

COMMENTS & LETTERS

bruns.editor@gmail.com • January 31, 2007

Brunswickan benefits from Canadian University Press National Conference



Josh O'Kane, Associate News editor meets Nardwuar in Vancouver. New BFF's? For realz.

by Josh O'Kane

Last week, several editors and writers for *The Brunswickan* had the opportunity to attend the Canadian University Press national journalism conference in Vancouver. This annual event brings together 300 or more students each year from 70-plus papers to learn and discuss various aspects of journalism on a local, national and international basis.

Seminars were held each day discussing such topics as pitching stories, foreign correspondence, layout and design. Round table discussions were also held on news writing, sports writing, writer gathering and design. Keynote speakers at the conference ranged from CBC's Ian Hanomansing and Jian Ghomeshi to Dave Foley and Nardwuar the Human

Serviette. Each of these speakers brought to the attention of the audience important issues in the field of journalism. Ian spoke of the importance of diverse journalistic sources, Jian of how to make it in the field, Nardwuar of how to get the attention of your subject, and Dave of what not to ask a smartass comedian.

The four members of *The Brunswickan* that went—myself, Jennifer McKenzie, Sheah Gaston and Julianne Philpott all took in a variety of these sessions and workshops and are happily bringing all these new ideas to our student paper. Throughout the course of this term, we intend to incorporate everything we've learned from this conference into the *Brunswickan* to make it a better paper for you to read.

We want to be able to grab more readers and keep them reading, and

we will be incorporating the new ideas necessary to do so. These things range from adding stories more pertinent to students like you, to simple things, such as a larger font size, to make it easier to read, and bolder headlines to get your attention. Every little thing matters, and now that we've taken this into account, we hope that you will continue to enjoy reading your student paper.

As always, *The Brunswickan* is looking for more writers. We are more than willing to take in stories from anyone on campus, and even moreso to take in writers to give some of our own story ideas and to teach how to write. Anyone is welcome, and we encourage you to come in and try it out. We're always willing to take on new writers, and we're willing to teach everything new we've learned as well.

The environment is "hot," so I should be happy... right?

by Kate Mullan

Ever since I discovered what goes into a hot dog, I've been keenly interested in what I put into my body. But being a vegetarian and eating organic was not enough. At age 13, I participated in a local Earth Day clean-up and I really started to put it all together. Where does the trash go after we put it into the garbage can? Where will it be 100 years from now? My concern for the environment quickly broadened beyond my own walls as I realized that my consumption had consequences more far reaching than I had ever contemplated, and that as an individual, I had to become more responsible. From that point on, I guess I became a "concerned citizen of the earth."

True, I never tied myself to a tree or protested on parliament hill in the dead cold of winter, because, to me, it was more personal than that. It wasn't about being cool, or jumping on any particular bandwagon. After all, just because I wouldn't wear fur, it didn't mean that I should slag someone else for making the choice.

Fifteen years after participating in my first Earth Day, I have not only become more vested, but I have become more of an activist. It continues to be personal, but in recent years, I've made more of an effort to share my concerns and to reach out to others to get them involved.

And Canadians are listening. Re-

cent polls suggest that Canadians have identified that the environment should be the government's number one priority. So I should be ecstatic, right? Finally, others are taking notice, right? Then why do I feel so defensive? Why do I want to yell out to the person who just watched "An Inconvenient Truth" that "I care. I've been here all along, where have you been?" I know that is not the right attitude, because the more people who are on board, the farther we will go towards a sustainable future together. No, I think the reason that I feel skepticism is because, if the Environment is trendy, does that mean its popularity will come and go like leggings or side-ponytails? If so, how long do we have with this trend before attitudes change?

The danger that worries me is that people are paying attention and communicating concerns, but that their misgivings pretty much stop there. I fear that people will demand that our government take action to address "environmental issues," yet they will continue to idle their cars at the Tim Hortons drive thru, take hour-long showers, and throw pop cans in the garbage without a second thought.

What I am getting at here is that I truly hope this is not just a trend, but rather I hope it is a societal shift. A shift of attention that includes a collective as well as individual responsibility and one, that unlike skinny jeans, will stay around for more than one "hot" season.

The Brunswickan

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About Us

The Brunswickan, in its 140th year of publication, is Canada's Oldest Official Student Publication.

We are an autonomous student newspaper owned and operated by Brunswickan Publishing Inc., a non-profit, independent body.

We are a founding member of the Canadian University Press, and love it so. We are also members of U-Wire, a media exchange of university media throughout North America.

We publish weekly during the academic year with a circulation of 10,000.

