

Mudwump

Joseph W.J. FitzPatrick₃

Are we selling our souls to the devil?

Many readers will have realized that there are advertisements from cigarette companies in this paper. This is the first time in quite a few years that such ads have appeared in this paper. Before the Federal Government restricted cigarette advertising, there was opposition to these ads running in this paper, and other university papers.

And what has changed? Maybe it's a sense of morality. Maybe it's a recognition of futility. And maybe it's just because it's only money.

On a weekly basis, we run advertisements from any one of about 100 customers. It wouldn't take a sharp observer to notice the largest contributors to our paper are bars, beer companies and pizza joints.

Where is our "morality" when it comes to alcohol? Until recently, alcohol was more severely restricted than cigarettes, yet advertising for beer, while forced to comply with reams of Federal regulations, was rarely found objectionable to campus papers.

This "controversial" decision to run cigarette advertising is part of a larger issue, which I think we should probably, as a society, debate. The risks of cigarettes are more or less clear. But, so are the risks of high-fat diets, overindulgence in alcohol and poor exercise. If this is the case, to what lengths do we, as a society go, to prevent people from doing obviously harmful things?

Smoking is an easy target. Unlike some obviously risky things like down-hill skiing or driving, it is a "bad habit." Unlike alcohol, it has an impact on other people. But let's stand back and look at this a bit more closely. Billions in taxation are raised from tobacco products; thousands of Canadians depend directly on the production of tobacco for their livelihood; and thousands of convenience stores depend on the revenue from tobacco sales.

And what is the cost? True, smokers die younger, but step back and look from a societal perspective. The life expectancy of smokers, according to a US study is 6.5 years less than a non-smoker. While that makes a pretty convincing argument for not smoking, personally, it really doesn't hit home hard enough to be of such a monumental concern. Almost without exception, smokers die old. The productivity lost from a smoker is less than that of a young person who dies in a car accident because they didn't wear a seat belt. Plus, as an added bonus, smokers collect less of their Canada Pension, but pay it during their productive years.

And before you think that I've done some grave injustice to health care. Just think of this: *The Journal of the National Cancer Institute* volume 85, 1993, p. 1906 cites a risk of lung cancer from a diet high in saturated fat as 6.14. Using the same scale, an article in *Saturday Night* points out smoking rates over 30, and second-hand smoke rated 1.19.

As George Jonas points out in *Saturday Night*, "we traditionally tolerate the slight additional risks to which we expose one another through our lifestyles, habits or infirmities."

And I would like to jump on his bandwagon, arguing that civility and courtesy is the solution for smokers and non-smokers. A courteous establishment will have a non-smoking area. But, if an establishment chooses not to have a non-smoking area, and you want one, I suggest you vote with your feet. Much the same way you would if a restaurant doesn't have a kids menu, vegetarian fare, high chairs for infants, or changing tables in washrooms.



Sharkey's
smokin' again (and damn proud of it, too)

the brunswickan
Canada's Oldest Official Student Publication
Established 1867

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BLOOD & THUNDER

Letters to the Editor

These Are NOT A Few Of My Favourite Things

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my disgust with an article published in the February 21 issue of *The Brunswickan*, as a part of the Sex and Sexuality Supplement.

"These Are A Few Of My Favourite Things," by Jethelo Cabilete, ranks as one of the most offensive pieces I have ever read, and shames *The Brunswickan's* normally good gay, lesbian, and bisexual related reporting. Of 58 points made in what purports to be a list of what "Being A Gay Man Means," I found less than twenty that I agree with.

Of the remaining points, they are all either irrelevant, contradictory, rude, incredibly offensive to myself and friends, or simply incorrect.

The article begins on a positive note, with "Being proud of who you are, in spite of

negative social pressures." However, it then continues into contradictory points on personal body image. I found over half of the article to be made up entirely of complete stereotypes about homosexuality. Being a gay man most certainly does not mean "SHOPPING!" or "SEX, SEX, SEX!" Nor do all gay men have "rhythm, style, pizzazz and form" when they dance. I certainly don't. As my friends would attest, I cannot put together a fashionable outfit without fail, and do not know how to create a bouquet, both common stereotypes about being gay. As is "Being asked by someone for decorating tips" and the multiple references to drag queens.

Sadism, masochism, and bondage, while interesting to some people (of any orientation), are certainly not restricted to gay men. The same goes for body shaving, hairy chests, and "interesting" Valentine's paraphernalia; these

things are all practiced independent of one's sexual orientation.

"The fear of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases" and "The sadness associated with the losses to AIDS" seem to imply that only gay men should be concerned about the AIDS virus and other STD's. In fact, the fastest growing group for infections with HIV is young heterosexual women aged 19-24.

As a gay man, I am proud of my sexual orientation, and do not accept homophobia or stereotyping of myself or my friends. This article is just that. *The Brunswickan* and Jethelo Cabilete owe an apology to their readers, regardless of sexual orientation, for having brought so many stereotypes and insulting references to print in an article that is supposed to be about what being a gay man really means.

