

THE BRUNSWICKAN OPINION & EDITORIAL

Tuition: petition or a plan?

Questioning how we should tackle rising tuition at our school

by Darren Robertson

Anyone following "campus politics" this year at UNB has to admit the whole scene has been a rollercoaster ride. Many students I know who have been in the middle of it all have handled their situations to the best of their capabilities, and for this they must be commended. Still, there is much work to be accomplished.

I found it interesting to read in *The Brunswickan* last week that the

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Student Union Council is interested in having petitions signed to tackle the tuition issue. Most students are aware the cost of tuition has been rising just as fast as Paul Martin can implement a tax cut to the wealthy. So, why a petition?

Earlier this year students had signed a petition asking for the reversal of a council decision, and to be honest, it was ignored. So why would the same council believe a petition would sway someone like Paul Martin? If the students of a university cannot overturn a decision through a petition, what are we really expecting Paul Martin to do? Are we expecting the prime minister of this country to take to heart the signatures of a couple of thousand students? Much like the union, he has his own agenda to fulfill.

So what are we going to do? Are we going to sign petitions only to be ignored, or are we actually going to adopt a plan to address rising tuition costs? If the position of the SU is to tackle rising tuition fees, then work towards devising a plan. Do not lead the student population down a dead-end road. We are all busy preparing for our classes, midterms, and papers, so let us work toward a goal that will actually achieve some results.



Jenna Wakani / The McGill Daily

Want sex with that Happy Meal?

THOUGHT FOR FOOD
MATTHEW THOMPSON

Whether it's a plump red strawberry, whipped cream, or a full dinner in a fancy restaurant, food has been used to create some of the most erotic moments ever.

Food and sexuality have had a long association. Hunter/gatherers in primitive societies enjoyed sexual benefits for sharing meat in their societies. Still today, the sharing of food has a certain erotic flair. How many times have you accompanied a date out for dinner, perhaps to a restaurant or even at home for an intimate home-cooked meal?

Some have argued that food can create more than just a seductive setting for your date. The concept of

aphrodisiacs (the word stems from the Grecian goddess of love and fertility, Aphrodite) has existed for centuries. Montezuma, the Aztec emperor, is said to have had 50 cups of chocolate a day with the belief that it would affect his sexual ability. Currently, there is questionable evidence as to the capacity of food boost your libido. However, convincing evidence exists for the creation of other physiological and neurological benefits that could enhance your sexual prowess.

Both bananas and chocolate contain chemical compounds that have shown to alter your mood into a mildly similar experience to happiness, love, and passion. Celery, which the Romans associated with Pluto (the god of sex and the underworld), carries a hormone

similar to testosterone and is believed to have similar effects. And, although garlic creates halitosis, a dating taboo, recent studies have suggested that garlic may produce enzymes responsible for generating erections. Most research into aphrodisiacs, though, has been inconclusive. This is largely because the human mind is so prone to sexual thought that many believed aphrodisiacs create only a placebo effect.

From another perspective, proper eating not only ensures your health, it also plays a large role in your physical attractiveness and sexual ability, though maybe not your libido. Calcium and phosphorus, for example, are chemical elements found in certain foods that enhance physique (and sexual performance), and fruits and vegetables have long

been known to improve skin complexion. Some have even gone so far as to suggest that the behaviour with which one approaches food is indicative of how one approaches sex. Thus, if you rush through your takeout fast food, it is likely you will show little interest in foreplay and the physical act will be rushed.

Whatever the physical connections between food and sexuality may actually be, undoubtedly the two maintain interconnected in the human mind. Perhaps we are merely acting out oral fixations by taking our date out for a meal; a consumptive element of foreplay. Or perhaps we get an introspection into the psyche of our romantic interest by witnessing the peculiarities of their eating habits and, if we're lucky, their cooking skills.

Attention journalists (or anyone else): Thought Police are watching

DECONSTRUCTIONS
ASAF RASHID

After an RCMP raid of a journalist's home last week, I ask myself the following question: what is "security information"? Ironically, just as Maher Arar (Canadian citizen deported to a Syrian prison by the United States) was setting up a lawsuit against American officials for deporting him to a place where he was tortured, the RCMP were launching a raid on the home of a reporter. Juliet O'Neill of

the *Ottawa Citizen*, for having "illegal" information on Arar. The RCMP raid was "justified" under the Security of Information Act, which was put into force after September 11th (in conjunction with Canadian anti-terrorism legislation). We're told that her use of leaked documents in a November 8th story was "illegal" based on the Security of Information Act.

In addition to putting a vicegrip on information of a "national security" nature, the list of offences under this act also includes revealing or receiving secrets that could impair international

relations or adversely affect Canadian financial markets.

This is an interesting extension isn't it? Reporting on corporate crime also becomes precarious under this loose distinction. Additionally intriguing is that communicating secret information even if that information isn't true is also an offense! Does that mean it's illegal to report on government lies? Be careful of what you say in public.