Letters

Must be submitted by e-mail including your name, letters with pseudonyms will not be printed. Letters must be 200 words maximum. Deadline for letters is Friday at noon.

Editorial Policy

While we endeavour to provide an open forum for a variety of viewpoints and ideas, we may refuse any submission considered by the editorial board to be racist, sexist, libellous, or in any way discriminatory. The opinions and views expressed in this newspaper are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Brunswickan*, its Editorial Board, or its Board of Directors.

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Submissions

If you've got something to say and are reasonably literate, get in touch and we'll hook you up with some sweet space in *The Bruns*. Also, we'll throw in some free journalism training just to make things interesting.

If you're not into writing, but have some info about news around campus, our news editor would love to hear from you.

bruns.news@gmail.com is where you can get in touch with her.

Same goes for Sports. If you'd like to get coverage of an event or make an announcement, contact our sports editor.

bruns.sports@gmail.com will do fine.

As for Arts, if you know of a show or have event you want the world to know about, our arts editor will be happy to oblige.

bruns.arts@gmail.com is your best bet.

Though we'd love to keep it all for ourselves, it's your newspaper too, so go ahead and let us know what's going on.

Creeps and yahoos in every class

GRINDS MY GEARS

by Courtenay Courier

Seeing as how UNB doesn't screen for creeps and yahoos, they end up coming here anyway. And since they are here, of course they are going to end up right in my classroom every time. But I think every class has that person who drives you crazy. Maybe you don't notice it as much, but when I see a train-wreck only five seats away from me, I tend to notice.

Let's start with those people who try to kiss ass and suck at it. They sit there with their laptop and American Eagle sweaters that their moms bought them, mouths gaping open at all times, with that look in their eyes that says "Oh God, please just don't hate me." They always laugh (obnoxiously) at whatever the professor says and it's so clear when it happens because the prof isn't even trying to be funny; the guy a few seats ahead of me is just stupid. So far, I've had

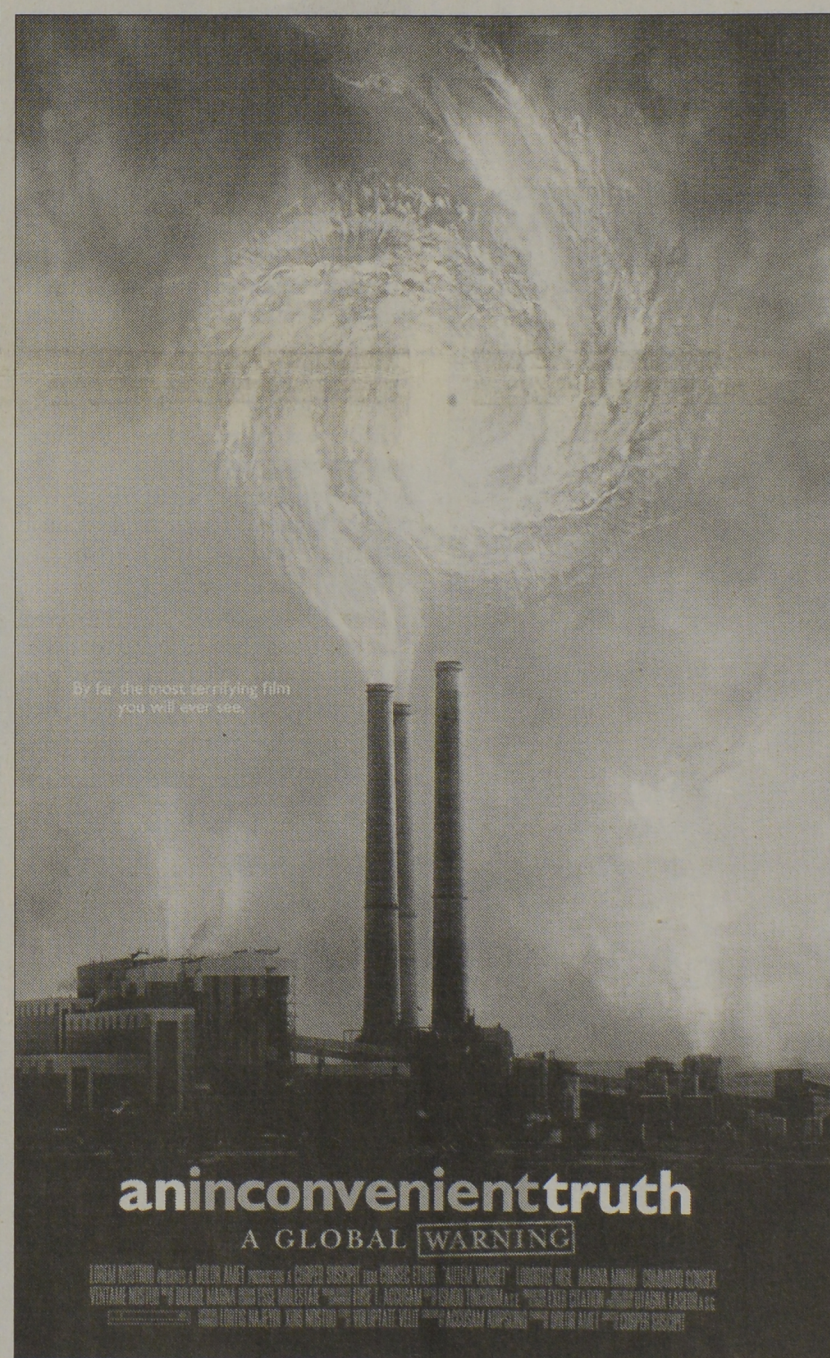
one of these in almost every class in my three years at UNB, and I swear they all spawn from the same source. There's no other way to explain these obnoxious people who can't separate fact from fiction and are desperate for any contact, thus begging professors to answer unrelated questions.

