

EDITORIAL-MARK

All Hallow's Eve is nigh upon the mythical kingdom of Unbisu and many serfs have borrowed heavily from Sir Dress-ups tickle trunk. In fact 2898 of them. These serfs have decided to masquerade, this Hallowe'en, as gambling Mr. & Ms. Goodbodys believing they are immune from sickness and that ultra cool flesh eating disease. Believe me you don't want that. I've seen what it can do in a *Weekly World News* article.

According to Chris Alward, VP Student Services, "The average percentage of opt-outs for comparable programmes at other universities is about 25-30%." and ours was a resounding 40%. So why did our "UNB Students opt-out of the new health plan, big-time"?

I think lack of education hindered the health plan from the onset. For example when I voted *no* in last October's referendum I had no idea what I was turning down. If the student union, SunLife Insurance and the administration put their collective will behind the health plan and peddled the idea a tad more palatable, I guarantee you, there would have been less opt-outs. Each one of these groups could have individually established effective ways of bridging student's ignorance and apprehension through seminars, establishing prominent displays in key areas or other promotional means.

The health plan centre, in the SUB, should have primarily been a place to secure information about the health plan. Maybe this was the plan from the beginning but unfortunately it turned into a hand-out line for students. I figure the centre was a great idea, in principle, but when you're faced with the sad economics of being a student, you'll take all the handouts you can get.

Initially I perceived that additional \$100 plus my student union fee of another \$100 layered on top of an obscene \$2470 sundae as too sweet for my likes. Later in the spring when the SUB expansion referendum passed, I saw another \$25 being added to an already exorbitant costing frozen sugar horror. I hear our esteemed premiere, The Honourable Frank McKenna in his last year of UNB scooped out a paltry \$612 for his sundae back in '74. *Boy I can't fathom how he was able to pay for it all.*

By the time classes started this fall, my tongue was sore from sundae licking but at least I had the opportunity to hold back on my sundae's toppings. I opted-out at the first available moment because I thought I was going to pull a fast one on the ol' ice cream vendor. I figured since I was already covered by one plan, I didn't need another. Someone could incorrectly assume being covered by two health plans is like wearing two condoms. It's not like that because it's more like condoms and oral contraceptives working together. They're different forms and possess different advantages but they basically perform the same function.

For those students who opted out purely for economic gain I won't sympathise with you when you get that ultra cool flesh eating disease and your face slides right off your skull. You should've stayed in the plan but lucky for you you'll never have to pluck your eyebrows ever again.



I don't know about you, but this Rotten Pumpkin Day is great for getting a couple of laughs here and there at another persons expense. The first thing you can do is go around to your neighbours the day before Rotten Pumpkin Day and ask them if you can wash their homes for a couple of dollars if any eggs paint the house. If your neighbour doesn't want you, egg 'em. If your neighbour says it's alright, egg 'em. I'm not sure if this constitutes some form of extortion but... that way you get your mischief and some money too. Second, gather a gang of your friends, say about 30 to go door to door trick or treating. If an adult thinks your a little too old to be out, tell them they're too young to be losing their hair and property value isn't as stable as realtors would have you believe. If they start to call the cops, throw one of your weaker friends towards him. Remember *everyone but you* is expendable.

Pull the ultimate trick and cleverly hide somebodys valuables from their home. Put them in a place for safe keeping, like your pocket. Hey, that's a cool and profitable trick especially if you don't get caught.

If you hoard your candy until the following Easter and put paper bunny ears on those peanut butter toffee crappie thingees you might be able to sell some as budget bunnies.

Go find yourself a charity to collect for, namely yourself. If someone asks what organisation your collecting for run away.

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Twenty five years of the Media Bowl.

The only really neat silver anniversary that I could think about was the Manson Family murders. You won't even be able to compare that to what the Barbarians are going to do to those dumb bunnies. We're gonna chop up their lucky rabbit feet, make a great pate, scoop out their eyes and fill their open, gaping sockets with our tasty pate. It'll be a coronary delight when we feast on their steaming entrails and the best part is... We'll go back for seconds.

Oh by the way. Did you know Joe Montana left the KC Chiefs to take a position in the PMT darkroom.

