

issue 4 **editorial**
BY MARK MORGAN

Each generation has its "Where were you when..." Ask your parents "Where were you when Kennedy was assassinated?" Similarly, ask a friend "Where were you when the space shuttle blew up?" Now there is a whole new generation that will remember "Where were you when the OJ Simpson verdict was read?"

Had Mr. Simpson been tried under the Canadian Judicial system and resources, we might have seen a guilty on both counts of murder one several months earlier.

Due to the conservative nature of Canadian Judges, the Simpson Trial would have been camera-less. This eliminates the thespian antics and gyrations of the attorneys. Information would be directed solely to the judge and jury which should be the primary focus of any attorney.

There was enough evidence to suggest Mr. Simpson was guilty but the defense out hustled the prosecution. Face it Johnnie Cochrane is P.T. Barnum in a baby blue Armani. Prosecution relied on DNA evidence, bloody gloves and a time line. We all saw that the gloves did not fit Simpson and the Dream Team somewhat successfully presented their own time line. No matter how hard the defense tried to convince us, that tainted DNA was useless, this is not always the case; if you can find a strand of tainted DNA, it is tainted but you cannot change that DNA into someone else's.

The RCMP do not have a history of planting evidence or targeting one particular group as "in-a-pinch-suspects", like the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) has. So if the RCMP handled the case there would be no Mark Fuhrman, and no suggestion of evidence planting. That would mean Mr. Simpson could be linked to the scene of the crime.

The majority of the Simpson Trial jurors were from the inner-city of Los Angeles. They grew up with Big Buffalo Bill #32 getting the touchdowns. OJ came from the inner-city. He made it to pro-ball, becoming a role model to many. How do you put away a role model people admire, for life? I am sure jury selection was supposed to get rid of this factor, but people are dishonest when they can make a buck (Morgan rule #17).

Besides, was Simpson really judged by his peers. His peers would have been an ample selection of the nouveau riche from the affluent sections of Los Angeles not the inner-city. Canada chooses candidates for jury duty based on the similarities of location usually meaning a defendant from downtown Toronto, will be judged by downtown Torontonians. This was not the case in the Simpson Trial.

One of the longest criminal trials resulted in a loss of faith for many in the American Judicial System but I only think it adds faith to the Canadian Judicial System.

D I D Y O U H E A R W H A T H A P P E N E D O U T W E S T ? T H E M A R I N E S W O N T H E F I R S T T I M E

The Magwump Journal

In Los Angeles 12 jurors were, eventually, selected. There were of course more chosen, but only to be used as replacements to keep the number of jurors at 12. As specified in the law, 12 jurors. 12. These 12 people represent the community at the trial, they were there to make a decision on guilt or innocence for the community. They do it for their community, one day you may have to do it for yours.

So if you remember the number, it was 12. Not 12 million, not 120 million. 12. Which is why I'm galled by the way all anyone wanted to ask me Tuesday afternoon was "What do you think?" Not even, asking what it was I thought about. After all, who wouldn't know what everyone was talking about? Given half a chance, North America would have liked to settle the fate of one man on a phone poll:

"Just dial 1-900-DA-JUICE for electrocution, or 1-900-IN-A-CENT to let him go, you have 6 hours, if our lines are busy please call back, call once call often, only 25c per call. We want to know what YOU think."

But enough of this frivolity - you know the stuff that gets computing services mad at you - back to the most serious thing in this world, your opinion. Of course, you are right, if you'd been on that jury you wouldn't have bought any of the stunts pulled by the defense, you would've seen through everything and got to the sordid truth beneath it all. But really, if you'd been sitting there in the courtroom, in a box with 11 others, without the aid of CNN's analysts would you have been able to decipher the chess game that was unfolding before you?

After all, these were the masters at work. Sharp suited truth brokers playing the board, weaving webs of possibilities around fragments of truth. Thrusting the smaller, less significant pieces (of evidence) first, before getting the impact pieces into the contest, designed to sway feelings and played with clinical precision (or at least that was the idea when the trial started).

Whether or not the ex-defendant killed his estranged wife is now immaterial because in the eyes of the law he didn't. It's possible that he did kill her. It wouldn't be the first time the jury's arrived at the wrong decision. It's also possible they arrived at the correct verdict, despite howls of complaint (echoing down the corridors of the SUB). It wouldn't be the first time for that either. It's an imperfect process.

A final note to all those of you shaking your heads, blaming the media for blowing the trial out of all proportion while you're able to discuss the trial in mind-numbing detail. Your television has an off switch. You could have used it.

Neil Duxbury

Blood n' Thunder

The Real Deliberation



GSA Executive responds to criticism

Dear Editor,

The GSA Executives would like to respond to Mr. Jamal En-nehas comments printed in the September 29th edition of *The Brunswickan*.

