

Editorial
Mary Rogal-Black

It's a good day to become a Brunisie

If you still haven't found a good, lively New Year's Resolution you can put your heart into, I've got a suggestion that could outshine the usual lose-weight, study-harder or stop-chewing-your-fingernails resolution stand-bys: join the Bruns. If you've been considering this move into resume-enhancing, life-enriching territory, you may want to know more about the inner workings of your campus paper.

The New Year has brought a few changes to the ever-evolving face of The Brunswickan. The end of last term brought the resignation of our Sports editor, and our News editor also resigned (deciding to run instead for the position of Online editor, maintaining our website). Some combination of time conflicts and politics brought about these departures, and these are very real problems staff people can encounter during their time at the paper. While it would be foolish to pretend that there isn't a down side to being Bruns staff, it's equally true that many people have found that the benefits to volunteering greatly outweigh the difficulties. Some people who have walked in interested in writing movie reviews have turned out to be excellent photographers, writers or have, after a couple of years, become Editor-in-chief. Students already looking ahead to the summer job search will be interested to know that a variety of skills employers will be looking for can be developed while working at the paper, including writing, layout, web site development and computer literacy. The less tangible but no less valuable experiences of working to deadlines, self-motivation and interpersonal skills can also be developed at the Bruns.

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Even though the Editorial Board has a number of vacancies, we're not looking for people to walk in through the door ready to take on the responsibility of an editorial position. In fact, I'm not looking to replace the News Editor at this point in the year, since the position is too complex for a new person to start from scratch. Instead, the section will be produced by a team of experienced News staff for the rest of this academic year. However, new volunteers to the News department will be none the less valuable, since it's now time to look ahead and find potential editors for the upcoming year. Elections for the 1997-98 Editorial Board will take place in March, and ideal candidates will have experience in the writing and production of the paper. That makes this the perfect time to join the Bruns and learn what it's all about.

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Luckily, former Sports Editor Maria Paisley has stepped forward to become our interim editor for the rest of this year and we hope that UNB sports fans will continue to enjoy Bruns coverage of Varsity Reds events. However, true to the too-many-generals problem that the Bruns suffers from at various times, having the editorial position filled solves only a part of the problem; the Sports department needs staff writers, as does Entertainment and News. If you've considered joining the Bruns but think you're probably not needed, think again. We do need people, and despite the fact that many first-time volunteers are worried because they've never written before, the main thing we're looking for in new staff is dedication. With some initiative and a willingness to stick it out even when you don't know exactly what you're doing, you'll soon find you've developed skills and become just like the rest of us: a cool and valuable member of the staff team! We're looking for students from all faculties at UNB, but my own personal advice to Arts students dreading a career in the food service industry is to get yourselves in here as soon as possible.

Whether you're looking for a sense of community at UNB, new friends or some valuable work experience, joining the Bruns provides opportunities you won't discover until you get here. Drop in.

BLOOD & THUNDER
Letters to the Editor

Montreal Massacre feature good example of teamwork

To the Editor:

I just wanted to take the time to thank the contributors of the feature "Remembering Montreal" in your end of term issue. As a former member of the UNB Womyn's Collective I felt great pride in reading the various pieces that made up the feature. I would like to take this opportunity to comment on a couple of points raised.

Jenn Brown stated that, in gathering information for the feature, some of her feminist friends might be angry at the fact that the work of men would be included. I have to admit when I first saw that some of the feature's contributors were men, I was

momentarily taken aback. But, after reading what they had written, I was happy to see that some of the men in our society are trying to understand what the Montreal Massacre means and are trying to do their part to combat sexism in our society. For example, Hart Caplan comments (at the end of his article) on the need for men "to confront their friends, family members, and acquaintances on improper language and behavior." It does take everyone - both womyn and men - to stand up and fight sexism in all its forms.

I also want to highlight something Andrew Brown wrote about in his article. Andrew Brown wondered why no one ever confronted Marc

on his attitude towards womyn and why no one ever reached out to try to help Marc. I often wonder the same thing too! Surely someone could have seen that something was not quite right with Marc and could have done something (anything!) that would have (possibly) averted what lay ahead.

Finally I want to say that the feature was an excellent example of what we, as a society, can accomplish when we all work together. Congratulations on a job well done to all the contributors of the "Remembering Montreal" feature!

Sincerely,
Liz A. Lautard, Class of 1993

International Christmas



We recognize that Christmas is a time of giving and sharing. It is a time of gathering, celebration, even worship. It is being together — strengthening family ties, renewing friendships.

Christmas can also be lonely and difficult. We know this. For international students — strangers in a strange culture, with family and friends far away — this season can also be lonely and difficult.

It can also, on the other hand, bring rich opportunities. Festive Christmas gatherings, celebrations, even busyness, may be foreign to international students, but they can also be a wonderful springboard to new experiences. Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship recognizes this. For that reason, and in the true spirit of Christmas, IVCF-Atlantic sponsored an International Christmas for international students attending universities in the Maritimes. This event was held at Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB, December 22-28.

International Christmas was a mini United Nations gathering. Sixty international students from 20 different countries and from various cultural and religious backgrounds attended. My family and I were part of 35 Canadians who served as their hosts. The time together was exhilarating and moving, for all who participated. Why so memorable and unique?

Reaching out to others opens up unlimited opportunities. Extending ourselves enriches us. From others far and near we learn that we are all human, we all share basic values, and we all seek relationships with others: diversity is not to be feared. Making oneself vulnerable, communicating with those whose language, custom and traditions are not one's own is not always easy. The rewards, however,

are immeasurable. Henri Nouwen said "guests are carrying precious gifts with them, which they are eager to reveal to a receptive host" (Reaching Out). This we discovered, and the biblical injunction — "treat with respect the sojourner in your land" — took on new meaning.

