

# EDITORIAL

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## Ethiopia: Not alone in misery

Unless students have been hibernating since the first frost they should be well aware of the plight of the Ethiopian people. It is expected that 900,000 of these people will perish from starvation before the year's end, yet this is a situation not unique to those of Ethiopia. Out of Africa's 50 nations, another 26 are in the same predicament or on the verge of it. Mozambique, for example, finds itself in much the same position as Ethiopia, where already 200,000 people have starved.

In addition to questioning the reasons for the sudden attention on Ethiopia one is forced to ask if the calamity could have been avoided. The latter question is closely linked with the former when one considers the shameful conduct of the media and government officials. Why is there suddenly a plethora of film features and news articles when signs of this calamity have been readily apparent for at least two years?

Charges abound that Western governments have been reluctant to supply relief. The White House threatened to block aid unless Congress agreed to continue its support of Nicaraguan rebels. Equally reprehensible are the actions of the Soviet government and the Marxist regime of Ethiopian leadership in Addis Abbaba. Moscow has supplied \$3 - 5 billion in military aid since the Mengistu regime came to power in 1974. The Ethiopian government spent \$50 million on a political organization in relation to its tenth anniversary.

It is apparent that we as world citizens must concentrate on the problem of starvation in a more reliable and consistent manner instead of putting it out of our minds until the problem reaches crisis proportions. In many cases by the time we do react, it is too late. Many of the children in Ethiopia, Mozambique and other third world countries are beyond help. We need to read the signs now and identify where and when the problem will become this grave in the years to come.

Concentration on Ethiopia presents a number of problems. With aid going mainly to Ethiopia, there will be an influx of refugees from the nations suffering from the same problem, resulting in a greatly swollen Ethiopian population that will further complicate matters. The aid can also become a political tool and weapon in the hand of the Ethiopian government, particularly in the province of Eritrea where the government troops are involved in a civil war.

Students at UNB and Saint Thomas have been presented with the opportunity to show their concern for the crisis. Richard Hutchins is sitting in the SUB cafeteria for the fifth day now in an attempt to raise \$10,000 to be channelled through the YMCA World Alliance to the Sudan (where refugee camps are to be established). In addition, Students Help Ethiopia, an organization interested in initiating fund raising efforts in Fredericton and sparking a concern for the Third World has been established. We encourage ALL UNB and STU students to become involved and support the cause for we are all world citizens first and foremost.



# mugwump journal

By TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE  
Managing Editor

This week has been the most significant week in the recent history of student affairs at UNB. The defeat of John Bosnitch and many of his associates at the polls signifies the end of an era. We must, however, be very careful when interpreting the results.

Firstly, I would say that Students are not going to lose achievements gained by Bosnitch during his two years in power. The CSL Store and photocopy centre will remain—all the winners appear in favor of that. The visibility the student government has gained will remain; most of the winners have strong personalities and strong ambitions which will result in the continued progress of student movement.

What the students are going to gain is an efficient, well-managed and accountable Student Union. Discussions with the administration will result in mutual respect. By using business-like and mature means to strive for the objectives of Bosnitch, the new student administration is sure to make great achievements in the coming year.

John's concession speech shows he is sincere and he deserves respect for that. I have always felt him to be a man of integrity, but with poor administrative skills. John listed his achievements and apologized profusely for, "letting down," the students. He conceded defeat at 1 a.m. Thursday morning after losing his home faculty poll, Engineering. He said he did not know why he lost, but his, "faith in democracy," told him that he indeed had, "done something wrong."

I think that Bosnitch is down, but not out. Maybe this defeat will give him the breathing-space he needs to buckle down to his studies and get his degree. I think, however, that we will see John in politics on a larger scale in not too many years.

A commentary on the election would not be complete without congratulating Larry Fox. Best of luck Larry!

I was impressed by the quality of the election coverage on CHSR-FM. I rarely listen to our campus station these days, being a CBC fanatic, but I found both the commentary by news personnel and the intervening music program to be of very high quality.

One final point on the elections: To those who run the elections, next time please make boxes where the voters may mark their X. The ballots looked as if they were produced in a terrible hurry, with little care.

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Far more important than any student election is the sacrifice being made by our Features Editor, Richard Hutchins.

His hunger strike for the people of Ethiopia serves the important purpose of raising the awareness of students at UNB. I would urge all students to give five or ten dollars, or what you can afford.

Not only is Hutch sacrificing normal food, but he is also sacrificing his academic studies. For his sake, I would urge that we help him meet his objective as soon as possible so he does not undergo undue hardship as exams approach.

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To cut costs, city crews in Fredericton are using a different type of ice melting method for the streets this Winter. Even though its ability to melt snow may be better, I was appalled by a statement by the City Engineer, said with a chuckle, that the new mixture will actually be more damaging to vehicles.

While other municipalities strive to find new methods of ice removal that damage cars less, Fredericton blithely proceeds to make matters worse. I would urge a public outcry to force city council to reverse this decision.

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