University is more than just studying and doing research, and to think this is to consider only a small advantage of what UNB offers. The GSA plays a role in adding to graduate student life from aiding in financial support to various events held by cultural groups and departmental societies to offering summertime barbecues. The GSA offers many things in return for your small user fee, some of which are listed on page 3 of the *GSA Information Booklet*.

The GSA provided financial support to "Conference UNB 95, The Poetics of The Self: The Art of Autobiography," organized by the PhD students in the Department of English, a group Mr. En-nehas is a member of.

The Conference on Graduate Student Research held by the GSA did attract equal participants from both Arts/Humanities and Science/Engineering. The topics presented ranged from "Do Potato Beetles Smell Sex," "Hostile Takeover," and Quentin Tarantino's film "Pulp Fiction." Because of the hard work of volunteers, students and the community had the opportunity to discover the diversity of knowledge being developed at UNB.

The GSA consists of volunteers only and any delays that Mr. En-nehas encountered in receiving his travel grant was due to the lack of volunteers. This is a real problem in the summer time due to graduation. Last year, the executive did not have a Second Vice President, a Forestry Rep., or an Education Rep. and only a few volunteers to sit on advisory seats. The travel grant policy is very clear that all receipts must be included. Also, the policy has always been that you receive \$50 plus 10% of the balance. This funding assumes that your claim is actually what you paid out of pocket after your supervisor and the School of Graduate Studies have contributed funds. There are no "irrelevant" receipts since we must evaluate all of your expenses and funding to judge each student fairly. We have not asked any more or less of Mr. En-nehas than we have from any other graduate student.

As for Mr. En-nehas suggestion that the GSA should be renamed GESA (Graduate Engineering Student Association), I remind the graduate

student community that this organization, made up of volunteers, has its positions open to all graduate students across the university. As an organization, we can't afford to turn away a volunteer who happens to be in Engineering when no one else is willing to get involved. As a final note, we invite Mr. En-nehas to talk to the Arts Rep (Mimi Cormier, English Department) if he has any additional concerns or comments.

GSA Executives

This ain't no Seven - th Heaven, Man

Dear Editor,

I recently had the opportunity to watch the newly released movie SE7EN (SEVEN), starring Brad Pitt and Morgan Freeman. The basis of the plot was two detectives attempting to capture a serial killer who was torturing and murdering people because he felt that they had committed one of the seven deadly sins. These seven sins are Sloth, Greed, Gluttony, Wrath, Envy, Pride, and Lust.

The reason for the letter however is the incredible lack of taste the movie displayed. I have never felt such revulsion to any movie. I felt sickened to such an extent that a good friend of mine and I got up and left the theatre when the movie was only three-quarters finished.

The scenes showing the murder victims were graphic to such an extent that they left nothing to the imagination. These scenes in no way contributed to the plot; they served as gore for the sake of gore, and little more. I do not feel that any movie needs to display images of this nature.

The movie was simply the portrayal and mass marketing of gore; I feel that no more movies like this need to be produced. There is a limit to the amount of violence that is useful for supporting the plot of a movie, or that is reasonable to watch. This movie went beyond this limit. That many people watched and enjoyed this movie is a sad statement about our society: we find it entertaining to see mutilated bodies and blood.

I am not trying to be a prude or anything of the like. One of my favourite movies (for pure enjoyment, not artistic quality) is *BloodSport*, and I am also active in Fredericton's Kick Boxing Community. I feel that this movie is absolutely ridiculous and I would like to see more letters sent to all of the newspapers in this community and this country. We need to let movie directors

and producers know that this level of violence and gore is unacceptable, and completely unnecessary.

Kieren Tinning

All bloozed up and then some

Dear Editor-types,

The subject line would seem to aptly describe those responsible for the Harvest Jazz & Blues "Diary." How else could you explain them having heard our band performing songs we've never heard of, in a style with which we are completely unfamiliar? Oh, and twenty-four hours before we hit the stage. Perhaps they should have signed their real names: Remy Martin, Jack Daniels, Ron Bacardi, et al.

P.S. The note below your cover photo names Dave Bedford, Paul James and "the guitar player from Sandra Wright's band." C'mon, he has a name, you know. It's Cro Magnon Man.

P.P.S. It is also vitally important that those responsible for *Bruns Bits* know the difference between Kool & the Gang and KC & the Sunshine Band. We must be ever vigilant that the purveyors of disco get proper accreditation so they don't languish in obscurity, unable to thrill future generations with their soulful art.

davec@unb.ca

1996 UNB Grad Class project selfish

Dear Editor,

I am a graduate of the 1996 class, and right now I am ashamed to be so. I attended the First General Meeting of Grad Class '96 on October 1, "General" being the key word. At this meeting, there was a vote on what the Grad Class would fund for a project and the final verdict was an iron sign.

Out of the 100 people who attended, and the other several thousand who are graduating, this was considered a majority vote. Funny isn't it? The other options were helping others in either accessibility or hearing impairment. What great ideas! I can't believe that our "majority" of grads would vote for a stupid sign above helping others. What selfish people!