

EDITORIAL

Tech Wars

It seems that the university has managed to do me a bad turn and made a move for next year which is smart enough that I not only cannot complain about it I must instead commend them on doing so.

What is this move you wonder? Simply that the university is going to allow us to register via computer. *Read my lips* No more standing in endless line ups at the Aitken Centre to attempt to get slips for courses in which the last spot was taken by the person standing directly in front of you. Now you will only have to line up to pay fees, get your student ID cards and change your local address.

Now, with computerized registration, you will be able to instantly find out if a course is full without knowing the face of the individual who cheated you out of the last possible vacancy in that course which you had to take in order to fulfil your requirements for graduation. Thank goodness. Over the years I have grown to dislike a large number of people on this campus for that very reason.

The university, if the computerized registration system works, is embarking on becoming integrated into the information systems of the future, the Information Highway, which we have all been hearing about. As the technology takes over and the students are required to become more and more computer friendly (remember when computers were the friendly ones) the utility of the computers becomes virtually limitless. The next step could be requiring all students to own a computer so that they can register, check books out of the library, E-mail their assignments to their profs, read the Brunswickan on the Internet etc. Perhaps students will no longer buy books but rather download them from a bookstore computer. Whether or not the system has bugs which need to be worked out it seems probable that it is now only a matter of time before the computer technology which is being unleashed upon this campus not only gains a foothold but takes over.

While this move is a definite step into the twentieth century, and providing it works smoothly it will be an incredible bonus for the students, as with all new technology it leaves me with a feeling of total dread at the prospect of having to actually use it and leaves me wondering about becoming dependant upon it. After more than 200 years of this university having failed to arrive at an adequate system to deal with the problem of registration they may be trying to run before they can walk. While I understand that they are attempting to address the problems of registration I cannot help but wonder if the implementation of using computers will prove to be more problematic, at least in the short run. Unless this computerized registration system works better than the pre-registration system which they used this year then I will see you in the line ups at the Aitken Centre in the fall. If on the other hand it surpasses my expectations I guess I'll be seeing you on the Information Highway.



As Mr. Morgan wishes to take this week off from his column and he covered my editorial last week it is my turn to gripe and whine in what is likely to be nothing more than Pretentious and Pompous Postulating.

Over this past week I have heard the *Brunswickan* referred to on two separate occasions. Both were in reference to past *Brunswickan* Editors in Chief with which I had the honour of working.

I had the distinct pleasure of hearing of the success of Dr. Kwame Dawes' first book *Progeny of Air* which was released in England and won him the "Forward Poetry Prize for Best First Collection in Britain." His second book entitled *Resisting the Anomie*, which contains poems about his time spent in Fredericton is due to be published in the spring by Goose Lane Editions.

On behalf of the staff I would like to extend a hearty Kudos to Dr. Dawes and ask "Where the hell are our FREE review copies?"

The second reference was on a less literary note. It seems Camille Paglia has a new book out and makes reference to an interview which she gave to *The Brunswickan* last year. Luke Peterson, who conducted the interview received reference along with Karen Burgess, last year's Editor in Chief, in the Media Chronicle of Ms Paglia's new book *Vamps and Tramps*. However, it seems that Camille forgot the name of the publication which these individuals were associated with and did not reference the *Brunswickan*. Instead she made reference to the same paper which *Maclean's* noted the *Brunswickian*. I don't know if such a publication exists but as a naturalized New Brunswicker I take exception to her fucking up and calling the campus paper of the University of New Brunswick anything but the *BRUNSWICKAN*. Although I realise typographic errors happen and I have heard the engineers refer to us by many different names, one would hope that a so-called intellectual from Fillydelfia would be more careful.

Brunswickan Elections

The *Brunswickan* will be holding its election for the new News Editor on November 18th at 12:30 p.m. in room 35 of the SUB. All staff members are urged to attend and interested Bruns staff should apply in writing to the Editor in Chief by that date.

Blood n' Thunder

Dear Editor,

I am writing in the concern of the probable cut of the UNB Varsity Reds X-Country team. As a team member, my optimism to build another winning AUA team and to follow the path of a prestigious history for UNB Athletics has been put on hold.

