

Issue 5 **editorial**  
BY MARK MORGAN

The Information Highway, or its other misnomer the Internet, is supposed to be about sharing resources in the shortest amount of time, however resources take on all sorts of forms some useful, some not and well, some questionable. One thing though, each user of the 'Net does appreciate the entertainment quality it holds.

If you have been to Head Hall's computer labs of late, you know entertainment takes on a questionable aura. It seems keyboards there are increasingly becoming one-handed due to the accessibility of porn.

With the increasing amount of users for UNB's computer resources there are bound to be increasingly frivolous uses and more rules.

It seems that students are waving their 3.5 inch floppies while reading "erotic" material or viewing a plethora of breasts and/or penises courtesy of UNB and the other students.

If a student wants to view pornography, then their fees give them that right. Morgan's rule #56 is "If it's not illegal, then it shouldn't be gestapoed and placed away from reach." That's what the University is doing by refusing questionable sites that are legal but judged to be of bad taste to the students. Of course, I am under the impression there is no student committee concerning what's "bad" for the students on the 'Net. This is not to say that illegal sites should be accessible and/or mature sights not restricted to protect minors.

I also believe that other students sitting next to users of questionable material, should not feel uncomfortable or harassed by the images or text on the screen next to them.

The University every once in a while gets a list of "naughty sites" together and limits or denies access to them through its resources in order to combat, the somewhat erosion of the mind values. Here at UNB, the Computer Services Department has a list of "banned" sites that must fit some sort of criteria to make it inaccessible. I do not know what their criteria is. Maybe the word sex appears or ass is used.

Concerning World Wide Web sites. It is impossible for UNB or even the government to monitor the millions of sites out there, unless you have to register them with some sort of governing body. In the future I see an Internet board, not associated with any government monitoring the actions and sights of surfers. Sort of like the Comics Code Authority.

Thanks to a stiffed armed fellow in the republic of the States, laws are being considered to end accessibility of Pornography and any other questionable material that is "a blight to normal family values." However, like here at UNB or Canada, what's one persons idea of porn, is another's obscene material or art. Porn is highly subjective and it is difficult to get complete agreement at times.

But I know one thing students using the 'Net on the university should take into consideration taste before they start going online with the Girls or Guys of the Internet.

# Blood in Thunder



## Grad Class responds to cynic

Dear Editor,

We are writing in response to the letter addressing the Grad Class '96 project in last week's *Brunswickan* issue. The Grad Class '96 First General meeting was held on October 1st. At this meeting it was the executive's intention of addressing many issues, not only voting on the class project. For this reason the meeting was labelled "general".

We were pleased with the turn out since it was comparable with the First General Meetings of the past. We have a large campus and it is a challenge getting the word out about upcoming events. We do our best by making use of the student union poster run, the *Brunswickan* (personal and Student Union Page or individual ads), and putting up signs/spreading the work ourselves.

S.P.A.R.C. (Student Pride Alumni Relations Committee) submitted the suggestion of increasing the visibility of university pride on our campus by adding a rod (sic) iron archway to one of the entrances welcoming everyone, and stating that UNB is one of the oldest universities in Canada. This project won by an overwhelming majority of the students who attended the meeting. In closing, the Grad Class '96 executive welcomes this project as a strong indication of student support.

Grad Class '96 Executive.

## Finds the IS objectionable to the "truth"

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you in order to object strongly to the article in the last issue of *Brunswickan* entitled "Students plan to protest cuts." This "article" is not only poorly presented, it is also steeped with a degree of euphemism and obsification which, frankly, I find unpalatable.

In the first instance, would it have been possible for your writer to have found out what "social justice group" Patrick Bush was a member of? It hardly seems fair to classify the group he belongs to, which could be anything from the Social Action Society, the Social Works Society, and Social Justice Society, or the International Socialists, ad infinitum, as a "social justice group," when obviously the group's name is of some importance.

I am also puzzled at the labeling of Mr. Carrier as a "concerned student,"

for he is obviously much more than that, as readers of *The Brunswickan* from last year should recall. You could equally say "Kelly Lamrock, concerned student," but he would be quoted as "Kelly Lamrock, SU President." Please encourage your writer to be a bit more honest.

I find it perplexing that Mr. Carrier can so eloquently state "most SUs have endorsed" the protest, and then concede that "at least all CFS universities." This group, as it now stands, doesn't even represent half of the university students of Canada.

Finally, I can not imagine how your reporter found it so difficult to contact the SU executive, all of them have definite office hours when they are in town. Assuming your reporter did not write this article on the spur of the moment, at some un-godly hour on Thursday morning, a like indictment of the SU executive can not be ignored. This causes me to wonder if your reporter would have attempted to contact the SU executive, but not to wonder why "at time of press, the members of the SU executive had not been reached for comment."

