

# MUGWUMP

## Cats and other stuff

by Allan Carter

The week before March break. This is probably one of the most stressful weeks for many students. I was working until about three o'clock in the Bruns office on Wednesday morning when I decided that it was time to go home and curl up in my nice warm bed. It's amazing how cats can ruin such a notion. Upon arrival of my dwelling, I discovered a rare treat. Seven of the eight potted plants which were on the window sill in my bedroom had been toppled over onto, yes you guessed it, my bed. Of course my roommate tried to reassure me that this was not done on purpose by the two lovely, four legged, furry creatures which we have the utmost pleasure of sharing an apartment. No, she exclaimed, it was an accident.

Of course ..... an accident.....

I'm sure most people have heard the news that Dr. Henry Morgentaler has purchased land in Fredericton North. This week the Bruns news department did a story (page three) and, surprisingly, they could get no official comments from the UNB women's collective concerning the abortion issue. Perhaps, the abortion issue is not as cut and dried as some feminists would like it to be.

For those of you who noticed the smashed up car which was in front of the SUB last week it was part of the Alcohol Awareness week. Apparently, whoever guessed the correct number or came closest to guessing the correct number of beer cans in the car won a trip to either Montreal or Ottawa. However, the winner guessed 973 times (see story page 7). I wonder if she is any relation to our famous beer fridge winner, EUS president George Youssef?

.... Seven potted plants dumped onto my freshly cleaned sheets. Seven potted plants which I had just watered the day before (with both cats watching). Seven potted fairly heavy plants. And one plant still on the window sill, the heaviest one of them all. Yes, just an accident.....

The UNB Student Union recently gave out two scholarships worth \$500.00 each to two students for their "outstanding contribution to student life" (whatever that means). Now, in principle, I have few problems with their choices, Steve Williams and David Robinson (see story, who guessed it, page seven). Nevertheless, I would think that both Steve Williams and Kim Wettlauffer, chair of the Awards committee, would be concerned about what people might think of the committee's decision to choose Williams considering the relationship between Williams and Wettlauffer (you know, boyfriend and girlfriend or something of that nature). However, the decision has been made, but perhaps with a bit more insight the committee could have saved themselves the embarrassment of people musing over why Williams received the award or they could have avoided the pain of having someone like me point it out in a trashy column.

.... If only I had been home, perhaps the accident would have never occurred. Those two poor, innocent, defenseless cats, imagine what could have happened if one of those large heavy pots had hit one of those soft, delicate heads. Why, it would have squashed poor kitty.....

CHSR should be shaking in their boots. The STU Student Union has decided that it might be a good move to cut their funding to the station. Wow, a whole \$8, 500 from a \$121,000 operating budget. Now, while such a cut is an obvious financial gap for the station, I think it is time for CHSR to return STU's obvious sentiment and tell the Union to screw off. Surely, the UNB Student Union will not make such an idiotic move. I only hope that they realize the importance of the station and I also hope that STU students vote no in the referendum asking them to withdraw their funding from the station. The station has a strong alumni and they have community and campus support, thus the \$8, 500 can be found elsewhere if STU students are foolish enough to vote no. I know for a fact one STU student who has a program at CHSR, and I am sure that there have been many others who have worked and now work at CHSR. The STU Student Union knows damn well that if students at STU want to listen to the station they can still do so even without the \$8, 500 contribution. However, if CHSR wants to get as nasty as the STU Student Union, they can simply screen their staff to keep STU students from benefiting from the station. This, thankfully, probably would not happen, but it could and CHSR would be justified in such an action. Just another factor which STU students would be wise to consider when the issue goes to referendum. For \$8, 500, STU students are getting a pretty good deal.

.... An accident, my big toe! I can just see those two cats up on that sill pushing away on a heavy pot until it tumbled over onto my bed. Well, kitties, no more Mr. nice guy, I recently was given a book called "All I Need To Know I Learned From My DEAD Cat". Life will not be so sweet anymore, insult my plants and you insult me!