Last week an organisational committee decided on the motion to axe the Cross-Country and men's Volleyball program. The committee's decision was based under financial and gender equity arguments. Under these motives, the committee settled to cut a 34 year old co-ed team with the *lowest cost per athlete*. Not only does the verdict contradict the motives of the decision, but UNB X-Country has also proven their mark on the national level. In 34 years of competition, we have brought to UNB 25 AUA's. Twenty-five percent of UNB 1993-94 Academics All-Canadian were Cross-Country runners. Running, a life-long activity, is a growing sport in our community. X-Country team members have proven to be active in the development of the sport by coaching school teams and helping with the organisations of the local runs.

Despite our accomplishments of the past, the future holds a chance for many other marks in history for this highly growing sport. UNB runners have been rebuilding a new team under the hard work of coach Randall. Our 94-95 dedications to an optimistic future will be history if the final decisions to cut the team are made. Please help us build a future by supporting the Cross-Country team. If you are willing to contribute to the team, please contact a team member or write your concern to the President of UNB.

Sincerely,
A Varsity Reds X-Country Member

Unity in Diversity

"Unity in diversity" is a term which we hear these days and it seems more and more people are interested in its fundamental meaning. Just in the last few years another terminology has gained the attention of people and that is "New World Order". Repeatedly this terminology is used in many media reports and international organisations are becoming more and more involved and are catering their efforts towards such ideal goals.

It is of interest to recognise that these two descriptions of the future of human civilisation are quite inter-related. "New World Order" where humanity will have no need for accumulation of armaments, where racism and prejudice of any kind is not acceptable and people are in full collaboration with it, where one race may not seek superiority over the other, where basic human rights are not violated cannot really be fully realised without accepting humanity as it is. That is to say "Unity in Diversity" becomes a pre-requisite for such a New World Order.

Although such terms of reference are recently gaining popularity, the Baha'i Faith has had these as its fundamental beliefs since its inception and almost all other beliefs revolves around the Unity of Mankind.

In many instances the body of humanity can be compared to a garden of various plants, shrubs and flowers. Although all are different and possess various shapes and sizes, they are showered from the same cloud, they survive in the same environment surrounding them and exist on the same ground. With regards to humanity we are all different, culturally we are of different countries and race we are of different colour and complexion, some are taller than others, but we all live on the same planet, use the same environment, we all come from the same origin and are all created equal.

Knowing this simple fact, how could we explain these upheavals of various kinds such as people developing hatred towards others and countries fighting for superiority? It can be explained by recognising that the differences in the world of humanity are of two kinds. One can cause hatred and destruction of morals and pull nations into wars. The other is the pure essence of diversity which in light of its existence gives it a harmony, a sense of belonging and this is the one which needs all the attention. It is the garden where not all flowers are roses but the difference of the flowers is the enhancer and the essence of its unity. That is why educators of humanity are chosen by the creator for every age to help and guide the body of our ailing humanity through different stages of growth so that this latter truth of unity in diversity among many other truths shines

through.

This diversity of physical nature, of thought and character among people, if brought under one unifying power and agency, the beauty and human perfection will be made clear and evident. Then it does not matter if you are black or speak a different language, in fact it makes it more unifying and brings the pleasant side of our civilisation and existence into light, this is the true "Unity in Diversity".

A point should be made in regards to the achievement of humanity so far in history. The league of Nations, the United Nations, and the many agreements produced by them have been a great step towards unity and peace, but it has been shown that such efforts have not been able to eliminate the conflicts, in fact humanity has witnessed scores of wars since the end of the second World War and many we are witnessing today.

In conclusion the understanding among peoples and leaders of the world to recognise this Diversity in the light of its unity is an important element that is required to build the new world order which every one seems to be in agreement with their heart.

Association of Baha'i Studies at UNB

Dear Editor,

I was recently watching television when it was reported that the Heritage Committee was looking for ways of reducing the CBC's budget. One suggestion was that partial privatisation of the company be examined. This concerns me to great ends.

Over the past four years here at UNB, I have been witness and victim to many government cutbacks and privatisation of services and/or crown corporations. This recent suggestion that privatisation of the CBC be examined broke the camel's back.

Like many students here at UNB, I have been content to remain silent about government cutbacks and "privatisation". Even recent suggestion by the federal government that social programs are being "rethought" has caused but a small wave in a large apathetic body of water (the suggestion that the demonstration outside the Wu Conference Centre, upon the visit of the Prime Minister was a satisfactory display of the concerns of students, is in error. What is 250 students, if that, out of over 8,000?).

