

MUGWUMP

By Lynne Wanyeki

Lots of letters this week and they really live up to the name Blood 'n Thunder. "Constructive criticism" ie. abuse from all sides. . .it's great! Salutations to all who bothered to write in. Just one comment to make: Why do people think that the Brunswickan's Editorial Board members can be "bought off" with Social club memberships which are worth only \$15. We may be cheap, but we're not that cheap! (Hey, Mr V.P. Finance of the Student Union, maybe it's time to consider raising our honoraria).

It's the critical point of the term again. Why am I a student?!? And of course, there's that killer course that I avoid like the plague because I have an essay that's a week overdue, because I haven't read the texts, because I feel overwhelmed with guilt every time I even see my professor. Eventually, it'll reach the point where I can't go to class because I've missed so much, I'm scared my professor won't recognize me. Stressed-out?!? Let's just say I'm walking that ever-so-fine borderline between functional insanity and screaming-kicking-carry-me-off-to-the-nuthouse-hysteria.

Rumours around campus:

1. It appears that the Student Union hasn't ratified the minutes from their meetings since June! This means that no action can legally/constitutionally be taken on issues discussed at these meetings, seeing as such action has not been formally approved by the Student Union. . .Yes, yes, I know, it's only a formality, but from the Brunswickan's point of view, this means that we aren't given access to these minutes. What I want to know is:

- (a) Whether or not this is deliberate.
- (b) If so, why they are being so sneaky. What's going on?!? Actually, to be quite fair, I don't really think it's deliberate, and I don't really think there's anything sneaky going on. It's probably just plain and simple incompetence.

2. I hear the Rocky Horror Picture Show was shown on Wednesday night by Campus Entertainment caused \$3000 worth of damage. Hmmm, what fun! Damage, destruction, anarchy. . .Personally, I can't see the point to it, but. . .each to his own.

3. Varsity-Mania is going to take the plunge this weekend, literally, in the Sir Max Aitken pool down at the gym. Yes, it looks like the UNB Beavers, the Varsity swim team, actually got their Varsity-Mania event this year. Good for them. No marauders (entering the belly-flop contest illicitly through the roof) allowed.

4. Apparently two of the boys up at CHSR got caught drinking alcohol in the record library last Saturday by the SUB director, Kim Norris. . .so this is why some radio show hosts (Ralph, Saturday afternoon, this one's for you!) get listeners calling in to ask them where they score. . .

5. Talking of SUB Directors, said Kim Norris has gone on leave as of Wednesday. . .smokers, do you know what this means?!?

In closing: To those of you who are thinking of owning a cat. . .don't. I took a stray cat home last week after doing all the responsible things i.e. taking it to the Vet. for a check-up, calling in to report it with the SPCA, and buying litter and cat food. My cat's philosophy on the Cartesian model is: "I eat, therefore I sleep." It all boils down to: "I'm here, therefore your life is shot to all hell, because from this point on, your life must revolve around me." The rationale behind this: "I make the laws because I've got the meow-power and the claws to enforce them."



OPINION

The opinions found in Opinion are not necessarily the views of *The Brunswickan*.

The Socio Economics of Bilingualism

by Aurelius Gordon

In most recent times the politics of language and the extent to which it determines the testing of a given society has featured prominently on the national agenda.

To many the significance of one's mother tongue seems to be equated with breath of life without which one certainly cannot live. Does this mean that language is the breath of life of any given society? Of course it is.

Beyond any reasonable doubt it has been proven that the term language; loosely used in academic circles to define linguistic codes of grammar, literature and translation, is but the tip of the iceberg.

The fact is that society can only exist by communicating with the rest of the world. The capacity to communicate can only be realized through the exponential depth of any society, oral and written.

It is no wonder that for centuries, every world empire: medieval, federal, colonial, or imperial, has always sought to impose its language and its domain. The English have so far been the most successful in terms of propagating their mother tongue world wide to the extent that it is considered the language of the planet far and beyond any other in terms of its diversity and versatility as a tool for communications. Other major languages are following suit.