# OPINION

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

## The min's room

by Chad and Andrew

After reading the column "The Wimmin's Room" for the past few months, we feel that it is time for an opposing viewpoint to be expressed in the Brunswickan. This is the purpose of the column, appropriately titled "The Min's Room".

"Min" have been unfairly stereotyped as insensitive, brutal, and savage individuals by the radical feminist movement, which, as one can determine from reading "The Wimmin's Room", is comprised of ignorant and fanatical people who disregard the truth in favour of spreading falsehoods that can be used to further their own end, which appears to be a world dominated by "wimmin". This world would be based on lies and prejudice, and would have no use for the principle of gender equality.

Our basic contention to "The Wimmin's Room" is that its articles are based upon sweeping generalizations that are unsubstantiated by fact. We concede that the majority of violent crimes are perpetrated by men against women. This is a fact that we do not dispute. But we do dispute the argument expounded by radical feminists and "The Wimmin's Room" that *all* men are violent, killing and raping machines with no hope. On the contrary many of us are kind, sensitive, gentle men who abhor *any* violence against women. In fact, we of "The Min's Room" believe that violence against women is the most serious problem facing our society today. But rather than address this problem "The Wimmin's Room" has instead turned to a campaign of debasement and scapegoating of all men. The simple truth is that bigotry is bigotry whether it be spoken by men or women.

Indeed one needs only to look at the name of this group to witness the irrationality of their arguments. This group has changed the spelling of women to "Wimmin" thus omitting "men" from the word. What purpose does this serve? Does it help anyone to zealously change the spelling of a noun? Does it in any way promote gender equality or address any specific issue concerning *women*? We say it does not. We believe that silly, irrational acts like changing the spelling of "women" merely to omit "men" to suit some Politically Correct ideal is illogical. It is bigoted, divisive and fallacious.

We of "The Min's Room" wholeheartedly agree in principle the idea of a women's column addressing women's issues. What we do not agree with is this column is creating stereotypes and gender division by laying blame and scapegoating men for all the world's problems. "Min" (men) and "Wimmin" (women) should be working together to solve our mutual problems, not squaring off against each other in an ideological debate because it ultimately leads to inequality for both *genders*.

We of "The Min's Room" also believe that the women's movement has done much good, but as of late it has become increasingly bigoted in its statements. For example; a prominent feminist stated that all men must come to terms with the rapist inside them. What an inflammatory statement! All men are not rapists, and all men do not rape! These statements are like saying "All Blacks are stupid or all Jews are evil". Indeed these statements are inherently sexist racist and bigoted. It seems that radical feminists believe that since men have exploited and debased women for millennia that it is right for them to scapegoat men. The old saying that "Two wrongs don't make a right" applies here.

We feel that blaming men for the world's problems and stating that *all* men rape and kill women does not solve anything. Laying a guilt trip on the male gender will not promote equality for women. It may just do the opposite, harden chauvinistic and anti-feminist forces positions. Confrontation will not solve gender related problems. Indeed it may force some men into an ideological corner and they may react in a negative way. Gender equality will only come about when men and women are able to talk to each other about gender issues without confronting each other without sexist statements and sweeping generalizations.

Fanatical feminists serve only to push their movement further behind by subjecting the moderate members to ridicule. In fact we have talked to many women who feel that "The Wimmin's Room" does not speak for them. And possibly many men will state we don't represent them. Since "The Wimmin's Room" is the only voice for the entire feminist movement at UNB, then the reader of the "Brunswickan" would come to the conclusion that all feminists are of the radical nature. We at "The Min's Room" sincerely believe that the feminist movement means well, but it appears to have been ideologically hijacked by a small vocal group of extremists that want to advance their own sexist and bigoted idea of men throughout the feminist movement.

In order to counter this radical movement, moderate voices of men and women should be heard loud and clear. That is the purpose of the "Opinion" column and future submissions of "The Min's Room".