

## EDITORIAL

As the turbot dispute with Spain dies down into negotiation, Canadians begin to deflate their puffed-out chests and re-sew the flags to their backpacks, feeling free to travel to the farthest ends of the planet, secure in the knowledge that they are once again less hated on a global scale than, say, the Americans. Feelings of Canadian nationalism swept the country as Fisheries Minister Brian Tobin brushed aside the accusations of high seas piracy, with an "Arrrh Matey, prepare to walk the plank of public opinion" attitude.

Strangely silent during this dispute were the Americans, who didn't complain when Tobin displayed his captured booty, by stringing a net from the Estai from a barge in New York's East river, for all the world to see. Perhaps the Americans were secure in the knowledge that there are no fish alive in the East river to be caught by those vicious Canadian pirates. Or perhaps they were just taken aback by the swashbuckling Erol Flynn of the north.

Mr. Tobin claimed to be engaged in a one sided argument with Spain. Armed with an abundance of evidence to back up his claims of illegal fishing by the Spanish. However, EU Fisheries Commissioner Emma Bonino was arguing a totally different issue than Mr. Tobin during a news conference in which she claimed that Canada had broken the law and that illegally obtained evidence is inadmissible in a court of law and therefore, the EU could not recognise the evidence as being anything other than immaterial.

"Is Canada acting illegally?" is a question that the government would prefer that we don't ask. Piracy is defined as robbery on the high seas. When Spain announced its intentions to take Canada to the world court, Justice Minister Allen Rock explained that Canada would not recognise the jurisdiction of the world court in this matter. Canada feels able to claim this presumably because the third law of the sea, as of yet, has not been ratified.

The third law of the sea pertains to what a country's rights are over the seas and oceans. Therefore, this would include the setting of the territorial jurisdiction known as the two hundred mile limit. However, as Canada has been following the demarcation from Canadian jurisdiction as being beyond the two hundred mile point, until now, this indicates that the Canadian government in principal has accepted it as being the limit. For the Canadian government to ignore what they have until now acknowledged and observed as being outside of Canadian sovereignty, and, to expect another nation to observe our claims of expanded sovereignty under the threat of being fired upon, boarded, looted for goods, and held for ransom, sure seems like piracy to me.

While one can understand the governments frustration of dealing with such a predatory fishing fleet as the Spanish, which employ the use of illegal nets in order to "Vacuum the ocean" as Brian Tobin said, while paying their own fleet to not fish and having to negotiate with such type "A" personalities as those which seem to permeate the EU, we must not condone these actions.

Robbery on the high seas is piracy regardless of whether the "jolly roger" we are flying is a red and white one.



Who in Hell ever said it was easy to pick anything. Well, not only can't I decide what to pick for courses next year but it seems the New Brunswick Progressive Conservatives are slow or lax in choosing a leader.

Distinguished Brunswickan Alumni, Dalton Camp visited the offices the other day, I kidnapped him from a class where he was a guest speaker. It's so odd nowadays to meet someone who can use a three syllable word and know what it means. He is an amazing individual considering his health of late. I sincerely hope that Mr. Camp recovers quickly from his illness or at least faster than Brian Tobin's assinine ways concerning the fisheries. Sometimes I wonder if he's Minister of Fisheries and Oceans or Minister of Fisher-Price or chilblains.

Is it just out-of-provincers or me that notice the Brothers Three, those loveable Irving Boys own everything in New Brunswick. Just how many gas stations can you own before the fumes start influencing your decisions? For that matter, how many thousands of woodlots can you own before you get a chip on your shoulder. Don't get me wrong, I love anyone that employs the majority of the workers in the province. I especially admire their courage to try to pay everyone the same fifty cents over minimum wage, from the media to gas attendants, it doesn't matter. Incidentally enough, I used to work at an Irving located somewhere up the river for the most part of one summer as a gas attendant. What you call gas attendant, I call fuel dispensary agent for a major petroleum interest. Try to and pass that one off on a resume. It barely works. Hardly ever, anyway.

The 67 th Academy Awards were here for another year. Yip skip! Tom Hanks garnered another Best Actor award for acting as the unique and history magnetic, Forrest Gump. I really don't think it was that much of a stretch for Hanks to play a simpleton. Considering if you've ever had the misfortune of seeing his early 80s TV show *Bosom Buddies*. I'm positive you know he could make the additional stretch of playing an idiot too or at least a moron.

