

## MUGWUMP

You are in the presence of greatness.

How else can you explain why I'm sitting here at 5:00 a.m. trying to think of something witty to write about while Allan Carter sings his rendition of "Achy Breaky Heart" to me over and over again? Its certainly not dedication.

If you are an avid reader of The Brunswickan (and who, you may ask, is not?), you will have noticed by now (this being page 5 of the first regular issue) that we have expanded this Mecca of responsible journalism by one full inch down and one quarter of an inch across. I could suggest that we did so out of respect for the thousands of new brunsiacs that have joined our hard working yet volunteer staff. Instead I'll just thank the people at Global Printing for going out of business and the Student Union for constantly reminding me that "we don't want another \$14,000 mistake, now, do we?" Both events having led to the total overhaul of The Brunswickan, with a new printer's, a new budget, and the weekend weather to boot.

I suppose this would be the appropriate time for me to say thank you for the great staff turnout during the Frosh issue. To be perfectly honest, any turnout would have impressed the socks off of me because I didn't quite make it in for the Frosh issue when I was Co-News Editor last year.

Actually, I know this is a little presumptuous but I'm going to go ahead and congratulate everyone on this issue, because after all my fussing and whining to get finished early, Allan and I are the only two not done yet. Imagine that.

As I sat with our illustrious News Editor in the newly opened Pub in the Sub, an idea occurred to us: The pub needs popcorn. Or pretzels. Let's worry about the name later. Like, maybe after the paint on the "Pub in the Sub" steins wears off.

Fredericton is such an odd town. I bet you can't even get breakfast at this hour. Of course, I live in a hole about the size of that gaping monstrosity up at STU, so I shouldn't complain about Fredericton. Especially when I can complain about Green Valley, Ontario. Now, I'm not originally from Green Valley, I'm REALLY from Montreal. When my folks skipped the province this past summer they decided it wasn't enough to move from a city of two million to a small town, so they decided to do away with the whole town thing and live somewhere so remote that it doesn't even warrant a population count on its "Welcome to" sign. And come to think of it, the sign doesn't even have that.

My worst experience in Green Valley was definitely the Drive From Hell. It's pretty swampy, so there are lots and lots of frogs. I used to live in Quebec so that's cool. In fact, the frogs are really cute little ones with leopard spots all over. Anyway, one night I was driving home along the back roads during this rainstorm, and heaven's to Betsy you would not have believed the trouble I had seeing the road for all the debris. Being the conscientious driver that I am, I slowed down, and to my absolute astonishment noticed that the debris was actually moving! As I peered closer, I realized the debris was not only moving, but hopping, and that the debris was not debris at all but hundreds upon hundreds of harmless, helpless little froggies! Some were boldly attempting to dance in the highbeams from hell and see through to the Light, others were innocently crossing what could have been their first road, oblivious to the death mobile that would forever rid them of their chance at pond supremacy. I shudder when I think of how many I massacred that dark and stormy night. What a trauma.

Well, before I go allow me to remind everyone to glance over the classifieds. Trust me you won't miss them this week.

Don't forget to come to our staff meeting today at 12:30. Anyone interested in The Brunswickan is welcome, even you Engineers. And if we're really lucky Allan will sing.

## OPINION

The opinions found in this column are not necessarily the views of the Brunswickan

# The children are dying

by Kourosh Mohseni

**Children are dying, it's cheap to save them.**

In the final decade of the second millennium, we are facing crucial developments and unexpected changes in human history. The ascent of democracy in Eastern Europe and the developing world, the changing role of the UNB system and so on have radically shifted the global environment for prevention of children's death.

Each day millions of children suffer from poverty and economic crisis, from hunger and homelessness, from epidemics and illiteracy. Five hundred million to one billion people live in a condition of chronic persistent hunger, 13 to 18 million people die each year, 75 percent of them children under the age of five; 40,000 each day, that is one child every 2 seconds!

These figures are beyond our imagination. Just for comparison; the number of people who die of hunger every two days is equivalent to the number who were killed by the explosion of the bomb in Hiroshima.

**Why ending hunger is important?**

Why looking at the ugliest tragedy of our era with a global view at all? Some people say: "Our country comes first or North-America first". Looking at a problem is one thing, solving it is another. The conference on environment in Brazil, though didn't come up with a lot of practical resolutions, but at least proved that environmental issues are no longer national or continental problems. People recognize that only global action can reduce the risks to the global environment. A national vision is no longer valid to the ethnic conflicts, racism, religious fundamentalism, advancement of women and minorities. We can not wait for national leaders to articulate a global vision.

