

David Mazerolle remembered Neill still not satisfied

by Joe Savoie
for *The Brunswickan*

David Mazerolle was born in Moncton in 1963, the son of Gerald and Ann Mazerolle. He attended UNB, was president of Neville House, and began writing for *The Brunswickan*. He won the prize for Best News Story of the Year, and in 1984-85 was *The Brunswickan's* Editor-in-Chief.

In 1993, Non-Entity Press published David's *Avant Tu Take off Please Close The Lights*, a humorous Moncton dictionary that poked gentle fun at the city's unique linguistic quirks. *Avant Tu Take Off...* was an in joke that sold over 3500 copies, a great success by Canadian publishing standards.

David, who aspired to write the Great Canadian Novel, had no illusions about the book's literary merit. He believed simply that people in places like Moncton, didn't feel that they were the stuff of books, so he set out to show them the ways they were special. Ultimately, of course, he made his readers laugh, which David believed was as important and noble a contribution to literature as any.

David moved to Toronto in 1993, where he worked for *Nicholas Hoare, Bookseller*, the prestigious Toronto bookstore. As well, he was a freelance writer, publishing in *Quill and Quire* and the Toronto magazine, *Xtra*.



David Mazerolle (front) with his grandmother, Florence Collins and niece, Samantha Nowlan, taken Christmas 1995.

He got rave reviews for his comic performance at the Canadian Book Publishers Association's Christmas Cabaret in 1994, and he produced and co-wrote the '95 show.

He died at his residence in Toronto, peacefully and with dignity on January 30th.

He faced his illness and the approaching death with courage and extraordinary humour. David had a keen eye for life's absurdities, and never failed to tell a joke on himself. With a writer's soul, he even saw AIDS as

storytelling material, coaxing fits of laughter from those who loved him most.

David was the King of Chat. No one was a stranger for long in his presence, and David delighted his huge network of friends with his wit, storytelling, and extraordinary encyclopedic knowledge.

It's estimated that the average person will know a thousand people over the course of a long life. In 32 years, David knew more. Remarkably, he seemed to remember everything about every one of them. And all will remember him.

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the session was his own personal stage. The first time I said something that I thought would have added to the discussion, Trish Davidson jumped all over me, asking if I had rights to speak etc. I am NOT being paid in any way shape or form by this organization and

when I give up what has amounted to over 20 hours of my time to help fix this budget mess, I would hope for a little respect and support. Ms. Davidson and others on the SU Executive should perhaps realize that they are working for the students, not the other way

around." He stated that this "is just the kind of treatment which I am forced to end my service over."

He added that he wished the Council luck with the budget, stating that "it will be a mess since nobody wants to give an inch, give up some cushy trip or conference, lose their golden perks or release the details of some deal or another. For the amount of money students pay into the SU, from what I can see they are getting ripped off."

by Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

Neill House residents finally have a written response to nearly 70 complaints launched in November against House Don Jeff Wedge.

In a letter dated Monday, February 5 and received by all Neill residents the next day, Dean of Residence John Craighead is standing behind Wedge.

Residents had complained about problems getting along with Wedge, and with some decisions taken which he later reversed. Further complaints of a lack of confidentiality on certain matters also surfaced.

This week, Dean Craighead said most of the complaints arose after two Proctors in the House had been replaced.

Craighead said Wedge had not made the decision to replace the two Proctors, and took full responsibility for the decision.

Concerning Wedge's personal style, Craighead told Neill residents Wedge recognizes some of the concerns were partially justified and has agreed to address them.

Craighead admitted that Wedge has a hands-on management style which may be different than what Neill residents had experienced from other Don's in the past.

Other letters alleged other areas of misconduct according to Craighead.

"It is impossible to deal with these types of allegations unless specific details are provided by those with direct and first hand knowledge," Craighead stated.

Brad Coughlin, House President until last Friday, said he found the timing of Craighead's response convenient.

Coughlin referred to the fact the response came just two days after news stories about the matter first appeared in *The Brunswickan*, and a day after Coughlin had posted notices of a House meeting.

Coughlin says he received a phone call on Sunday from Wedge asking what the meeting was all about.

"When I told him what the meeting was about he made it clear to me that he did not want it to be a rallying of the troops against him and Dean Craighead, I guess."

"He indicated he would attend the meeting and if it was to get out of hand he would stop it," said Coughlin. "He wanted me to submit a written report of what I was going to say at the meeting and the subject I was going to talk about before hand so he could check it over and make sure there was nothing going on that he didn't like."

"I refused to go along with what Wedge wanted."

Mean time, Scott Geikie, a fourth year student and former House President (1994-95) who moved out of Neill about two weeks ago, is disputing Craighead's claim that Wedge was not involved in the firing of two House Proctors in November.

Geikie asked Wedge about the decision. "He said the two were fired for not doing their duty and because he (Wedge) felt he could not work with them any longer."

"I feel Craighead is just trying to take the blame off Wedge by accepting responsibility for this," Geikie said.

Another Neill House resident questions why Craighead has decided to find someone to fill the position of Assistant Don for the remainder of the school year.

"Craighead's actions create the impression that Wedge is not up to the job," said Scott Patterson.

Patterson recently resigned as House Janitorial Supervisor. He claims Wedge wanted his name on the janitorial service pay cheques which Patterson and one other person were signing.

"It's another control thing. He wanted things done differently than I did," said Patterson.

"We definitely feel there need to be changes to the way things are done in residence," he said. "Right now [Wedge and Craighead] have made life really difficult for 99 people and that doesn't seem right."

"After the complaints and all the meetings nothing has changed."



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