The question must therefore be asked - What are the socioeconomic implications of language and in particular bilingualism vis-a-vis Canada's position on the map?

Throughout Canada many will simply put the extent to which bilingualism is achieved throughout Canada by 1992 may well determine this country's ability not only to calm the rough waters of Canada's politics of language created by its colonial past but even more significantly, total bilingualism may be the cement needed to foster a new peace on the economic front further enhancing Canada's ability to gain a crucial economic foothold in Europe where many walls are fast falling.

On the North American Continent, this country stands uniquely able to harness the benefits of two of the world's most widely used languages, French and English. Once the historical cause for conflict in between these two languages and evidently, the two cultures, can be removed from the political and socio-economic caldron, reason and good judgement may be given a big chance to save the day.

The presence of two major languages in this part of the world is a major advantage if seen under the light of socio-economics'.

1- The ability of a fully bilingual Canada to communicate with all five continents and to find markets for its products world wide.

2--The ability of Canada, through, its universities to sell education to other parts of the planet. This is one of the fastest growing industries throughout the world.

Looking a bit further than the sky, it seems possible that there is a positive side to this whole CHALLENGE of bilingualism. To face up or not to face up to it. That is the question.

Death in the Caf.

Smoking in the cafeteria, the headline screams. I feel an icy chill run down my spine, my flesh crawls, the world is reeling. No it-it is not that time again already. It can't be but it is, it's time for the annual uprising the righteously indignant and morally (virtuous transcendence) supreme.

The "safety Nazi's", I like to call em. Vigilance people, vigilance. If you are witness to this heinous offence you must do your sacred patriotic duty and report directly to your nearest neighbourhood office of crime stoppers. Or if you wish you could take more direct action (with the Knowledge that the LAW, goodness and decency are on your side).

Immediately impale the wicked offender through the heart with a wooden stake. Ahh yes that should do it: Probably a "commie" anyway.

Mr. Norris says in the last two Brunswickans that second hand smoke kills eh? Where exactly do these statistics come from? How many studies were conducted and pronounced inconclusive, before they came up with that one? (I wonder if you can get AIDS from it too). I think we all know that statistics can be made to say just about anything you want them to say. Personally I don't believe it, and I suspect the Hypothesis is unprovable.

But alas if you do believe these scary stats, the alternative proposed is even scarier. Mr. Norris suggests that we construct, from scratch a new building just for smokers. I don't know about you but that seems just a little extreme. I don't think I'd be going out on a limb if I said that the non smokers would not approve either. This solution also brings up the question of segregation. We allow non smokers on the premises or do we discriminate in kind? Hey, maybe we could get all the non smokers to wear armbands or something.

Well I guess we're back at the cafeteria. What about the ventilation system? If the air is truly just recirculated I wonder how we've survived this long considering that, if that was the case we would have all died of carbon dioxide poisoning or oxygen starvation sometime ago. I also wasn't aware that there were airlocks on the many doors leading to and from the cafeteria. Granted there is some recirculation of the air but, dollars to doughnuts there are already electrostatic and other types of filters on the system at this very moment. Would it be impossible to install another filter for smoke (cheaper than a new building)? Could we make some studies right now on the efficiency of the air cleaning system? What are we breathing now besides cold flu viruses, bacteria and the like.

Mr. Norris, if you and the local membership of the new united Tobacco Temperance Society (NUTTS for short) are generally concerned for an equitable solution to this lingering dilemma, then I would like to suggest that you proceed with some initiative on this subject, now.

There are alternatives and a compromise is possible if the will to do so is there. Closemindedness and intolerance are not substitutes for a democratic resolution to this issue.

P.J. Waddell

P.S. there are approximately 50,000 nuclear warheads in the world today. Maybe there are more important things to worry about.