"A human being is a part of the whole called by us 'Universe', a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us. Our task must be to free ourselves this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole nature its beauty." - Albert Einstein

Nationalizing the problems of the entire planet is just an illusion, an easy way out. Just as an example that how for example ending hunger in Africa can affect us; Parents in developing countries (for example in Africa) have more children because they simply want to ensure that a few will survive. They have no social security (in many countries), so they need their children to take care of them. Poor people are sometimes forced into knowingly harming the environment so that they can survive. Slashing and burning agriculture, exploiting the rainforest, and using fruit trees as fuel to boil water to make it drinkable are the direct result of environmental problems caused by hunger. Hunger couldn't possibly be considered as a national issue, believe it or not, we share it with the rest of our global fellow citizens. When students stood for democracy in Tiananmen square for democracy, many of us far away in Canada shared their struggle. "Citizenship" attitude in an interdependent world is impossible.

"I call myself a nationalist, but my nationalism is as broad as the universe. It includes in its sweep all the nations of the earth. My nationalism includes the well-being of the whole world." - Mahatma Gandhi

**Hunger can be ended.**

Today we have the technology and resources to end hunger. Despite the growth of the world's population, there is more food available per person than there was 25 years ago. The persistence of hunger in a country can be measured by its infant mortality rate (IMR). The IMR is the number of children who die before the age of one per 1000 live births in a given year. It is accepted by WHO, UNICEF and other organizations that when a country lowers its IMR to 50 or below, it has ended hunger as a basic society-wide issue. 90 countries have an IMR of 50 or below. The hunger project was founded in 1977 with the mission to create the end of the persistence of hunger and to identify what is missing for hunger to end. By mid 1980s, most people knew that ending hunger was possible. Experts agreed the world had the food, resources and technology. If we could only mobilize the will, the commitment, to make it happen. Youth Ending Hunger (YEH) is a rapidly expanding, worldwide movement of young people who are passionately committed to ending this condition. "Our Youth Ending Hunger club's motto is: 'Don't let hunger end youth; let youth end hunger.'" - Tammy Rheault, grade eight, Anchorage, Alaska.

On November 20, 1989 the General Assembly of the United Nation adopted the Convention On The Rights of The Child. The UN Development Program in 1990 adopted a new focus and global index for measuring progress in human development and, specially, chronic persistent hunger. In September 1990, 71 presidents, kings, emirs, heads of states and prime ministers of the major countries came together for the World Summit for Children at the UN and signed the World Declaration and Plan of Action. Another 85 countries have also signed this declaration since then. The first Global Youth conference was then held in Kyoto, Japan in August 1991, where 350 youths from 60 countries met to chart ways of ensuring that the UN World Summit Plan of Action is implemented in their respective countries. Canada's plan of action has been completed. The US's is scheduled to be finished by this September (the deadline was December 1991).

While Canada's plan is considered one of the best to emerge from the industrialized nations so far, it still fails to set specific funding targets. On July 18, 1992, youth leaders from across North America met in Washington, DC, joining youth worldwide to support the implementation of the United Nations World Summit for Children Plan of Action. The Washington, DC youth conference was the first of five similar meetings sponsored by The Hunger Project, taking place in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; New Delhi, India; Ankara, Turkey and Managua, Nicaragua, during the months of July and August.

The Washington, DC conference has heard a report from the UNICEF office in Washington on the status of the implementation of the plan of action. A report by the organizing committee on the first Global Youth Conference and a report by the participants on the status of the national plan of action (a report has been presented by Canadian participants). The conference has adopted the Washington, DC resolution; a series of action to be implemented by the North America. Meeting with the US senators and Canadian ambassador Arthur Campeau had focused on The US speeding up with their plan of action and Canada with taking steps ahead toward more targeted financial contribution of Canada to the World Summit.

"...Mr. Bush needs help in keeping that promise. That help has to come from the Senate ...so that United States can contribute its share through the World Summit For Children implementation act...To keep the US on track the act proposed spending \$275 million on rudimentary child survival programs and \$135 million to promote basic education skills...but the house of representatives has approved only \$275 million for child survival and \$135 million for education..." - The Post-Standard NY

"...The Senate could and should provide the full amounts: \$335 million for child survival programs (\$60 million over the House bill) and \$175 million for basic education (\$40 million more ) How? By shifting more money from military and security aid. The collapse of communism world-wide has greatly diminished the need to spend extravagantly on weaponry and armed forces. But children remain as needy as ever...Sen. Bob Kasten could play a key role in reversing this US neglect." - The Milwaukee Journal.

The Washington, DC conference has also brought a lot of attention to the public by the demonstration in front of the White House. Once again its time for the world's leaders to sit back and remember their promises and commitments, the rising of the global consciousness has left no room for excuses and other priorities.