Yep, I'm sadder than my Gran' pappy without his chewin' tabbaca today. This is my last *Mugwump Journal* but don't fret because reason has escaped the general populace of Brunswicks and I've been given the go ahead for the Editor in Chief's somewhat sweaty shoes. I'd like to thank everyone who made my year as Managing Editor fun. It's gratuitous filler but it's at least heart felt filler. The Marlenes, My pal Robin, the other two Marks and a Marc, Mary and Janice, Sam, the other Brunswicks and finally you, the reader. Remember without you, there would be no Brunswickan.

P.S. I need a Summer job.

Take Care and eat your porridge.

# Blood n' Thunder

**CANADIANS MADE TO THINK THEY'RE UNDER SEIGE BY GUNS**

Dear Editor,

For the past while the federal government has bombarded the Canadian public with statistics about guns. Alan Rock and others like him in the politically correct bastion of our capital have declared war on gun owners. The non gun owning majority could really care less. But run a well polished glamour campaign, making Canadians think they are under siege and many would go along. Unfortunately most Canadians are in the dark about firearm ownership in Canada.

There is not a great deal of firearm violence in Canada. In fact, statistics show that it is declining and not rising. The actual number of accidental shootings both at home and in the field have also not increased. For a government obsessed with statistics these facts are noticeably absent. The mandatory registration of all firearms by the federal government is not prompted by crime. Neither is it focused on making gun owners safer from one another. Despite this the government is determined to make access to all firearms more difficult.

The FAC that I was issued in 1989 cost \$10.00. It has recently expired. Despite the fact that I have taken a hunter's safety course, have no criminal record and years of safe gun use, getting another FAC is not an easy task. The application fee now costs \$75.00. The form itself is much more detailed inquiring, if I have ever experienced "divorce, separation or relationship breakdown." My overwhelming desire to be honest makes me wonder if I have to confess my jilted fifth grade romance. I've been over it for some time now but maybe I can explain adequately in the space allotted for "details."

They also now require a couple of references as well as a photograph. I can just imagine a panel of psychiatrists sequestered away behind locked doors looking for that crazed look that will reveal the psycho among us. And if you've come this far it is now time to take the Canadian Firearm Safety Course. You can either "challenge" the test [study on your own] or attend a 20 hour crash course and then write it. Either way you are looking at about another \$30.00.

So if your answers on the application form are acceptable, references suitable, photograph presentable and test score sufficient, you may be issued a Firearms Acquisition Certificate. The idea of the FAC is a good one. It allows the government some control over who can legally acquire a firearm. But the amount of expense and hassle currently involved in an FAC application is absolutely ridiculous. People who are perfectly law abiding will ask other current holders to purchase guns for them. Or alternatively purchase one privately from a non dealer. The government [Dept. of the Solicitor General] doesn't know who gets the firearm and no taxes are collected!

The government has the answer: there will be no more FAC's issued after December 31, 1995. All gun owners will be required to have Firearm Possession Certificates—cost not yet revealed. By Jan. 1998, Firearm Registration certificates will be required for every firearm you own—cost not yet revealed. As well from this date all firearms related transactions must be reported to the police—cost to be borne by the application, amount not yet revealed. By Jan. 2001 all firearm owners must have an FPC and will need to produce it along with their identification to purchase any ammunition.

Currently the government has a reasonable degree of control over legal access to firearms. Should it take the direction it is

heading in it may lose it entirely and create a problem where none existed before. What is to be gained? A debt ridden country is planning to spend a hundred million dollars to achieve a police state. And in doing so it will be asking over taxed citizens to pay the "undetermined amounts." The public knows this is not about crime. The public knows this is not about safety.

The proposed legislation is a step toward gun elimination, not gun control. It will start with handguns, then the auto loaders and then, with precedents behind them it will be your shotgun and deer rifle. You see the feds don't care about the type of firearm, they don't know the difference anyway, it is the simple fact that people have them.

So who is really behind this? Take a look at the US based International Fund For Animal Welfare. This anti-hunting organization gave our current government \$42,500 making it the 27th most generous donor ahead of such corporations as Dow Chemical and General Electric.

