

EDITORIAL

Searching through my change this morning I was surprised to find that the 1995 Canadian one dollar coin was engraved with an image of the Canadian Peace Keepers. With all of the controversy regarding the racism and inappropriate hazing rituals which were rampant in the Canadian Airborne regiment, one forgets that the Canadian Armed Forces have a proud and honourable history. While racism is also a part of that history, it was not until recently that the Canadian Armed Forces distinguished themselves as a result of it.

It was not the racist attitude displayed by the regiment that created the most controversy over the incident. While it was a display of shameful behaviour, it was the attitude displayed by the military leaders in regard to this incident which was the most deplorable. The general in charge, having viewed the latest video of the hazing rituals, stated that these were only mild boyish pranks and when it was revealed that the tape contained scenes of self-inflicted pain rituals involving electric shock, claimed that he hadn't reviewed the entire tape. This is an illustration of how both he and General John de Chastelaine were remiss in their duty to the regiment, the defence minister, and the country as a whole. While this type of behaviour may be standard for the Airborne regiment, ultimately they were responsible for the behaviour of the men under their command. Claims that civilians cannot judge the military by their standards are inane. Except for a military dictatorship, the military only exists as a result of a mandate from the people. That it took a tragic incident to bring this rampant racism to light only doubles the shame which covers the Canadian military. It was the failure of the generals to maintain adequate control over their men which allowed the racist elements to permeate the Airborne to the point where dissolution of the regiment became the most prudent action which the government could take.

This week in council Councillor FitzPatrick pointed out that the University has decided to shelve their plans for a racism/harassment policy until a new VP Academic is appointed. This latest attempt by the university to skirt the problem begs the question: What will it take for this university to finally act? By not dealing with it they are in effect thumbing their noses at the issue of racism. Tom Traves, the current VP Academic, has stated previously that racism is not rife at UNB. However, as two past *Brunswickan* editors pointed out in "Blood and Thunder" letters earlier this term, it has now been two and a half years since a group of international students brought charges of racism against a professor at this university, and the administration has still not adequately addressed the overall issue on this campus. It seems to me to be painfully obvious that if the university does not take a proactive stance on this issue soon they will eventually be forced to make a reactive response. The question is at the point where a reactive response is necessary. Would the students be justified in calling for the resignation of President Armstrong as the one ultimately responsible for the actions of his staff?



I'm glad you're all well and have survived *Open Heart Surgery Day*. That's Valentine's for those of you that don't own a Jarvex 7 or at least a tire pump for a ticker. For the life of me I still don't understand why we honour a day who's patron saint was beheaded. It sort of makes you wonder why we use the heart as the traditional symbol of Western culture's symbolical expression of love instead of a bloody, pulpy head with vacant ocular cavities for our token of affection. Maybe a red mist squirting decapitated doll that frothed blood every time you picked it up would be more in synch with the true meaning of Valentine's Day. It sure would make the day a little more interesting.

In fact if you've given it much thought, aren't we perpetuating the usage of child pornography by utilizing a naked mutant kid with wings. Oh some people would have you believe that actually the naked mutant kid with wings is actually a cherub. That can't be. Everybody knows God's servants can't parade themselves naked just his televangelists can. Instead of Justice Minister Rock trying to legislate the registration of all those poor Saskatchewan farmer's firearms why doesn't he go after the users of this child pornography. It just makes me sick to the lengths some twisted companies/individuals will go just to sell/buy a item displaying a naked child all in the name of love. Just look around any greeting card store in the middle of February. They're on everything from greeting cards to underwear. For God's sake our primary schools are even abdicating the usage of naked children by *children*. Isn't this unhealthy? I for one am not amused.

Speaking of more sex. I was watching Melrose Place like I do every week for the great story that's always presented, much to my dismay, the other night I was rudely interrupted by one of Little Bigman Frank's new 'I'm saving myself until marriage' commercials. Hello? Melrose Place is the most promiscuous show this side of an adult film so why in Hell is the NB government showcasing three supposedly typical young adults saying they're gonna wait until marriage. Three average people compared to the bevy of Melrosers. Yeah right. I'm so convinced.

There is nothing wrong or abnormal to wait for marriage. It saves you a lot of worry and it lessens the chance that you will ever catch an STD in your lifetime. However you might catch a bad divorce and end up on the streets with no spouse and no or half the kids.

The very next commercial break the government once again showed another health ad. It had a youthful couple in bed doing some heavy petting. I guess they never paid attention to the first break.

Anyway the young male reaches for a condom on his night stand. So I'm assuming they were going to engage in some sort of sexual act. However I didn't see any wedding ring on either one. Believe me I looked. But hey, like the commercial says AIDS is deadly serious.

