

That's it: I'm done



EDITORIAL
SEAN PATRICK SULLIVAN

Ah, to be a young, idealistic editor again...

The trademark journalistic cynicism is all too easy for me right now; I've been in our offices for almost 36 hours, slaving away on today's beautiful (I hope) spoof issue.

Not only have I not slept in a couple of days, my pants smell terrible and I've resorted to wearing a tuque to cover my mess that sort of resembles hair. Embarrassing, I tell ya. Also: I forgot my toothbrush at home, and I've found that chewing on toothpaste is no replacement.

The best part: I'm falling asleep as I type and loving it. To explain:

The Managing Editor elect's column below shows the wonderful ambition fresh blood brings to this newspaper, and I'm sure next year's editor-in-chief, current arts editor extraordinaire Patrick Reinartz, will help lead the newspaper to new heights.

When I moved down the hall to the nicer office I was also a former entertainment editor, full of ideas for my first year as EIC. I quickly learned that running a newspaper is a lot like treading water - you try your best to move forward, but most of your work

is spent keeping things afloat. And if you stop for even a second, you, and your staff, are screwed.

It's a struggle, and we spend most of our time being diplomats, coordinating all the different aspects of the newspaper while dealing with complaints and any problem that comes along. As wonderful as it is, it's a bit of a relief when the end of the year arrives.

Farewell editorials that editor-in-chiefs traditionally do are tricky - you want to avoid the pitfalls of being too self-congratulatory, too nostalgic, or too critical, while remembering to praise your staff and the whole indie media scene to which we belong.

In my second and last year as editor-in-chief I've been blessed with a talented and dedicated editorial board who have happily put up with my quirks - whether it be no-floor Tuesdays or endless pictures of kittens on the office walls - and have put a ridiculous amount of their personal time into this newspaper.

And we've done a lot. We've given the newspaper a design overhaul (kudos to the *Daily Gleaner* for copying our front page design recently), built some solid sections, and established *The Brunswickan* as a leading member of the Canadian University Press (a geeky newspaper collective).

Of course, there's always more to do, and new editors to be doing it. So, to all who helped out this year (and to those who helped me truly experience this job by giving me a hell of a hard time), I say: thanks.

It's time to make a significant change

MUGWUMP
NATHAN WHITE

As is the custom with the revolving door business of student journalism, there will be significant change in this paper's leadership for next year. Just two of the six current editors will return, with veteran Patrick Reinartz taking over the helm, Ben Conoley filling the newly created Opinions Editor position, and rookie of the year candidates Alex Pope, Meg Folkins, and Tony von Richter stepping up as section editors. I will move into the role of Managing Editor.

Obviously, such a significant change in leadership could lead to a significant change in content.

I've asked quite a few people what they think of what is, in my opinion, the finest student publication in the land. Some have called on me to "clean up" this "trash rag." Too left wing, too vulgar, and too immature are the main complaints I've heard. That may change next year and it may not, but if you'd like to have a say, by all means pop into the office next September, or better yet, start e-mailing us now. All points of view are welcome in these pages.

Many people, probably more, have told me that they love the paper, while a significant number have said they don't even read it. Striving to bring up the quality of the paper's content should help us make all three groups happy next year, and in turn help our pick-up rate!

Some people may think that the *Brunns* has some sort of agenda to which it wants to bend the collective will of the students. On the contrary, we want to reflect the wills of the students, no matter how diverse. But,

we can only reflect the ones we hear about. So, if you're complaining that the paper is "too" something, or "not enough" something else, you have only yourself to blame for not participating.

It's not our job as editors to tell you what to think, but we do have the privilege and responsibility to point you in a direction to think.

This week, with the Easter season following on the heels of the controversial *Passion of the Christ* movie, I'm reminded that spring is a time of renewal. Whatever your belief in Easter as a Christian or pagan tradition, now may be a good chance for you to take some time to reflect on your own spiritual nature.

In our high-tech, on-the-go world, we have a tendency to focus on material things and ignore our innate desire for spiritual fulfillment, often getting bogged down with guilt and clinging to drugs, alcohol, or other temporary pleasures that dull our perception. It doesn't have to be that way.

A lot of work has gone into several passion plays being put on this weekend around the city, so if you feel a tug on your heart or have questions this week, why not watch one of these fine productions and decide for yourself what it's all about? You'll certainly be welcome.

I'd like to wish you all good luck on your exams, and for those of you who read the *Brunns* faithfully, we thank you. Consider volunteering next year; it's an invaluable experience you will never forget. To new readers still trying to put their finger on what's different about the *National Post* today, thanks for picking us up, and keep an eye out in September. And, to everyone, let us know what you want your student paper to be!