I encourage everyone to come out and witness the mayhem when *The Brunswickan* Barbarians kick CHSR's collective asses. Remember that's at the physical plant field at 1pm Sunday October 30. Good luck CHSR 'cause you're gonna need it and a couple of paramedics on hand. This newspaper wet has more spine than you'll ever have. God, I feel like a professional wrestler.

Blood n' Thunder

Social Reform or Educational Suicide

By Gerline Van Woudenberg

According to Lloyd Axworthy's discussion paper on Social Reform, students are again expected to bear the brunt of further funding cuts. The proposal is looking at reducing funding towards educational institutions by 2 Billion dollars, and balancing it out by an easier access, increased amount of student loans. Ironically enough, the government continues to advocate the importance of an education, but undercuts this notion by creating an elites structure.

In 1976 Canada ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights, binding itself not only to comply with these rights but also recognising them as Human Rights. Article 13 within this covenant states that "Higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by every appropriate means, and in particular by the PROGRESSIVE INTRODUCTION OF FREE EDUCATION".

By comparing this Covenant to Axworthy's discussion paper it would appear as though Canada is veering away from its international obligations. Although it is important to acknowledge that Canada's economic situation plays a key role in the full realisation of these rights, any Social Reform policies introduced would still need to take into consideration these international obligations of progressive movement towards the rights contained therein.

Having been a student for the last six years, I can honestly say that I have not encountered any attempt by the Government to alleviate some of my university expenses. In fact, costs seem to be continually rising in either tuition or books, while student loans become more difficult to obtain. Therefore, will I be able to continue to attend university if it increases in costs? Absolutely not, and I would bet that there are many other students throughout Canada who are in the same predicament.

So lets not sit back and complain, but activate ourselves to protest and suggest better alternatives. We have Human Rights which no one can take away! We have a voice, so lets be heard!

Tired of being straight?

GALA will be holding it's first recruiting session for straight persons who are tired of their straight lifestyle. As if!

In Response to Dave Rolston's comment RE: Homophobia and Gay Issues. Rolston suggests that J. and I express conflicting ideas about recruitment? J. wrote that the gay community does not try to recruit people to be gay. To suggest otherwise would be absurd! I mean, look at the pull a straight person faces when trying to stay straight. The forgone opportunities, the glamour associated with being gay that they will never experience, the hardships and tensions with family relations they may never have the pleasure of enduring, the rush one feels that can only come from the threat of rejection when coming out to someone or from the threat of physical violence from gaybashing. Given all these exceptional qualities we have to offer any possible "recruits", it's not too hard to foresee a complete takeover of the entire straight population by the gay lifestyle in the near future. Yeah Right. Sorry to disappoint, but if you are straight now you will probably be straight tomorrow even despite all the wonderful temptations as listed above.

One of GALA's mandates, to "promote a healthy gay lifestyle on campus", does not imply recruitment. What would constitute this healthy gay lifestyle? Promoting self acceptance and mental well being is of utmost importance. Physical health without mental health does not

mean a whole lot. It is healthy for a person to live without fear of oppression. It is healthy for one to feel that they are a valuable member of society regardless of their sexual orientation. It is healthy for one to feel they can be themselves without fear of physical harm. It is healthy for a person to be able to cultivate a monogamous relationship, rather than looking for one night stands out of desperation. It is healthy for one to be able to create a positive self image, and not partake in self-destructive behaviour. Do we see the point? GALA is trying to make UNB and STU a positive environment for people of all diversities to live and grow, thus promoting a healthy gay lifestyle. If a gay person on campus feels condemned, rejected, afraid, lowly and isolated, their mental health is going to be very poor. This is what we are trying to combat. This is what we are trying to demote.

Thank you for your interest and concern.

Sincerely, Darren Elliott

Open letter from the ASU

Although we all come here to study and accumulate knowledge and skills, we still remain AMBASSADORS of our countries and continent. As such, we ought to not only represent these countries and our continent responsibly, but foremost do our best to take advantage of the multiple opportunities that the environment our host country is offering us.

We are provided with a unique chance to develop the kind of leadership that can prepare us to face challenges and make a real difference in our endeavours in the real world.

It is our choice to remain spectators, and carry on with the business of watching from the bench or continue to criticise whatever is going wrong in our community to the point of self-destruction, and prove how incapable of creative solutions we are.

But it is also quite possible that we elect to POSITIVELY influence our actions for the betterment of our image and the earning of respect and dignity for Africa and its people.