Then we come to those people who seem to think they are in the classroom all by themselves. I have come across a few of these folk. They like to sit there, talking to themselves quietly, and they usually seem quite anxious. Then during the depths of a lecture, they will keep repeating what is said, while, in a blank stare, pause, and then act like they really understood it that time and all of a sudden the world makes sense.

Another annoying group (although usually not as offensive to me) consists of those who like to disagree for the sake of disagreement. So now we have the professor at the front of the room spitting off as many facts as possible, when this person stands up and says they disagree. Now, when it comes to matters of opinion, this would be a good thing. But we're

talking about straight out facts. Why would someone want to argue that aspects of the physical body don't change with age? They have no reason in their argument. They're just a nuisance.

The common denominator here is that they're all desperate—desperation that you can smell from a ten foot radius and that turns more people off than anything. It's possible that these people are just socially inept. I suppose that may not necessarily be their fault. They could have had a very poor upbringing, or maybe they're really neurotic. I'm not exactly sure what their problems are. Since everyone's different, you would expect them to have different problems. But I do know that not only are there more types of creeps than those I have mentioned, but I'm also destined to have one in every class I attend. However, it could be a lot worse: I no longer have to live in a dorm with these people. Just remember not to hate these people because they are social outcasts, but because they're really, really annoying and absolutely grind my gears.



By far, the most terrifying film you will ever see.

an inconvenient truth

A GLOBAL WARNING

Internet

MUSIC ON THE HILL

PRESENTS

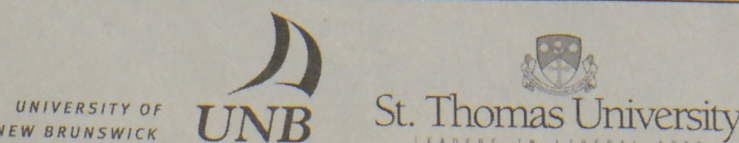
WENDY NIELSEN AND
STEVEN PEACOCK

Wednesday, January 31, 2007
8:00 p.m., Black Box Theatre (STU)

Come out for an intimate, exciting, and exotic recital of recent song cycles in English, French, and Spanish by Argento, Duarte, Seiber, and Cordero. The featured work for this concert is Argento's "Letters from Composers".

For information call 457-2233

Tickets available at the door, Mazzuca's, Westminster Books, and The Paper Trail.
Ticket Prices: \$20 adult, \$18 senior, and \$6 student



rUNBuddies

CIBC Run for the Cure

September 30/07

The rUNBuddies are for Faculty, Staff, Students and anyone who would like to join in the race to find a cure for breast cancer.. Join the official UNB team!

To register go to: www.runbuddies.unbf.ca

Upcoming Events

- February 12—GGE Chili Sale, 11:30-1:00pm, E Level, Head Hall
- February 18—Lady Dunn Annual Fashion Show, 7pm DKT Cafeteria

Check out our website for more information!
www.runbuddies.unbf.ca

rUNBuddies

Being the fastest animal on earth doesn't help to protect their nest sites from development

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Peregrine Falcon
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Saturday, February 10, 2007

Help raise money for Peregrine Falcon habitat

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For more info: www.naturetrust.nb.ca

hosted by UNB's Rock and Ice Club & The Nature-Trust of NB