Despite the events of last week, Prime Minister Paul Martin said the RCMP raid of the home and office of the *Citizen* journalist does not mean Canada is turning into a police state. He also said that "freedom of the press

is an essential condition to protect our democratic freedoms." I agree with that, but it certainly isn't put into practice around here. I experienced this contradiction personally.

I was arrested in Montreal at a demonstration against the World Trade Organization this past summer while working as a journalist in conjunction with both CHSR FM 97.9 in Fredericton and the Montreal Independent Media Centre. Almost all of the Independent Media journalists were arrested. Is this consistent with the "freedom of the press" that Martin is talking about? The press is supposed to have rights to be present at public demonstrations in order to document

them. Such information is supposed to be open to the public eye, otherwise we are not living in a democracy.

The decisions about what is and what is not "security information" are made in processes that are completely secret. As ridiculous as it sounds, it might even be "illegal" to have knowledge of what these decision-making processes are and who is making the decisions. I wonder how Paul Martin would try to explain this logic.

Growing up different

QUEER-IES
BRIDGET SPENCE

From the time I was 12 years old I knew that there was something different about me.

It was something that I had no vocabulary for at that young age, but it acted as a divider between myself and my peers, regardless of what it was called. I knew that I was supposed to like boys, and I did, which is why I thought that I must be insane when I realized that I was equally attracted to girls. Of course I knew all about homosexuality, but I found no real resemblance between what I was feeling and the definition of what it meant to be "gay" because it was never a question of one or the other for me. It wasn't until I had reached high school that I was introduced to the concepts of "bisexual" and "queer" and thus found a label for myself.

To put it in the simplest terms possible, bisexual refers to people who are attracted to members of either the male or female gender. As a friend once pointed out, it implies that gender, to the people involved, is binary. Queer, on the other hand, is a more general and fluid term that is used in many aspects of the GLBTQ community. My personal definition is that it is more of an "anything goes" mentality where gender is just not important and usually not recognized by the person identifying as queer. I, for example, call myself queer.

After initially coming out as bisexual in the ninth grade, I fell into many relationships with women, and ended up being labeled by both

society and myself as a lesbian. At that point in my life, I was not finding myself attracted to any of the guys that I knew, so I assumed that this label must be accurate. Imagine my shock when, three years later, I fell in love with a man!

At first I could not shake the lesbian dogma of "Boys are yucky. Thou shalt not touch the penis!" but upon reflecting on my situation, I came to the conclusion that it would be terribly shallow of me to entirely overlook a possible relationship simply based on a person's gender as long as my feelings were legitimate. Over the past four months following that incident, I have changed my philosophy on life and love entirely. I have ceased to recognize a person's gender as a determining factor of their worth to me as a friend or a lover, much in the same way that I have never recognized other irrelevant characteristics, such as race or class, in that light.

For me, coming out as queer once more has been one of the most liberating experiences of my life. That is not to say that I have not been met with prejudice and stereotypes from both the homo- and heterosexual communities. Since discovering my capacity to love all gender variations, I have been called everything from a "fence-sitter" to a "slut", in addition to being publicly outed. Yet, most of these insults have fallen on deaf ears, as I feel that, for me, it is one of the purest forms of love when I can get to a point where the only real quality that I care about in another human is their character and personality, not their physical body.

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This issue is dedicated to:

Newfoundland: fuckin' DFO & der cad

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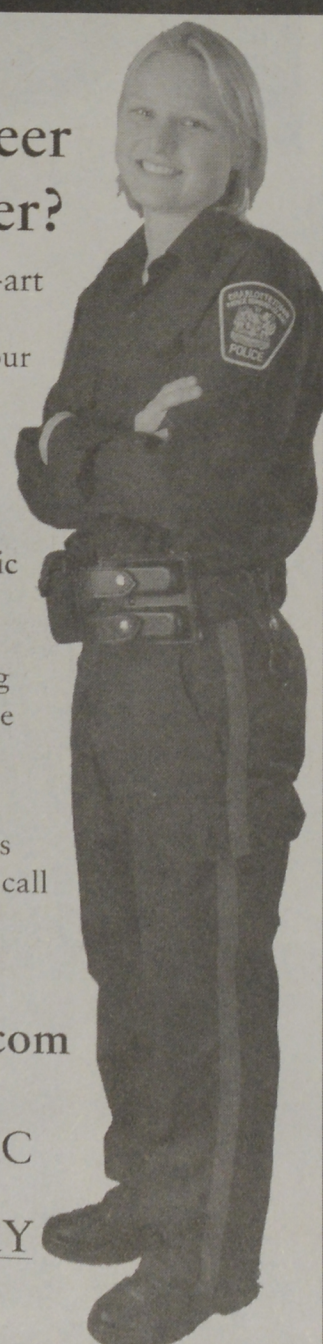
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