Do you think they want something in return for their money? The proposed legislation increases the hardships on legal gun owners attempting to acquire additional guns and to keep the ones they currently have. It is an attempt to price you out of existence. Our MP's must be made aware that this legislation is deplorable and cannot be supported. Many Canadians feel this way. Those that don't should consider the whole picture and discover what is really at work.

—Brian C. McLean

### A GENEALOGICAL MYSTERY

Dear Editor:

Could you please publish the following letter? I'll gladly pay any necessary fees that you require for this service.

I am in the process of conducting a genealogical search that has brought me to the shores of New Brunswick. I have been very successful in conducting this search up until this point. I have now run out of leads and information. I have worked with the many archives that New Brunswick has, but as of this time, they have been of limited assistance. I am now asking for the people of New Brunswick to help me unravel this mystery.

On May 31, 1937, my grandmother, Molly Beatrice (Howell) Simino, passed away at the age of 37. She left 3 children, one being my mother. The family lost complete contact with the Howell family after Molly's death. These children never had the opportunity to know their mother or their ancestry. One of Molly's children has now passed away and the remaining two children are in their 60's. It is for them and their children and grandchildren that I write this letter. A whole section of our ancestry is incomplete.

As stated previously, not much is known about Molly except that she was presumably born in the St. John region on December 25, 1899 to Henry and Mary (Janes) Howell. She is believed to have had 4 or 5 siblings. Somewhere around 1920, Molly and a sister moved to Medfield Massachusetts. While in Massachusetts, Molly met and married my grandfather, Earl Simino. Soon after their marriage, they moved back to Earl's home town of Irasburg, Vermont. She lived out the remainder of her short life in Vermont.

If anyone recognizes any of the previous names, please contact me, the information you have will be appreciated.

—Scott A. Wheeler,  
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**CORRECTION REQUIRED IN AFRICA NITE ARTICLE**

Dear editor,

Please publish the following correction related to my article entitled "Celebrating Africa Nite '95 with a Smiling and Happy Face" from your March 17 issue. Instead of: "A video projection of a portion of the Walt Disney Film, The Lion King Parade, will precede the live fashion show..." it should read: "A video projection of a portion of the Walt Disney Lion King Parade, will precede the live fashion show..." This is a parade shown LIVE on channel TV as opposed to the film which is a commercial product.

That parade is, in my opinion, a palpable evidence of the evolution of the American view of the African culture and costumes. It gives a glimpse of the positive trend towards sincere acceptance of Cultural Africa that can foster and lead to greater understanding, mutual respect and racial harmony. It is a step in the right direction that deserves encouragement.

My only regret is that this particular component of the program was simply scrapped.

**FRIDAY THE 13TH—A RESEARCH TOPIC**

Dear Editor,

I am a film researcher and I am currently looking for articles on the Friday the 13th films. My research consists of the actors involved and the production and behind the scenes material. I am also looking for the novelizations of those films by author Simon Hawke. If anyone has any information please contact Greg Gilbert at 363-2698.

—Greg Gilbert

**SNOWMOBILERS RAISE MONEY FOR DISABLED**

Dear Letter to the Editor,

On February 18, 1995, hundreds of snowmobilers got together to celebrate Snowarama's 13th anniversary and raised over \$80,000 for children with disabilities. This year's accomplishments brings Snowarama's grand total to more than \$852,000 since beginning in New Brunswick in 1983.

The support the New Brunswick Federation of Snowmobile Clubs gave to Snowarama is an important factor in our event's successful outcome. Sponsors like Arctic Cat, Bombardier, and Yamaha are particularly important to Snowarama. Thanks also to such friends as VIA Rail, Valley Graphics, and Harvey's Travel.

Special mentions go to Denise Robichaud (Allardville), Léon Bourque (Beresford), Aldoria Richard (Cocagne), Charlene Schriver (Néguac), and Edna Price (Newcastle) for their leadership to coordinate a Snowarama ride in their region.

Snowarama takes a lot of energy and generosity by many outside our agency. CRCD could not undertake such a large scale event without our network of snowmobilers, sponsors and supporters, media, individual donors, and volunteers who join efforts to assist youngsters with disabilities. We are grateful for all of your efforts and for your participation in Snowarama's 13th ride for youngsters with disabilities.

—Yours truly, June E. Hooper,  
Executive Director, The Canadian  
Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled,  
NB Branch, Inc.