

MUGWUMP

In the beginning, God made the heavens and the earth. Adam and Eve came as an afterthought, largely considered to be as a result of boredom. So God puts this tree in the middle of Eden, and says not to touch the tree. Surprise, surprise, Adam and Eve scarf an apple and God jumps out from behind the tree yelling "Gotcha!!" All in fun, really, but he's God, you see, and this is the Old Testament, so he's got to be vindictive. After an awkward silence, with God standing there with his arms up and this insidious grin on his face, and Adam in mid-bite, God creates New Brunswick, and banishes man to live in pain for all eternity to reflect on his sin. "I'll make it really awful" says God.

"Conscious weather, that's what we'll call it." Says God. "Weather with feeling - weather that knows how to be properly rotten." God performed a lot of experiments. England was one of his better ones. "I like this - rain and misery." But then the people adapted to it and it became a reason for imperialist expansion and colonization. After numerous other trials (Germany, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Siberia, Newfoundland), God arrived at New Brunswick with a new revelation. "Unpredictably and cleverly nasty! That's it! Rain in January!! Heehee!! Followed by biting, frigid winds!! Snow in May! Frost in June! Sweltering heat in September!!" And so, kids, we get the incredibly depressing garbage weather so wonderfully demonstrated in the last few weeks. Yup, this is God's country all right. Give me a break.

Hands up, now. How many of you plebs know where D'Avray Hall is? Good! Now, how many times has this happened to you: You're walking up to D'Avray, and you come to the traffic circle in front of the building. "Oh my God!" You scream. "What am I to do!" How many times have you seen twenty or thirty confused students standing in front of that traffic circle? Virtually every day there is a mass panic at this locale, nursing and education students stumbling over each other, scrambling around like frightened rodents - it's ghastly. You can't go around it (it's almost thirty yards wide and besides, you might get lost), and you can't go through it (just this year they discovered a tribe of education students who had been living in there since 1973 when they got lost on the way to Children's Lit).

Fear not. The Grad class executive has once again come to the rescue - championing the fight against such destroyers of pedestrian harmony. The answer? The executive has decided on its project for this year. Their going to put (get this) a pathway through the traffic circle! (ethereal trumpet fanfare and a blaze of green light). They actually voted on this and it won. No more will the already life-threatening hell of walking to D'Avray be further shadowed by the specter of that wretched, godforsaken plateau of pain and anguish.

I was told that there was a meeting in the fall of the grad class where they decided that I (and anyone else planning to graduate) could have attended and voted at. Hands up again, kiddies - How many of you knew about this? Thank heavens we at the Bruns are on top of things and at least managed to get a hold of the list of proposals that lost at that meeting:

- 1) A nine-foot plastic statue of Kim Norris in the Blue Lounge.
- 2) Yellow passing lane indicator lines on Dineen Drive.
- 3) Another piece of incomprehensible art for outside of Head Hall.
- 4) A dog run
- 5) An alumni cemetery
- 6) Little umbrellas for drinks at the Social Club
- 7) Another faculty parking lot
- 8) More of those cool "stainless steel cows" for dispensing cream in the Cafeteria
- 9) Guns for CP's.

Now, I realize that this is late, but I think that every graduating student should be given the opportunity to submit her/his own list of proposals. It's our money after all. Here's my list of projects that I feel would be much more useful:

- 1) Comfy chairs in the Registrar's office
- 2) A Tim Horton's in the SUB.
- 3) A ski lift from the Gym to the SUB.
- 4) An outdoor jacuzzi
- 5) A miniature golf course
- 6) A university sponsored monster truck rally
- 7) Little umbrellas for drinks at the Social club

As if the stairs last year weren't cheesy enough. Good Lord. Don't these people realize that if they spent even a little of this money on the library we could replace all the journals desperately needed that have been axed by budget slashing? Noooo, we've got to have something for posterity, something to bring the kids to campus in twenty years and say "Look, kids, this is what your father's grad class built." THHHPTBBTHHH!!!

Al will be back next week to talk about student politics and cats. I hate cats. I don't want anything in my house that is smarter than I am.

Artsie joke for the week: A Buddhist Monk walks up to a hot dog stand and says "Make me one with everything."

Engineering joke for the week:

Engineer: Put a Feldersham thermosynaptic anticipator on that dondc:meyer concrustinate joint for me, will you please? Artsie: Which wrench should I use?

Grotesque thought for the week:

Mechanically separated chicken.

OPINION

The opinions found in Opinion are not necessarily the views of The Brunswickan

Man as Steward

by Andrew Crisp

What are we? I mean, besides human beings, Canadians, UNB students, etc. What are we in relation to, well, everything else in the world, for starters?

As a science student, this question is not so trivial as it may seem. How science; or any other body of knowledge, for that matter; is used depends on how we see our role in the world. There are three options, as far as humanity's place in the world: Man As Master, Man As a Symbiotic Creature, and Man As Steward.

'Man As Master' is the belief that humanity the ruler of the universe (or at least the Earth). The universe is to be used by Man to ensure his own survival. God is said not to exist, or to be just an observer, who only created the universe and stood aside to watch it go by itself.

Since God is now out of the equation, that leaves Man to do what he pleases. In the last three centuries Mankind has increasingly industrialized his culture, under the premise that our quality of life will be raised dramatically. Applied science became the tool for material prosperity and environmental demise. Materialism abounded in the Western culture, and poverty, in one form, or another, everywhere else. Waste from three centuries of industrial lifestyle is rising to threaten our world.

If the Man As Master belief is left to grow, we will lose two things; our world, and our souls.

The next belief is 'Man As Symbiote', i.e. Man is a part of a great Spirit or Being. It is known of in religion as pantheism (the belief that all is God) and in science as Gaia (the hypothesis that the Earth, and all life on it is a great, self-regulation, superorganism). Here Man is reduced to a part of the whole, a group of beings (albiet highly advanced ones) whose destiny is to become a part of this Spirit. God is reduced to an impersonal spirit, or force, if you like. Science becomes a means for proving the existence of such a spirit.

By holistic methods, which I don't pretend to understand, people could gain control over their life and environment. That may be fine on the outside, but at what price is this power being gained? And is there really such a power? If there was, it must have been put to mass use by now; yet it has not.

In this aspect, Man As Symbiote and Man as Master are similar, the desire for humans to control the universe to their own ends. Here, good and evil, right and wrong become meaningless, for in a world where all is God, there can never be any sin, any evil. Yet, we cannot deny the fact that evil does exist, that sin does exist.

If Man As Master and Man As Symbiote are ruled out of the 'what are we' question; what's left?

Man As Steward seems to be what's left, unless other people can think of other options. Man As Steward is the belief that an all-powerful, all-knowing God created the universe, and made us to live in it, explore it, and tend it. Man is now tenants and gardeners in Creation, with nothing further than just live and tend. Mind you, that's just bare necessities, which is where all our science, art, philosophy, etc. comes in, as free pursuits for us all.

By now you're probably wondering why I've gone all over the place and wasting your time. You've probably heard all this before (though in not some many words), and want to know how it relates to you, right?

We all know how the environment is slowly degenerating due to waste, toxic and otherwise. That's caused by the Man as Master attitude set free. The Man As Symbiote says all our answers lie in letting Gaia readjust, or tapping into a power that may not be there for the taking. I think it's time for the age-old Man As Steward to come back into the spotlight. And all can participate, there are no barriers that can't be surmounted to getting into that mindset.