"A concerned student [kudos]"  
Name withheld by request

## October Crisis 25 years later and the debate continues

Letter to the Editor

This month marks the 25th anniversary of the October Crisis, with the invocation of the War Measures Act. Federal troops were sent to Quebec to quell a growing nationalist mood, and increasing militancy of the Quebec population. The call-in of the army in 1970 is a very relevant issue in the light of the upcoming referendum on sovereignty in Quebec.

After the Front de Liberation du Quebec (FLQ) kidnapped the British trade minister James Cross, they demanded to have demands heard. The subsequent refusal of these demands was followed by the FLQ's kidnapping of Quebec cabinet minister, Pierre Laporte, who was later killed.

While the kidnappings provided Trudeau and company with the excuse to call in the tanks, underlying the repression was a much more profound threat to federal state authority — the growth of a critical nationalism form below, and the rise of working class militance inside Quebec.

One organization which reflected this growing mood was the Front d'action politique (FRAP). FRAP was a Montreal based municipal party, which opposed the policies of the city's conservative mayor, Jean Drapeau, who hid urban

slums amidst tourist attractions like Expo '67 and the Olympics. FRAP included tenants' associations, citizens' committees trade unions, socialists and nationalists in a coalition which gained influence as Montreal's local elections approached. FRAP's explicitly anti-capitalist programme was gaining support across the province and scaring the pro-business politicians. During the October Crisis, FRAP's membership lists were seized, and 465 members were arrested. Almost all were later released without charges, and nearly all members tried were acquitted.

The justification of the War Measure's Act was to quell an "apprehended insurrection." However, according to a federal cabinet minister's diary, even the RCMP did not believe that the country was in a state of insurrection. The invocation was an attempt to assert the authority of the federal state in Quebec (Globe and Mail, March 11, 1988). This admitted fact strongly underlined the oppressed nature of Quebec's "partnership" in Canada. The Quebecois were and still are a conquered, oppressed people. The lower class workers and unemployed are primarily francophone, and the upper management and corporate bosses in Quebec are primarily anglophone. It is quite understandable that many francophones feel like second-class citizens within Canada.

The horrific martial law of October 1970 must be taken into account with the upcoming referendum on October 30. Many politicians claim that Quebecers do not have a right to hold the vote on sovereignty, that they cannot be allowed to leave due to the economic consequences that will result from this. Many economists have jumped to h media with outrageous claims on how Quebec sovereignty will cause economic chaos resulting in job loses, and the destruction of the high Canadian standard of living (of which Quebec is lowest on the provincial scale). This is purely a scare tactic with which they hope to keep Quebec in a state of repression. The claim of economic chaos was also attached, by the same economists, to the defeat of Meech Lake and The Charlottetown Accord. This has obviously not happened, and it will not happen if Quebecers vote *Out*. If they do vote *Yes*, we in English Canada must strongly oppose the use of Canadian troops to force Quebec to stay in Canada, as some right-wing politicians have promoted. We must fight against another October Crisis.

The Quebecois have a right to self-determination. The Quebecois have a right to re negotiate economic and political ties with Canada whose constitution was signed without their consent in the first place. If this fails, they have a right to outright

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## The Mugwump Journal

Leap into the sea of Head Hall, paddling steadfastly for the PC labs, then with a couple of key presses and mouse clicks, you're out there, scanning the horizon for something worthy of your talents. First up the UNB page - barely a ripple, leave it for the high school kids, but then you see it, rising from the ocean, the big one, the super. . . page. Paddling hard, you rise as the wave starts to break under you, and you keep sliding, deeper down, into the hollow of the wave, as you follow the links...

I'm sorry, I can't keep up this fantasy any longer. Whoever tried to promote surfing as the term for going globe trotting by phone lines should be placed on one of those shapely pieces of fibre-glass and set adrift off Hawaii's shores.

Surfing the Internet bears about as much resemblance to surfing waves as Cindy Crawford does to those who ogle the many digital images of her. Let's take it step by step. Surfing waves requires balance, strength and a willingness to risk your body on some reefs. Surfing the internet requires a comfy seat, supple digits and a willingness to risk your computer account to view the bikini of the month. However both share the "when are you going to get on with your life" comments.

While surfing may be seen by some as a way to become at one with the ocean, and others as a great way to show off their bronzed peccs, surfing the internet offers nowhere near as much in the way of rewards. While there's useful information out there, its mired in a sea of trivia, pictures and online forums. On the other hand, everybody needs some trivia - there's always one person who needs to know what the view is like from every section in Seattle's Kingdom, or all the drinking games for primetime shows, not to mention what the score is in every pro-sports game currently in action. And yet we've barely scratched the surface - media packs for films and bands, fan pages for the same, pictures for every taste and style, including the illegal.

To stop this meandering here, I'd like to close by pointing out that YES the internet was made for the sharing of information. However, you're probably not going to like all the information on it - doesn't life just suck? However, for all those into free sharing of information a little reminder - someone has paid for the technology, someone should be paid for making the information available - after all, extracting information from data takes time and/or money. So put up and shut up with the corporate invasion, they (along with UNB) are paying for your fun.

*Neil Duxbury*