Evolution leaves many questions unanswered

There is more to the story than what the textbooks say, says **Nick Gaunce**. It just takes a different kind of understanding

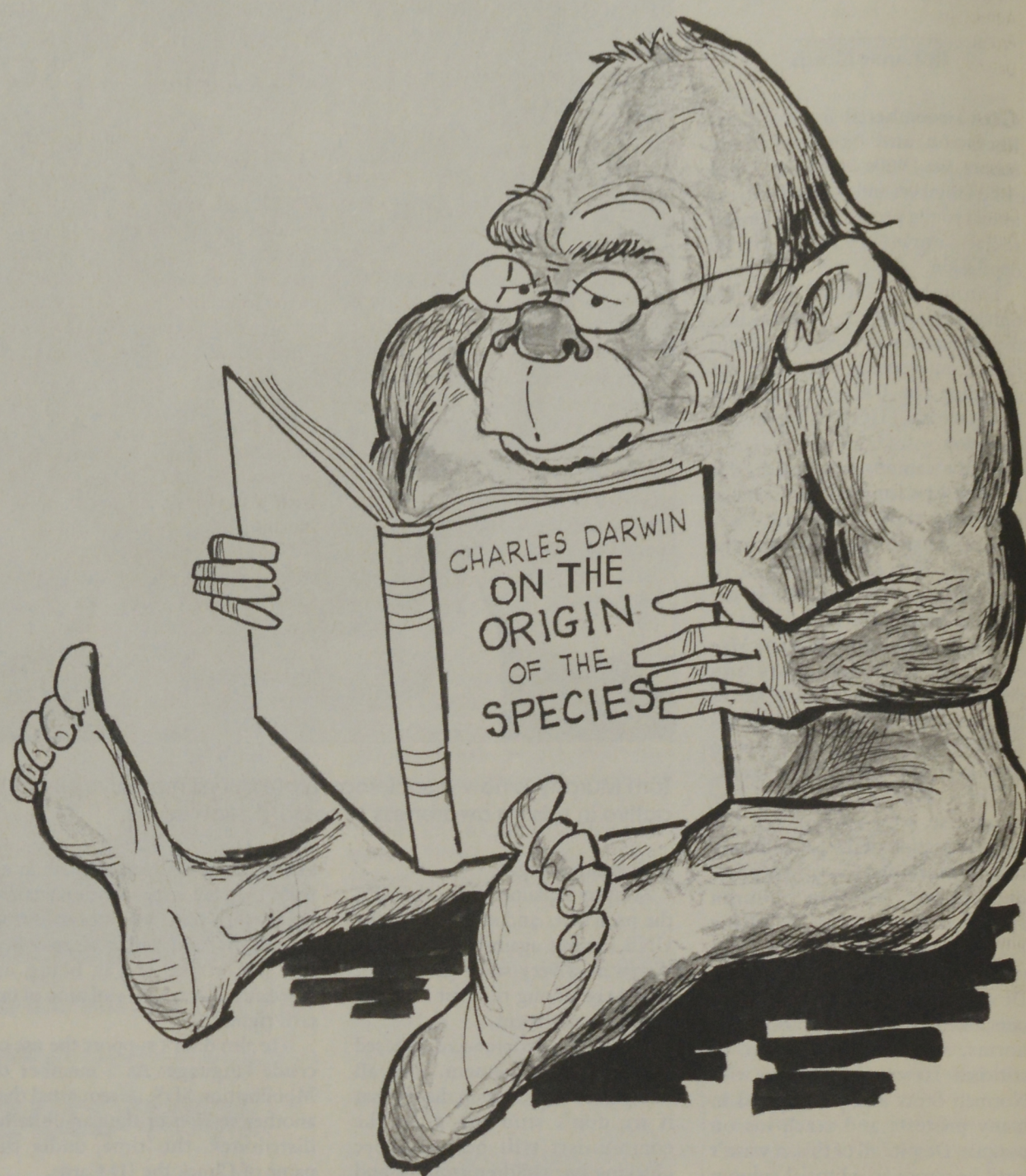
A little while ago, I heard a guy complaining about the requirements of a science degree at some university including a certain number of courses in religious studies. He didn't understand why any science program would force students to take courses about God because science is obviously pointing the other way (away from God).

Let's see about that. Science has shown that there is at least 50 billion galaxies (of which ours - the Milky Way - is but one) each with about 200 million stars. Now the thing about stars is that, contrary to those love songs that talk about hanging the stars for you, they aren't really just hanging there. This stuff is all moving, but it's not just a random molecular bombardment kind of motion. It's ordered. There's a certain synchrony about it.

But I'm supposed to believe this all just happened. Big Bang and voila. Now don't get me wrong, I'm not anti-Big Bang per se. I'm just saying that science can't explain how something came from nothing and why there is such order to it - this revolves around that, that revolves around this. It's a pretty good system. The laws governing the universe explain quite nicely how it works - to the best of human knowledge, but they don't explain where it came from. It doesn't explain how time and space can be a vacuum at one moment and then "Bang," the universe is formed. It seems to me that since something coming from nothing is beyond science, that leaves the formation of the universe - the Big Bang, if that's what you want to call it - having occurred because God spoke it into existence and gave it its order.

Of course the origins of the universe aren't the main argument of the anti-God rhetoric of the science hierarchy anyways. It's the notion that over the course of a few billion years, we weren't living. We became living. We crawled out of the oceans onto land. Some of us went back into the waters to swim away. Some of us decided we'd be further ahead to develop a highly complex system of reasoning and walk upright. Of course that's what happened, isn't it? I don't speak for the masses, but I have a few personal qualms with Mr. Darwin's theory, which is supposedly based in science.