I am writing these crude words just to tell all of you that the time has arrived that we start reclaiming ourselves and our continent. Yes! It is that time, brothers and sisters, that we demonstrate our abilities to UNITE, ORGANISE and INNOVATE. It is time, fellows, to embark on the journey to rescue our image. It is our time, the AFRICAN HOUR. So let us go at it together, the AFRICAN WAY.

We need everyone's co-operation to succeed in this challenging endeavour of reclaiming our dormant talents. We are called on to stand alongside our leadership no matter what the nature of our reservations are. We need to heal the wounds and move in UNISON towards a new vision with new horizons and new heights.

At this stage, it is sine qua non to bury episodes of disruptive showdown and clashes of personalities. We need to focus heavily on the assurance of a creative environment conducive to objective and polite exchange of views on strategic initiatives, an environment where questioning and probing from members is routinely welcome.

In its efforts to deal with poor membership mobilisation and co-operation, ASU Executive has initiated a PROCESS OF RENEWAL of the entire community. Its brainstorming exercise helped not only uncover areas of major concern and potential improvement, but also identify the direction the organisation ought to take in the years ahead of us.

This has led the executive to re-invent the organisation style of governing and come up with visionary approaches and priority proposals for a more effective ASU. It has elected to embark the whole

community in a deep consultation exercise aimed at full members' participation in the definition of essential activities as well as members' responsibility in both the success and failure of the association undertakings.

I for one believe that TO BUILD IS BETTER THAN TO WHINE. In fact it is rather challenging. It is also my other belief that TO GIVE UP IS TOO EASY and TO DESTROY IS JUST SIMPLISTIC.

The proposed new vision is that of an INCLUSIVE EXECUTIVE vowing to act smart and bold and be the catalyst of consensus, compromise and peaceful conflict resolution; an executive always focused on pushing ASU's agenda forward and increasing ASU's visibility in the student and Fredericton communities.

In today environment, there is only place for active and enthusiastic membership. That is why I sincerely urge you to massively support this attempt to produce an ACTION PLAN with a clear vision and viable strategies to reflect our common grounds and to successfully help ASU meet its targeted goals within a system of checks and balances.

We collectively possess a WEALTH OF EXPERTISE, but we need to put it into practice to acquire a WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE that will benefit us in our future endeavours.

Eugene Omboli, Voluntary Advisor

Getting the Facts Straight

This is in response to the articles in the Pillar and The Aquinian regarding National Coming Out Day/ Blue Jeans Day that took place on October 11. Attention writers/editors: do some research before you come up with the misrepresented information that you provided in your articles. It appears to be the case, that you have never/not spoken to someone who is homosexual/ bisexual, or someone who has an understanding of the significance of National Coming Out Day/Blue Jeans Day. The "facts" that were provided were to some degree correct, but the rest of the opinions and verbal diatribes that were given were nothing short of ignorance and not getting all of the relevant information.

You did not seem to have a problem with National Coming Out Day as an event. However, you completely missed the message when it came to the Blue Jeans Day section. Blue Jeans Day is intended to show support for the gay, lesbian and bisexual population. Yet the wearing of blue jeans is a tongue-in-cheek presentation of some of the similarities between the homosexual/bisexual and heterosexual population. It is meant as a witty and humorous look at some of the misperceptions that society has about gays, lesbians and bisexuals in terms of their lives and lifestyles. Blue Jeans Day is meant to convey the idea that the homosexual and bisexual community are a lot like the heterosexual members of the population, functioning quite perfectly in society. They are regular people who sleep, eat, go to movies, get stressed during exams, work, play, go out on dates, and have families. Everybody wears blue jeans (as Stephen Sargeant, the editor of the Pillar, has pointed out); the event on October 11, helps to make it clear that homosexuals and bisexuals are not some strange separate species, or people who perform "abnormal" and "unnatural" things.

The Blue Jeans Day event is not meant to "...scare people. To make them so afraid of being branded homophobic..." nor is it a day for passing judgement on people. Aquinian news editor, Darcey McLaughlin, makes it sound like an inquisition. Sorry, but that's not what that particular day was all about. In the future, I suggest you get as much of the correct facts as possible, before printing out your "news".

A supporter of National Coming Out Day/Blue Jeans Day