

EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Dave Mazerolle

The Medium is the Message

In the events surrounding Premier Richard Hatfield's marijuana trial and the subsequent allegations concerning pot and cocaine-enhanced partying with four students in January, 1981, the media have acted like the bloody-thirsty news-hounds they are often made out to be.

Just days after Hatfield was acquitted in Fredericton court of his marijuana possession charge, Southam News (owners of the Montreal Gazette and various other papers) went to press with allegations of another wrongdoing. They took a story — four years old and practically unverifiable — and once again attempted to establish Mr. Hatfield as a nationally-known drug-taking disco boy.

CBC's Journal interviewed one of the participants in the drug party, showing Barbara Frum asking him to sit up straight and generally acting aghast at talking to a rambling coke-head. ATV News performed a parody of the "Mafia Don" interview with another of the alleged party-goers, supposedly filmed in darkness, though at times he was clearly visible.

Was the press trying to invoke guilt by association? Were they trying to discredit an obviously brilliant politician? (After all he has become the dean of Canadian premiers) with fourteen years in office. For a man who collects dolls in a conservative province, this is quite a feat.

When no statements were forthcoming from the Premier or Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, television news slanted its coverage by showing film clip after film clip of Hatfield and Mulroney saying "No comment, no comment" until it looked like a scene out of Benny Hill.

Hatfield has been cleared of the charges against him. The concrete facts have proved his innocence. These new allegations by shadowy ex-students, while entertaining in their sensationalism, should not be portrayed in the media as proof of any further wrongdoing by the Premier.

What if you gave a debate.... And nobody came?

The answer is ridiculously obvious...you would end up talking to yourself. The benefit, of course, would be that you would be in total agreement with the speaker recognized by the chair. The problem is there is a very definite possibility you would not get any answers to questions you did not already have.

Once upon a time, there was such a debate. The issue — **Sub Control: Students or Administration.**

QUESTION: What exactly took place to cause the SUB Board to lose control of the building, and can the situation be corrected?

QUESTION: What exactly in terms of services, employment opportunities, etc., does that mean to the students?

QUESTION: Why is this whole situation such a problem in the first place?

ANSWERS: You tell me and we will both know. The people in a position to answer these and any other questions did not show up. Larry Fox wasn't there, or Ron Spurles, or Doug Burgess, or Michael Bennett, or Saint Thomas University's SRC President Mary Laslo. Sure, there may have been a representative or two in the "crowd", but these people were not there. Could that be part of the problem?

How can you get people to agree on solutions when you can't even get them to agree on where or when to disagree? I'm not even sure if the majority of the students know or care about what is going on. You couldn't tell from last Friday's turnout if they do.

Maybe it doesn't matter. Maybe the forming of an independent committee to examine the situation and present their findings to the students is a waste of time. Maybe nobody really cares. Maybe I'll go to Mexico. That's a lot of maybe's.

Hopefully people do care and will get involved with the committee, and the powers that be will listen to the findings and negotiate, and then the problem can be solved once and for all.

Maybe.



mugwump journal

By MIKE MacKINNON

WORD, the campus based disarmament group, held a vigil in the cafeteria last Tuesday. This event was staged to instill a degree of awareness and concern about the arms race and all that it involves. A booth was set up in the cafeteria to make available various publications concerning disarmament and a petition drawn up by the group. In addition, the documentary "If You Love This Planet" was shown in room 26 of the SUB. This was the kick off for what will be a month long campaign centering around the petition.

In addition to this event, WORD will be setting up a booth in the SUB lobby on various Wednesdays between 12:30 and 2:30. The petition will then be available for signing along with literature. Another event being staged is a debate between the three political party's youth organizations (P.C., etc.) in room 26 on March 12. Information about this will be made available at a later date.

As a member of WORD and a person who took part in Tuesday's vigil I would first like to extend our thanks to those who signed the petition, took in the film, picked up literature or simply came by and asked questions. To those who did not have the time or the interest I can urge you to take part in the discussions whenever you can or read some of the literature available. You will not be wasting your time.

"Thank you" goes to Beaver Foods, in particular John Johnston, for his cooperation and support.

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In last week's *Brunswickian* we called for an open meeting in the Blue Lounge to discuss the new format for the SUB Board. We did have some sort of a turnout but there was nowhere near the amount of people there should have been. This is our SUB and if we want to run it, as we should be, then come out to these meetings. A lack of concern on your part means the present situation will remain just as it is.

Presently a committee is being formed to look into the matter and come up with some kind of recommendations to present to the students. Those that wish to learn more about this issue or become part of the this committee are urged to attend the next meeting which will be held sometime after the spring break in the Blue Lounge. Once again, I strongly urge everyone to get involved in this issue. After all, unlike most issues, this one is immediate.

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The Blue Lounge — that place where we all like to go during lunch and spend a few minutes of peaceful relaxation or (dread the thought) playing D [D. There is one glaring problem though — garbage, and I mean lots of it. Everywhere you look there are trays with meals in various stages of decomposition, wrappers from bars and cakes, empty pop bottles and chip bags. We just recently had the Blue Lounge refurbished again. At the present rate though, it does not look like it will be too long before the lounge will be in the same stage as it was in a year and a half ago.

I do not understand the difficulty in putting garbage in the garbage cans and returning trays to the cafeteria (after all, this is where they belong.). It is not even necessary to return the trays as long as some effort is made to stack the trays in a specific area. The Blue Lounge is there for our use and we should keep it in a state that makes it enjoyable to use.

This is very important when one takes into consideration the efforts being made to regain control of the SUB. If we cannot prove that we can keep one room clean, how are we to prove we can run the entire building.



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