The week of International Christmas was filled with rich variety. International students and Canadian hosts, children included, skated, bowled, curled, sledded, and square danced. A ping pong tournament created great excitement (and not surprisingly was won by the Chinese). International students were treated to a Christmas banquet: a traditional Christmas turkey dinner complete with trimmings. All of us participated in an International banquet: a festival of food and exquisite international cuisine. A talent exchange, variety evening, and fashion show further reflected the rich cultural traditions with which the peoples of the world are so richly blessed.

Endless conversations and discussions occurred formally and informally — at meal times, in the halls, in the kitchen, in organized groups, in the late hours of the night. People talking, sharing, laughing — people being together!

And what of the various religious traditions? The 95 participants included Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, and those of no particular faith. How should one deal with this variety, especially at Christmas? Does one remain silent, not wishing to offend?

In this context, silence would have been most offensive. An International Christmas without any discussion of the religious tradition out of which it emerges would have been incomplete. Further, to have such

religious variety, and pretend it did not exist, would have been dishonest.

Interestingly enough, international students willingly speak about religion. They do not hesitate entering into such discussions. The Canadian tendency to privatize religion puzzles most of them, as does the lack of learning about religion in the schools. Most recognize the centrality of religion to culture and tradition. Not surprising then that some of the most interesting conversations during the week revolved around the different religious traditions. We all learned from each other.

Without compulsion or coercion — all was optional — the Canadian hosts invited others to learn about the Christian faith, and to participate in traditional Christmas celebrations. International students of other religious traditions, as well as those who were Christian, welcomed these opportunities. All were invited to participate in short late afternoon discussions. All were invited to participate in a Christmas Eve candle-light service, which became a true multi-lingual event. All were invited to sing Christmas carols in a local nursing home and in the homes of two local families. In the latter, all were invited afterwards to taste hot apple cider and Christmas treats.

International Christmas was an international delight. It generated genuine warmth, enlightening conversations, multiple learning experiences, new friendships and much laughter. It ended all too quickly.

But the memories remain. This was a Christmas not to be forgotten. Those who have attended past events remember them well. Some speak of International Christmas as the highlight of their stay in Canada.

Mudwump

Joseph W.J. FitzPatrick₃

In case your dripping sinuses and chapped lips haven't tipped you off yet, it's winter. Take a look outside if you doubt my words: it's cold, it's windy, and there's snow out there. But don't worry about missing classes, UNB has closed just once since 1992.

What could be worse than the weather? Let's try: shorter days, the disappearance of your tan-lines in the least desirable way, ritual sacrifices to the gods of NB power, and Christmas shopping.

That doesn't mean the holidays were quiet here in the city of Stately Elms. No, not at all. Those of you who were away may not have been told about Fredericton's newest claim to fame: home of the Elmo-maniacs.

It was pretty shocking, let me tell you, even for somebody who lived through the great Cabbage Patch panic of 1987. And this was Sesame Street but this was not the Sesame Street I grew up with. Back in my day, battery-operated vibrating dolls were reserved for grown-ups. And let me tell you, they didn't line up to get their picture taken while they were buying them. Besides, leave it to the Children's Television Workshop to pick a member of Sesame Street the Next Generation rather than the old standbys like Bert and Ernie. Of course, maybe it goes to show that CTW wasn't always so commercialized. I can't see them naming that oversized canary

for its marketing potential. There are plans for the Fickle Me Cookie Monster, but I doubt we'll ever see Fickle Me Big Bird causing a riot at Wal-Mart.

It's a good thing that the newest toy craze was so exciting because there was darn little decent television to watch over the holidays. It always amazes me that television networks wait until the time of the year when people are most likely to want to watch TV in order to escape the madness of the holiday season to show all the Christmas specials. The only thing more amusing is the higher incidence of food commercials during the flu season.

Frankly, I don't know what's worse: the number of television shows with the "true meaning of Christmas" themes or the number of shows where we know it's Christmas only because there happens to be decorations or snow somewhere on the screen.

Speaking of snow, did anybody notice it wasn't until the week of Christmas that it started to snow? Just like Santa to play with our minds like that. How many of you were afraid that this was a sign that we were so bad during the year that we almost didn't have Christmas? Mark my words, some day that overweight weirdo in the red suit is going to go too far, and then...

Sorry about that. Don't worry, I don't really want to kill

It's winter, welcome to hell

Santa. I'd have to be pretty crazy to try kill somebody who doesn't exist.

Oh look's like I just did. Sorry kids. Does your mother know you're reading this?

And just in case you think there is nothing worse than the temperature difference between the floor and your feet first thing in the morning, look on the bright side: it's a great time to steal cars. If you doubt me, just check out your local convenience store. You'd be surprised at the number of people who leave the cars running when they run into to grab a coffee, the paper or some smokes and don't have an extra set of keys to lock their car. Just go up to the car and try the door. If somebody asks you what you're doing, say you're from an environmental group and you're trying to stop pollution. On second thought, say you're a car thief and you had a difficult childhood, grand theft auto looks a lot better on your resume, and besides, car owners who leave the engines running probably hate environmentalists even more than car-jackers.

Oh, and here's a great winter driving tip: let your car run for at least a half hour before leaving the driveway. Not only will it be easier to see when you're driving, but the amount of greenhouse gases you emit will ensure next winter will be that much warmer.

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Viewpoint Banner
Illustrated by Kent Wize!

This issue is dedicated to:
Elmo

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