So what this tells me is that the Provincial government is communicating to you to wait until marriage and at the same time practice safe sex. Isn't that sort of a paradox. I suppose it wouldn't be to far out of the realm for the provincial government to be hypocritical. It was the type of thing more suited for a Melrose Place time slot. Is it just me or does all of Aaron Spelling's productions revolve around shapely women who prefer to wear their underwear on the outside assuming they are wearing any at all. What I have noticed about the 90's is that there is a lot more Fabio's and David Hasselhoff's and David Curroso's showing their bare asses on the tube.

Blood n' Thunder

DUNN HOUSE COMMITTEE CONCERNED BY LETTER

Dear Editor,

The Lady Dunn House Committee would like to express their concern regarding the article that appeared in this section of *The Brunswickan* last week. We will be holding a House Meeting on Sunday, February 19, 1995 at 9pm in the Main Lounge at which we will welcome opinions, comments and suggestions.

—Sarah Hall, Secretary, Lady Dunn Hall

THE RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Dear Editor,

I do not believe that the religious establishment in any country has ever really been a force for progressive change. True, they may parade around in the guise of "moralists" and "teachers", but this is really just another extension of their belief in maintaining their hold over the masses. Now, why would I say a thing like that? Simply, because I believe it to be true, as judging from historical experience.

The Catholic Church, for example, is well-known for its doctrine of non-resistance to the established "order". In fact, any real, progressive change within the Catholic hierarchy has come from within the ranks of the so-called "radicals". The reformation era started by Dr. Martin Luther is a case in point. Not only was Luther declared as a heretic, but the man was virtually hounded till the end of this life; and it wasn't until the Catholic Church had lost a considerable portion of its congregation that it enacted meaningful reforms.

Another example is the breakaway of the Church of England, under Henry VIII. The Catholic hierarchy has still not reconciled divorce and Church doctrine to this day! On another note, why, we ask, must it take the Church more than 300 years to admit the atrocities visited upon the Amerindians of the "new world" during the time of European conquest? In modern times, witness how Pope John Paul II has totally reversed the reforms enacted under his predecessor, John I.

Just like the fundamentalist "jihad" personalities within the Muslim hierarchy, so were the "fundamentalist" Protestants of the United States of the 1960s, when many white supremacists (some still do) quoted the Bible in their defence. Despite the fact that Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was a Southern Baptist minister, we can safely say that he was not among the Baptist establishment of the time. Today Protestant fundamentalists, aided by judicious Catholic acquiescence to their tactics, also use similar rhetoric to not only denounce abortion, but to advocate violence as a means of protesting it!

On the Indian subcontinent, even Jainism and Buddhism, offshoots of the Indo-Aryan Vedic tradition, founded not on cosmic authority, were later used to enforce conformity to a social mould. Buddhism, by far the most successful, even spread to China and other parts of Asia. Needless to say, the original Buddha, a young Indian prince called Siddhartha, did not in the least bit advocate societal control through his teachings; rather, it was an escape from the predestination doctrine of social class. Yet, no sooner had he closed his eyes for the last time than the establishment incorporated him into their social time and into their social doctrine, the result of which is the caste system of modern India!

In our own generation, witness the massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiannenmen Square, China, and the subsequent silence by the Church authorities in the West and the East as well! Time and again we hear of priests being defrocked for engaging in "liberation theology", the Catholic euphemism for third world popular resistance. Father Aristide of Haiti comes immediately to mind; so do many of the priests in Central America. The Church's stance is indeed more than strange considering that

many Catholic universities teach political science and legal jurisprudence, not to mention that the Church has multitudes of political legates working all around the world.

We also hear of Protestant missionaries in Rwanda and Somalia trying more desperately to obtain "converts" as opposed to their supposed task of feeding the hungry. Yet, they never give political representation to these poor, starving people at the negotiation tables in Washington, London, Geneva, Brussels and the UN where the so-called local "representatives" of these people do everything but represent their constituents.

If you stop to think about it, how many examples of religious antipathy (indeed apathy) towards real social progress must be utilized to convict these guilty parties? And don't tell me that Pope John Paul II wants to "give voice to those that have none", otherwise he would have repealed the non-sensical ban on contraceptives that menace world population control. Neither tell me of "holy warriors" of Jihad; why do they bomb civilians? Why is the Jewish state of Israel bombing Palestinian homes both within and outside their borders? In a world where the individual is increasingly being disenfranchised, religious institutions need to reassess their roles as guardians of the established order. Only then can they be taken seriously on such topics as morality.

