

EDITORIAL



Mugwump
Journal

The importance of a choice

A number of issues have come to the forefront recently that have left the public to discern fact from fiction regarding issues that shape the lives of all of us, both positively and negatively.

But this need not concern us for here in university we're trained and conditioned to deal with these kinds of plights. Developing independent minds so that when the day comes when you have to make a decision of certain significance, you'll not have to look to your neighbor to vicariously draw from his thoughts.

Least that's the way it's supposed to work.

However if you look at what has transpired lately in the world of social and cultural dynamics, and the effect that manifest ignorance has had upon them, you mightn't be so comfortable with your supposed wisdom.

Earlier this year the provincial government in Ontario, announced their intent and later imposed a bill that forbid doctors in that province from extra billing their patients.

What *was* allowed to reach the public was what the media perceived their audience to be most receptive to. That being the governments desire to save the people some of their hard earned money and the fact that the shaft was being put to the overpaid money hungry doctors who were up in arms because now they couldn't afford their second indoor pool.

Subsequently the bill was passed and received favourably, while the doctors were slaughtered in the public relations ring.

Where was the choice?

The Ontario Medical Association (OMA) earlier had approached the editor of one of the large Toronto newspapers to ask if they could have any space in their paper to air their side of the story.

They were rebuffed. Told politely "Go back to work and don't bother us", realizing that the battle was over.

In fact it was.

Many of the issues such as the fear that the doctors would become more like civil servants and thus less able to serve the people they were trained to help, just weren't allowed to be known. Couple this with the long running power struggle between the OMA and the provincial government, and you have some legitimate grounds for argument.

Without equal representation of both sides, there is never a choice.

Now as the editor of your student newspaper I pledge to you that every effort will be made to cover both sides of a story, allowing you to decide, rather than us, what your feelings will be on any particular topic.

However, with all our best efforts, it sometimes is just not possible, and thus that puts the onus on you to inquire as to what the facts are.

A responsibility you should assume with every article you read or hear of.

Here at the Brunswickan we are well aware of the power we possess to shape student opinion around this campus. And we appreciate the fact that you are willing to take us into your confidence, but we won't be a healthy medium unless you realize that without your understanding of our influencing ability, you will never be able to think or analyze independently or put the reporting in its proper context.

KEN QUIGLEY

Well it's that time of year again folks when the leaves start to turn their color, there's a nip in the morning air, and we must return to school. I can hardly wait until my tan fades and I have to scrape frost off my car windows, not to mention the excitement I feel when I sign over all my summer earnings to the university. Oh well, it is that time of year and there's not much I can do about it. However, it is nice to see everyone (almost everyone) back again. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the freshmen and other people coming to UNB for the first time. It really is a great place, although it may not seem that way when you're standing in line to get in the bookstore.

Before I go any further I should tell you what this column is all about. MUGWUMP is traditionally written by the Managing Editor and is reserved for complimenting, criticizing, bitching, complaining, or just rambling about anything that comes to my attention. I'm new at this so you'll have to bear with me for a while.

I'll start off nicely with some compliments. Congratulations to the Orientation Committee for doing a bang up job this year. Looks like everyone, including a lot of upperclassmen, had a pretty good time during frosh week. Even the outdoor concert was good, but the band sucked the big wazoo. Sorry Marc. Nevertheless, I don't think that's enough to keep you and that first place prize from getting together.

If this column sounds like it's losing its composure, its only because the photo editor is taking apart my chair while I am sitting on it, and I have the feeling I will be having an intimate meeting with the floor anytime now.

Hey, all you residence men--too bad about McConnell Hall burning. I bet you guys just cringed at the thought of eating at Lady Dunn for a week. Tough times, eh guys? I'm sure you will be happy to know that McConnell will be back in full operation in just a few weeks.

I will assume by now that everyone knows about the Doug and the Slugs concert tonight and the Extravaganza tomorrow night. Let's start the year off right by having some people show up! This university has a reputation for being apathetic and if you can believe it, that attitude even extends itself into the weekends. The students around here are either becoming incredibly studious (which I highly doubt) or, they are keeping the local bars in business (which I highly suspect). Nobody goes to the campus pubs and I don't know why. Campus pubs and residence socials can be a lot of fun. I hope to see a trend towards them this year. It would be nice to see the clubs and organizations around campus make some money on their social events instead of losing so much every year.

In the meantime, for those of you out there who do have some desire to do something, and you just can't wait for the chance to meet some new people, why don't you come down to the Brunswickan today at 12:30 in room 35 of the SUB. You may even find something that you might want to participate in. We're not fussy; we'll take anybody (even Engineers). We would especially like to see some massive, football-type people come and join us. We need all the help we can get to totally destroy the CHSR "Bunnies of Death" in the annual Media Bowl on Saturday, Sept. 20. It's a lot of fun and it's also one hell of a party!
