

Predictably unpredictable Res Life tries alternate methods of discipline

by Lauren Kennedy

"Predictably unpredictable, in a sense", is how Paul Kennedy, host of CBC radio's 'Ideas', described Chantal Hébert, a fluently bi-lingual journalist and author at the beginning of the recent Dalton K. Camp lecture at St. Thomas University. Primarily addressing students, her lecture was titled 'Canada in the Post-Unity Era: How Quebec is (Once Again) Redesigning the Canadian Political Landscape'.

Journalism is about stories and the pleasure of journalism is to tell stories, and a journalist is at their best when they are able to weave a story around an interesting person or event. As Hébert sees it, being a journalist is one of the best jobs out there, and instead of doing a regular job, she says journalists get to be paid for doing something fun.

Despite the difficulty one would face making such an address, due to a general resistance to political discussions, Hébert pulled it off, as she is one of Canada's greatest political commentators. She is the national affairs writer for the Toronto Star newspaper, a weekly guest columnist for the Montreal paper Le Devoir, and a regular commentator on the CBC television show, The National.

Hébert is not of the typical journalists of her day, as she was not enrolled in any journalism programs in school. She says it just came upon her one day that she thought she would like to pursue this field, that and she could not think of anything else she wanted to do. She simply was not an office type, but more of a 'jeans-and-comfy-shirt' kind of person, coupled with a self-admitted problem with authority. She figured journalism would have nothing to do with those things.

"Little did I know, journalism is in some ways like boot camp; you either do what they ask of you, or ship out," she described.

Her first real journalism job was at 25 years old within the CBC Radio Canada newsroom, translating anything that looked like Toronto news into French, from 4 am to noon. As she was supposed to return to university for her fourth year, she caught a break when an Ontario election was called. She stayed on the scene, and ended up working with



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickan

Chantal Hébert, Canadian Journalist and Author was the guest lecturer for the Dalton K. Camp Lecture in Journalism held annually at St. Thomas

Radio Canada for the next 14 years, which she says, was all the experience she needed.

"Working there was my training. That was where I went to school, that was my journalism training," she said. "Then one day, someone asked me if I would like to write a column in the Ottawa Citizen as a guest columnist for a week."

Although she had written for Le Devoir and La Presse, writing in English would prove to be a challenge, as she had never written for an English-language paper before.

"I barely survived high school English class, and when I was done with that, I never looked back. In university, I did all my exams in French and all my essays in French. At this point I had never written a column before and I could remember my high school English teacher telling me I had no future writing like that, so when they asked me, I said 'Sure, of course I could do that,' she joked, and to this day she still writes a column and hasn't had a day off."

Being bilingual is a key asset in the journalism world, particularly in Canada. Hébert feels she was very fortunate to have a good grasp in both official languages. When she spoke during her lecture, she told of Quebec's ever-changing political landscape and its

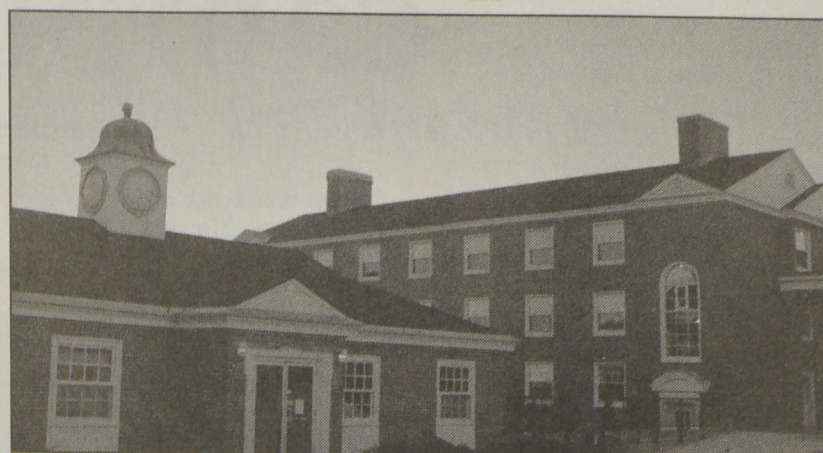
effects the rest of Canada; she discussed the French-English debate in Quebec as well. As she explained the Quebec political landscape, she clarified that these citizens are essentially in need of an identity, while remaining a French society with a democracy called 'Canada'.

"Young people today in Quebec don't see English as a bad thing and they don't see themselves at a disadvantage because some are Francophone," she said.