The theory of evolution is based on the principle of natural selection. The idea is that small adaptations occur giving a certain group - the one that adapted in the right way - an advantage and hence increasing their chances of survival. The whole survival of the fittest thing. (There are, however, some problems with this notion which in most cases are pretty much ignored, because they can't be explained by today's leading evolutionary commentators, like Richard Dawkins and Stephen Jay



Gould.)

Firstly and one of the most important points is no person has created life or even shown how something crosses from non-life to life. Even the textbooks admit life only comes from life - except for that one time when it sprang up in some nonliving sludge at the bottom of some ocean. (Some like to talk about a prebiotic soup which they say would have been conducive to early life yet most scientific tests have long ago dispelled that myth, however it still appears in science textbooks). Textbooks print evolution as if it were a fact, and they are just waiting for the last few confirmatory points to lock it up.

Yet it's been over 140 years (1859) since Darwin first published his *God* has nothing to do with anything *Origin of the Species*. So let's see what we've proven in that time. The fossil record clearly shows evolution as a fact, or does it? The textbooks say it does. So where are all the intermediate species - the half this, half that - the transition species? Darwin himself said in order for his theory to be valid there would have to be "innumerable intermediates." About 140 years of examining fossils has shown just the opposite.

Not only are there not innumerable intermediates, but the fossils are of distinct, non-

overlapping species. Go figure. So how about explaining how small adaptations necessary just to ensure survival of the next generation can have the foresight to develop the human eye or birds' wing. Both are far too complex to be developed in a single adaptation and therefore of no use for many generations until they are nearly fully formed. That goes against the very heart of the theory of evolution. I know those are old creationist fall back arguments but until someone comes up with suitable, factual explanations - and they've had 140 years - they're good ones. And don't give me the photosensitive epithelial cell story as being a primitive eye. In order for something to be a primitive anything it needs to be replaced by tiny changes in later generations, not by big jumps from one fully formed structure to the next.

Otherwise that's called macroevolution and in the world evolution that's almost as big a faux pas as creationism, since it borders on the miraculous. Furthermore, to the best of my knowledge, no organism has ever been turned into another organism. We can manipulate an organism all day long. Take a bacterium for instance. We can genetically alter it or cause mutations in any number of ways and then clone and genetically alter the clones. At the

end of the day, guess what you have. An elephant? No. A fruit fly? Not even. You still just have a single celled organism that's easily identifiable with the original. It might sound like I was being a little far fetched, but that's what was supposed to have happened. Enough mutations, adaptations, were supposed to have naturally occurred and accumulated to create a more complex, multicellular organism. Yet with all of our technology, and genetic engineering abilities, we can't turn something into a different organism.

I've said all that to say this. The reason the textbooks sound atheist is because many in the science world have accepted a theory as fact, when they should have studied the facts objectively. They're biased without real reason for it. They've decided God and science can't coexist but God and science are not mutually exclusive ideas. Before science, there was God. Where science leaves off, there is God. In between, God is all over it, whether we give Him the credit or not. I guess my point is that there is more to the story than the version printed in the textbooks. If you don't believe me, just ask God.

I read a little phrase a few years ago that said "Science is an art; it takes faith, hope and love." Now I think that's interesting because God is faith, hope and love.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Columnists missing the facts

First it was Tan-Nee Ng and now it is Asaf Rashid. The latest article to strike a nerve with me was Asaf's ["Attention: all rise for Judge God," March 24, 2004] as he attempted to explain how judges are deified and laws heavenly decrees. But as with almost any opinion column I read in the *Brunns*, it is plagued with 'oversights,' warped truths, and statements that are just not true.

I could cite all the errors in Asaf's article but I don't want to write a book. An example of his erroneous ways is when he writes how "all the judged people must swear to 'tell the truth...and nothing but the truth'."

One only has to look at Canada's constitution to disprove this. It forbids a charged person (i.e. judged people) to testify, thus there is no need for them to take the oath. He also writes about swearing the oath on a religious text and how one "might" not have to swear on a text if they do not wish to. It is a fact that nobody must take the oath on any text if they do not wish to. As well, I would be quite surprised if you could receive a religious text at a secular court to swear on if you wished for it.

Asaf concludes his article with the usual leftist jargon on a shortsighted anti-corporate rant. He attacks the laws that are in place to help protect corporations such as laws governing slander and copyrights failing to realize the full implication if these

laws did not exist.

I would highly suggest that the *Brunns* and its respective columnists write on real news and issues to gain some credibility. I'm all for opinion pieces but as a bare minimum, get some facts correct next time.

• Anthony Near

The cursing debate continues

In response to Jon Parker's letter to the editor, I would like to say that I am not offended when I hear the word "fuck" on the streets or at a bar, however it does not seem right that it should be published in Canada's oldest official student publication.

• Wade Jarvis

This is it: the final issue of *The Brunswickan* for this year
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