

## SEXISM:

### It's on our minds and in our hearts

One thing is for certain: Paul White and the Engineering Undergraduate Society showed appalling timing by producing sexist material on the eve of an important conference of women's issues. What Kaptain Ka-Ching and the EUS Handbook achieved was to add grist to the feminist mill. They gave tangible proof of the subjugation of women in the mind of society.

Perhaps the women should be grateful, in an offhand way. The outrageous sexism of Ka-Ching and the Handbook helped heighten a sense of the injustice. See here, the women could cry, see how the cartoonist makes light of rape! See how the locker-room mentality of the engineers could print songs dealing with the disembowling of a woman due to her own insatiableness! The debate in the Brunswickan has served to get people talking and discussing the issue. Though often the level of debate has descended to playground depths, at least they're talking. This is not to say the Brunswickan is taking credit for this; we printed an offensive cartoon, after all.

Perhaps we should defend the cartoon. Nobody in this day and age would espouse an opinion that was blatantly racist and mean it in a serious manner. However, how many times can you remember sitting with friends telling jokes and avoiding racist ones? Of course, you tell these jokes with a common preface, "Don't get me wrong, I'm not a racist, but did you hear the one about..." Sexist jokes and serious declarations of sexism do not receive as much moral approbation, perhaps because the opposition has somehow not captured

the hearts and spirits of the population at large. So here is the defense of Kaptain Ka-Ching, however lame it may be: The Brunswickan did not, or would not, print sexist material that passed itself off as serious intellectualizing. Ka-Ching is a cartoon, a humorous piece of work. Cartoons are not serious, and don't pretend they reflect anyone's real opinion. Also, the definition of offensive is much in the mind of the beholder. Some women have written in defense of the cartoon, saying it is valuable to be able to laugh at oneself.

We have learned from this experience that cartoons, while not rigidly under most rules of accountability, still have the power to incite emotion. The Brunswickan pledges to be more circumspect in its choice of material, pausing to reflect on its potential for outrage.

We all ask our readers to raise their consciousness a little, and see beyond sexual stereotypes--in fact, stereotypes of any kind. The two halves of the human race need to relate on common ground.



By TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE

The first paragraph of last week's Mugwump Journal was erroneous. There was never any motion made at the Board of Governors to expell John Bosnitch.

Even though this paragraph was not written by myself of the Editor-in-Chief, but was inserted at the last minute by another member of the Brunswickan, we still apologize for this serious piece of misinformation.

Many people from all sectors of the university community have commented recently to me, in private, that the Brunswickan has been losing credibility as a source of news on this campus.

The reasons people have stated for this opinion are wildly fluctuating editorial policies and poor coverage of news. I fully agree with this criticism, and plan to take active steps to solve the current problems.

The first and greatest problem, in my opinion, is the tremendous influence exerted over the Brunswickan by political sectors of the Student Union. The Brunswickan has traditionally run as a democracy, with major decisions being made by the staff. In the past, most decisions were reached after internal discussion, and campus politicians did not exert much influence over our editorial decisions.

In recent months, the forceful debating techniques of SRC President John Bosnitch have caused the Brunswickan's editorial policies to favour his viewpoints. In addition, close associates of the president have been writing news stories for us.

Most of the editorial board of the Brunswickan have severe criticism for Bosnitch's actions and political tactics. Occasionally, these have been expressed by way of editorial comment, followed by repeated protests by Bosnitch.

What this all amounts to is intimidation in a subtle way. A newspaper is supposed to be a voice for democracy and against undesirable influences and actions. A newspaper does not necessarily have to be run as a democracy to achieve these goals. Democracy can be abused, and is being seriously abused at the Brunswickan.

Over the next week, I am going to be proposing that the editorial board "get tough" in an attempt to restore the credibility of the Brunswickan. I am going to propose that all members of the SRC and those too closely associated with the SRC, in the opinion of the editorial board, be permanently banned from having anything to do with the Brunswickan. They should not be allowed to attend meetings, enter the office accept by invitation or write articles of any sort. If and when the editorial board approves this, I will request that the SUB management help with enforcement.

This policy will pose some problems for the Brunswickan because we will lose some of our news writers. I extend an open invitation to all students to come and help us research and write news so we may begin to cover all the important issues from all sides.

Hopefully, in the near future, our editorial stands will start to become more consistent and our news writing will improve.

On a related issue, the impeachment proceedings against John Bosnitch, which failed this past Tuesday, should teach us a few lessons.

Firstly, all students should think very seriously when a majority of SRC members present vote to impeach the president. The SRC members are among a small group of students who are knowledgeable about what is going on in the Student Union. Even though the required vote of two thirds of all SRC members was missed by a long shot, the majority vote of those present surely must indicate that something is wrong. There was a massive show of support in favour of Bosnitch by ordinary students present at the meeting, but this must be taken lightly because the average student is just not aware of how badly the Student Union is functioning at present.

Secondly, the structure of the so-called 'trial' was very poor. The SRC should change its constitution so that future impeachments use rules similar to those that govern trials in the Canadian legal system. Witnesses for the defense and prosecution should take the stand in a logical progression, and cross-examination should be allowed. Many important speakers and facts were not brought up at Tuesday's meeting.