—John Doe

SOCIETY LIVES SINFULLY

Dear Editor,

This is in response to "Those Catholic Bishops" written by John Valk in the January 27th edition of *The Bruns*. Mr Valk, aren't you missing the point? Is our current socio-economic situation not linked to the progressive sinfulness that our government and society support?

From my own reading of the Bible, it seems to me that sin is the bottom line in the degeneration of the human race. Sin, which came about as a result of Adam's disobedience, ultimately puts a wedge between humans and God. As long as individual humans and society as a whole live sinfully, the result will be damaging instead of constructive.

It says in the Bible, that God will honour and bless those who honour Him. Until our society recognizes that it has turned against God's laws and commandments, the socio-economists can discuss the current state of affairs until they're blue in the face, but God will not bless until they repent of the error of their ways.

Mr. Valk, I generally don't have anything to argue with in your column. I find it a very well thought out and well written column. Keep up the good work.

—Sincerely, Anne Crowell

LINGERIE CONTEST IS SEXIST !!

Dear Editor,

On page 19 of *The Brunswickan* on Feb. 3, there was an advertisement promoting a "Lingerie Contest" at Sweetwaters. According to Sweetwaters, each participant will model two "outfits", a panel of judges will determine the winners, and the overall winner will receive a prize of \$1000. This contest is destructive and degrading. A substantial portion of the male population at UNB already views women as little more than sexual playthings to be used and discarded at will, and a contest such as this endorses and encourages such attitudes. It does absolutely nothing to promote mutual respect and love as the basis for male/female relationships.

Obviously, Sweetwaters is not in the business of building public virtue, nor is it particularly concerned with morality. *The Brunswickan*, however, would claim to have certain standards for its content. While its editorial policy will not allow it to print "racist, sexist or homophobic" columns, it seems that this does not apply to advertise-

ments. This contest is blatantly sexist, but apparently advertising revenue is more sacred than moral principles to our "official student publication". *The Brunswickan*'s co-operation in the promotion of this event is both immoral and hypocritical, worthy only of the strongest opposition and criticism.

—Nathanael Kuchner

SHOCKED AT DISMISSAL OF MUHAMMAD ARIF

Dear Premier McKenna,

I read in the Telegraph Journal of January 27th that Muhammad Arif has been dismissed from the public service. I was shocked and dismayed. I have known Muhammad for over 13 years now. I know that he has provided a dedicated service to New Brunswickers both as a public servant for eighteen years and as a spokesperson on Human Rights and Multiculturalism. The Federal Government has recently recognized him for his achievements and commitment through the promotion of citizenship values as one of the 25 Canadians to receive the prestigious Citation of Citizenship Award. I am shocked and dismayed because if this can happen to an outstanding citizen like Muhammad Arif, then who is next on the list. It also saddens me that a government that stands for equality and freedom of speech can take away a man's livelihood for speaking out against the injustice he has seen.

In my view a terrible injustice has been done. I am requesting you as the Premier of this Province to intervene and rectify this injustice. I sincerely hope that my request will receive due consideration.

—Yours Sincerely, John Messerlian, President, Multicultural Assoc. of Saint John and President of Human Rights Awareness Assoc. of N.B.

THE AQUINIAN A RAG SHEET

The Saint Thomas student newspaper (*?*), the *Aquinian* reflects poorly upon Saint Thomas University. In fact, the *Aquinian* diminishes the value of a student's degree. After reading a given issue of the *Aquinian* packed with spelling mistakes, what potential employer would hire a Saint Thomas graduate?

Although every student contributes to funding the rag sheet, only a certain selected few ever get to publish anything in it. Several students have in the past submitted quality articles to the *Aquinian*. However, Editor-in-Chief Terri Ensor only prints articles which she personally agrees with. Therefore, Saint Thomas students are blessed with a rag sheet. Instead of publishing quality columns or feedback letter, Ms. Ensor insists upon publishing fictional accounts about cat shit.

It is plainly evident that the Saint Thomas Student Union should hold a referendum on whether or not to maintain the *Aquinian*. As an embarrassment to the University, students should think about saving their money by discarding the *Aquinian*.

—A Sincere STU student, Sean Scully

DO WE STILL KNOW WHO WE ARE?

During the week of January 23-28, there was a Festival of Cultural Diversity here on the UNB campus. This was week long event that celebrated the various cultures that are present here on campus and in the City of Fredericton as well. In my opinion, this week was very successful in meeting its goals and objectives.

The events during this week were very well attended and people truly seemed to enjoy themselves. While at these events, people were given a representation of what

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