For her, as a bilingual political journalist, she admits there were challenges along the way, but she never turned an offer down, and said 'yes' to doing a lot of things, even though she may have embarrassed herself once or twice. She still offered this advice: "If you're a journalist, you may make a fool out of yourself, but in the end it doesn't really matter; if you don't try you never know if you can do it. I think most of the stuff I tried, I wasn't so good at when I started but each time I got better, and I did have fun along the way, and I wasn't bored," she said. "It really teaches you that the bad days don't really matter and the next day washes off the day before. In this job, you always have the privilege of getting to watch things happen while other people have serious jobs, and that is a tremendous thing, that they actually pay you for that."

The Dalton K. Camp lecture, held each year at St. Thomas University, was established to enhance young journalists' education and to recognize the lasting contribution to journalism that Dalton K. Camp, himself a prominent Canadian political journalist, made to Canada. The lecture is held in partnership with CBC radio's Ideas program, which is recorded, to be played for a national broadcast. This year's broadcast will be on Ideas on November 27.

by Josh O'Kane



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickan

Neill House, pictured here behind the Res Life building, had two week-ends in October with 10pm quiet hours

Things were a little quieter at Aitken and Neill Houses during several weekends in October, as both houses had extended quiet hours. After rising concerns and several "turbulent" evenings, the two Houses each were disciplined with the modified quiet hours for house damages for which no one would account.

Angela Garnett is the current Director of Residential Life under the new Residence Life, Campus, and Conference Services structure. She says this method of discipline is more effective than monetary punishment, such as House fines to pay for the repairs.

The dons and House teams in each case, says Garnett, "decided to do something that they thought might have had more impact, and also benefits the House, as it provides more quiet time to allow people to do more studying and get back on track after the particularly turbulent weekends."

Both residences ran into problems in early-to-mid October. In Neill, Garnett says there were progressive concerns over quiet hours in the weeks that preceded the evening of their toga social.

"People were pushing the quiet hours," she says, "and trying to extend them a little bit every night so the protestors were having to speak to more and more people every night about it. It was getting a little frustrating for everyone, including most of the students, who want to respect quiet hours and want to go to sleep."

The night in question was that of the House toga social on October 12. Despite the fact that, due to Residence Life rules, only residents and one guest

per person were in the building, the laundry room was damaged during the evening.

Because of this, says Garnett, the don and House team decided to move quiet hours on weekends back to 10 pm, such as is already the case on weekdays. Traditionally, quiet hours in residence begin at 2 am on a given Friday or Saturday evening.

"To my understanding, it went reasonably well," says Garnett. "I'm sure there was a little bit of grumbling in the House, but I think everyone respected it. The condition upon that was that if it wasn't respected by the House then it would be extended again. I understand that it was reasonably successful."

Garnett says Aitken had a somewhat different series of events over what she described as "several turbulent nights," where several internal windows were broken, such as those in fire doors.

"They weren't able to locate those responsible for it, but it had happened at least twice in the building. They had a couple of other damages in the house. Their stove in the basement was damaged."

The Aitken House team thus took a similar tactic to Neill to make it educational, says Garnett. However, they chose to make it a gradual change back to traditional weekend quiet hours. The first weekend had 10 pm quiet hours.

on Friday and Saturday nights, and the next at midnight, then going back to 2 am quiet hours.

The non-monetary method of discipline works for two reasons, says Garnett.

"It's sort of a punishment for the House, because it's a direct change of one of their rules, but it also usually helps the House maintain a level of noise, respect, and everything else over those weekends and let them get back on track."

She also says that the money it costs to pay a House fine for damages doesn't often impact strongly when divided among 100 residents, or in the case of personal fines, they can sometimes be unaffordable.

"It seems to be a method that works, at least in the short term. We'll see how it goes. It seems to be more effective with the students than just another fine which no one can afford and doesn't seem to really change anything."

Garnett also notes that discipline cases have been lower overall this year than in the past, and has been happening in a normal spread across all residences.

"Overall, things have been quite low," she says. "The dons and the House teams are keeping a more active role this year in monitoring discipline in their residence, and I think that this is probably attributed to their good work."

CORRECTION

Last week's article "No lease and no peace" included incorrect information. The Cellar has never had any underage drinking infractions. The Brunswickan apologizes for this error.

Neill House Video Game Tournament "A Knight Time Extravaganza"

November 30, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
McConnell Hall

\$15 Registration Fee \$2 Spectator Fee
All Proceeds go to supporting
The Canadian Cancer Society

Registration at McConnell

Wed Nov 21: Noon - 1, 5-6

Thur Nov 22: Noon - 1, 5-6

Fri Nov 23: Noon - 1, 5-6

Sat Nov 24: 5-6

Mon Nov 26: Noon - 1, 5-6

Wed Nov 28: Noon - 1, 5-6

Registration at SUB

Sat Nov 24: 11:30 - 3

GROUND BEAT



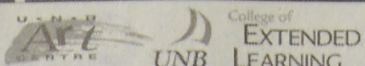
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FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 23,
8:00 PM

MEMORIAL HALL
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\$5
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