not fully endorse every violent action undertaken by the religious extremists and political fanatics in the White House.

Mr. Shipley writes: "Our culture, our civilization, is under attack." The problem with this idea - I mean

beyond the obvious problem, that it is simple propaganda - is that it ignores the pretty important fact that Al-Qaeda are minor terrorists, amateurs really, in comparison to their US enemies.

Further, the terrorist attacks on September 11 - a tragedy, as far as most of us are concerned - has quite plainly been perceived as a boon to American planners, a lucky break. They are now carrying out precisely the radical policies which they were determined to do before the WTC attack even took place. For example, in April 2002, Washington's token female gangster Condoleezza Rice described 9-11 as an "enormous opportunity," and asserted that America "must move to take advantage of these new opportunities."

The PNAC think tank, whose

alumnus is made up of senior administration officials and their advisors, suggested years back that some large catastrophe, and the deaths of many Americans, would likely be needed before the plans for expansion and "total war" (in "unofficial" advisor Richard Perle's words) could be implemented properly.

And then, their fondest wishes came true two years ago. Dead Americans, just as they'd dreamed of, and an excuse for intensifying their rule. The UK, Canada, and other nations have more or less jumped on board, along with such humanitarian titans as Turkey, Russia, Pakistan, Italy, and Saudi Arabia; all of which, we're told with a straight face, joining hands to smash the "evildoers."

There is no "War on Terror." It does not exist. The farce is self-evident when not stunted by patriotism.

Student Union Roundup Got debt?

by Cassandra Simmonds

To many students, the answer is yes. Over the last 10 years, tuition has increased over 134 per cent while federal funding per student has dropped from \$12,000 to \$8,000.

In order to make up the difference a number of students are taking out federal, provincial or private loans. As a result, they are amassing a daunting debt load which makes the prospect of graduation a bit less exciting.

As the average student debt load increases, we may be asking what can be done?

The UNB Student Union is one of 19 schools which make up a national lobbying group called the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), representing nearly 300,000 students. This year, as part of their lobbying efforts, CASA is sending foam bricks to each of their member schools. On Thursday, October 9th, and Friday, October 10th, representatives from CASA will be at the Student Union Building asking students to sign these bricks with their accumulated debt loads. The bricks will then be sent to Ottawa and between October 20th and 27th, CASA will build a "wall of debt" which will act as a barrier to Post Secondary Education on Parliament Hill. This is your chance to join thousands of others and with a collective voice, speak out against rising debt loads for students across the country.

As a side note, this column will be appearing in the *Brunswickan* each week to keep you up to date with what's happening with your Student Union. Be sure to check it out regularly to see where your \$84 goes.

Zine review leaves a lot to be desired

by Joel Katelnikoff

Thank you for running a review of the latest issue of The Neo-Comintern Magazine. It is great to receive support from *The Brunswickan*, even when the review itself is less than insightful.

Candace Mooers' review begins with a perfunctory Webster's Dictionary definition of the word

"comintern" and the prefix "neo" (neither of which provide much insight into the phrase "Neo-Comintern" as a whole), and then complains that the magazine's concept has nothing to do with her haphazard rendering of the title.

If she had glanced at the inside front cover, she would have discovered that The Neo-Comintern's mandate is to publish "stories and articles of an unusual, experimental, or anti-capitalist nature," in the form of "Musings, Delvings into Philosophy, Flights of Fancy, Freefall Selections,

and Tales of General Mirth." I believe this makes The Neo-Comintern's concept clear.

I hope that readers of the *Brunswickan* will check out the Neo-Comintern website and make their own decision about whether or not the magazine's objectives are met. I would also like to encourage *Brunswickan* reviewers to provide meaningful summary and criticism rather than to cling to a single, petty point.

Joel Katelnikoff is editor of Neo-Comintern, available online at www.neo-comintern.com.

Sodexho makes me want to barf

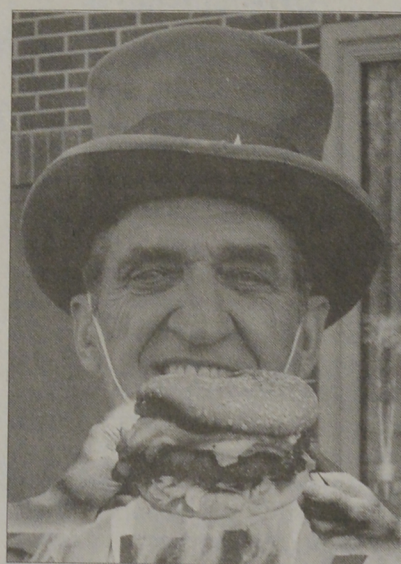
Students need healthy food choices

by Ben Isitt

As someone who is new to UNB, I find it strange that students and staff have little choice when it comes to healthy, affordable food. Why has this university handed over such an essential service to the private sector?

It may be common to privatize food services in the Maritimes, but I know that other Sodexho operations offer more choice than Harvey's, Pizza Pizza, and Mr. Submarine. Come on. This is insulting to the health and the intelligence of the university community. Slightly better food may be available in a handful of campus buildings, but the overall problem remains the same. UNB has contracted food services to a for-profit corporation, with no connection to the people of Fredericton and little concern for the health and well-being of the student body.

Other universities offer university-run food services as well as student-run operations. This brings in revenue for the institution and the student union. That is the idea behind having a Student Union Building; to provide a forum for discussion and action, and to provide affordable services and decent jobs



Sure, the burgers don't quite look like this (and nor do you), but you get the point.

for students.

The mythology about privatized services being "cheaper" or "more efficient" is crap. A profit margin exceeding 15 per cent and an inflated bureaucracy remove any savings to students. Further, privatized services are rarely unionized, providing low wages, few benefits, and no job security for food-service workers. The fast-food sector is notorious for union busting.

We're getting a raw deal from Sodexho on all accounts.

I think a priority of our university should be to put an end to this farce and practice what it preaches. Are we 'Making a Significant Difference' by following the flock and signing a deal with Sodexho? Are we 'Making a Significant Difference' by gouging students with escalating tuition barriers and then gouging them again at the cafeteria? Are we 'Making a Significant Difference' by putting corporate profits ahead of the health and well-being of students? Is this truly an environment conducive to creative, intelligent learning and discourse?

Now, I'm a historian rather than a nutritional expert. But even I know that Harvey's and Pizza Pizza can hardly be considered 'Brain Food.' 'Brain Food' has been processed as little as possible between the producer and the consumer, not shipped across four continents over a span of 14 months. 'Brain Food' is heavy in fresh vegetables, whole grains, and alternative sources of protein, not soaked in lard.

Why not provide students with good food rather than junk food so they can think clearly and live healthy during their time in school? Sodexho has failed in this task. Its raison d'être is to transfer money - and a lot of it - from students to shareholders. UNB should cut its losses, and tell this company that it is no longer welcome here.

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