Increasingly, I feel my Canadian identity being torn away from me. I am a strong believer that to be Canadian is to live in a society where universal health care is provided. Where education is free and available to all. Where people are proud of their heritage and tolerant of others, and finally where the CBC exists across the country wholly owned by the citizens of Canada... not some damn corporation!!!

It may be that I have simply become too attached to these governmental dinosaurs but let's examine the emerging trend. Government spends too much, so they make cutbacks and privatise services and crown corporations. This "supposedly" improves the debt situation of the country while improving service to the citizens of Canada. Is that really what happens?

Every time the government privatises a service or corporation, they surrender the interests of the citizens of the nation to the interests of the private corporation. Call me crazy, but I believe my interests are different than that of "The Corporation". Just as I am afraid that my interests are often not being met by government, I am also concerned that the CBC is one of the few remaining sources of Canadian identity in which I can take pride. What is going to happen when government runs out of services and crown corporations to privatise? Privatisation of government???

Richard McDerby

Student Union Extortion?

I am writing concerning the repulsive strong arm techniques used by our student union. What I am referring to is the mandatory payment of 100 dollars towards the university's health plan.

Even if a student is covered by another health plan, he or she must fork over this 100 dollars with their tuition in September. This is on top of the ever increasing costs of tuition and books etc. However, our thoughtful student union says worry not. If you are presently covered by another plan then you may apply for a refund which you will receive

"sometime in November."

So let me get this straight. If you are fortunate enough to be covered by another plan, you are allowed to wait 45 minutes in line to fill out a form which permits the student union to hold on to your money for 6-8 weeks before returning it to you. In my opinion this is not fair.

In essence what the union is trying to achieve is to make people's existing plans such a hassle and so inconvenient that they opt for the student union's plan. I do not appreciate being strong-armed by a monopoly and apparently neither do another 2898 students (40%) who requested a refund. Now a little simple math and anyone can see that this amounts to \$298,000 which the union is sitting on and collecting interest on for over two months. Another way of looking at it is there are 2898 students out there who can't afford texts, food, and winter clothes who I am sure could use \$100 right about now.

The current system now states that this \$100 payment is mandatory. In a round-a-bout way what they are saying is this: If you don't pay \$100 towards our health plan you do not attend UNB. In my opinion this reflects terribly upon the university itself. Certainly UNB's aim is to encourage, not restrict, students from attending.

Let me offer a parallel example. Imagine if each time you entered the social club you were charged \$100. "But I have a membership," you would say and in fact you would show it to them. "Great!", they would respond. Fill out this form and in two months we will return your \$100. Would you continue to frequent the Social Club. Very unlikely!

Then why do we blindly continue to be subject to these extortions? I have no idea. Maybe they think that the union is some sort of deity and what they decide is law. Well may I remind you that we elected these bas@#*ds and that they are supposed to be representing us, the students. If they aren't, then fight back. Write letters, boycott student union events. If you can afford it, spend your \$100 rebate to publicise this crap. That's what I am going to do.

Nathan Weinman

Dear Editor,

Re: Recruiting versus promoting

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA) had its informal drop-in meeting on Friday evening October 21. Among other things we debated briefly (about 60 seconds) whether or not we should bother answering Dave Rolston's letter in Blood and Thunder (October 21, 1994). We judged the letter as lame and decided not to waste our time explaining (yet again) our choice of words. But later on I thought, hey, if this guy took the time to write his questions in a letter, we should be considerate enough to answer them. So, here goes.

First, bear in mind that some of the stuff you read about GALA comes from different writers. This is *my* opinion. Secondly, the "you" I use below is plural. I'm not just dumping on Dave.

1. YES! We do recruit!... that is, if you follow Gage Canadian Dictionary's definitions. What J. was getting at is this: GALA can not convert anyone to queerness, gayness, dykeness, or whatever you choose to call it. It's something you come to yourself. What GALA will do however is make this process more comfortable for people who are trying to come to terms with their queerness, gayness, dykeness, or again whatever you choose to call it.

2. Promote means creating an atmosphere on campus where a person's sexuality can be discussed comfortably and honestly. We also want to remind UNB and STU that a person's sexuality is only a small part of who that person is. The reason why gays and lesbians appear to be talking about gay- and lesbian-related issues all the time is quite simple really. When we talk about other things, we sound like everyone else and hence we do not stand out. Lesson to be learned? We are like everyone else.

I hope this letter answers your questions, Dave.

Sincerely,
Medgar Marceau
Past Officer GALA UNB/STU