Cam MacLeod

Essay requirements an unjustified waste of paper

To the Editor:

Recently, I sent an email to my professor outlining my discontent with the double spacing requirement on a paper for his course. Not only did he refuse to compromise, he simply used his power as a professor to brush me aside without dignifying himself with a reason for not compromising. I was enraged because I was brushed aside.

The request to save paper is indeed reasonable. What do you think? Email to Prof:

One thing that I forgot to mention when I was in your office was about the paper format. I guess I have never really understood the reason why professors and the like have required that papers be double spaced. It seems to me to be an unfounded protocol. In the past it has been reasoned that it is allows area for feedback but

never in my five years of university have I had a paper come back chock full of feedback that it could not be put in the margins. So what I am saying is that if you insist upon double spacing then I insist that my paper must come back chock full of feedback.

Further, I personally find it easier on the eyes to read single spaced type and I know that there have been studies that have shown the choice of font has a definite impact on the ease of reading depending on the impact that you want. Further, in this paper, you have asked us to separate out the situation statement with single spacing while the bulk of the paper is double spaced. The situation statement could easily be separated out by a change of font, say Arial, while the bulk of the paper be times new roman for example. So why the big deal? Well it is a waste of paper. Stop and think about

how much paper is wasted by an unfounded formality. Another waste of paper is the title page. Acres and acres of whiteness only to separate out the title and the author. These could easily be placed at the beginning page at the top and the author could sign their name and dated in pen as all good papers should be. Let me know what you think.

His response: I don't think I asked for a title page. I regret that I do not have the time to engage you in a philosophical argument about form and format of this or any other paper. Submit the paper as per specifications, or don't submit it at all. The choice is yours.

Ending comment: I submitted his paper as he required and I will submit my thesis double spaced but I resent it!

Benji Ward

Students need to be aware of Bill C-32

To the Editor:

The University Bookstore believes that UNB and STU students should be aware of Bill C-32 which will amend the Canadian Copyright Act. Specifically, included in this Bill is an "eleventh hour" proposal (by the publishers and accepted by the Heritage Ministry) that would prohibit the importation of used textbooks. The entire Bill, including this latest proposed amendment, is to be considered by Parliament within the next week or so. This amendment will interfere with students being able to choose between buying new and used textbooks, and will make it more difficult for them to afford the cost of their higher education.

In short, the proposed amendment to the Copyright Act is both unnecessary and inappropriate. Moreover, it disregards the following facts.

• In 1995-96, Canadian students saved \$3 million by purchasing used textbooks supplied by U.S. textbook wholesalers/distributors. Bill C-32, as proposed, will prohibit importation of these textbooks, even if they were originally purchased as new books by Canadian students

on Canadian campuses (as is often the case).

• Current used textbook sales make up only 4% to 8% of the total textbook sales across Canada, not the 30% or more that some publishers contend. Also, it's worth noting that currently Canadian students sell back more used textbooks than they purchase. Consequently, Canada is a net exporter of used textbooks.

• In 1995-96, Canadian students were paid an estimated \$2 million for their used textbooks by U.S. wholesalers that ship these books to their U.S. warehouses and eventually ship them back to Canada. If the proposed amendment to prohibit the importation of used textbooks remains in Bill C-32, and is passed into law, the volume of used textbooks purchased from Canadian students will drop considerably.

• The Federal Government (or certain publishers) claim that the elimination of used textbooks on Canadian campuses will generate more revenue for Canadian publishers/distributors so they in turn can invest more in Canadian publishing ventures. Even if students were to purchase only new textbooks instead of imported used ones, something the campus bookstores and others in the industry believe

will not happen, the publishers would only generate a possible \$500,000 in extra profits each year.

• The proposed amendment would stand to be of considerable benefit to the Canadian publishers/distributors which are wholly or majority owned by large U.S. textbook publishers - more reason to doubt that Canadian publishing would benefit as claimed if the importation of used textbooks is eliminated.

Bill C-32 is scheduled to be tabled before the House of Commons for the Third and Final Reading in the coming few weeks. We urge all students to contact their MPs to register their disapproval of the amendment that would stop campus bookstores from importing used textbooks. It is urgent that public policy makers become aware of the serious consequences of this proposed legislation.

For more information about what the Canadian campus bookstore industry's position is with respect to Bill C-32, go to <http://www.chbook.org> on the Internet.

Doug McConnell, Manager
University of New Brunswick Bookstore

This Paper Really Stinks (and other humorous observations)

Guest Editorial by Tony Schulich

With apologies to Al Franken for borrowing his title, this guest editorial is really about the role of campus media. More to the point, it's about why students should care if their student media outlets are not meeting student's needs.

Someone once said that nobody knows nothin'. I like to consider myself part of that elite group. Everything I say is simply my opinion formulated from my years of experience. But when it comes to the discussion of campus media, I feel I have some experience to back up what I say. I served three years on the editorial board of the *Aquilian*. I served two and a half years on the *St. Thomas SRC*. I have a journalism degree, worked two and a half years for a weekly newspaper in Okla. Alberta and am currently station manager at CHSR-FM.

I believe that all media have important roles to play if democracy is to function effectively. The electorate selects its representatives to govern in its best interests. If the elected representatives have chosen a direction that the electorate feel is unwise, they can contact their individual representatives and lobby for change. Now, I realise things don't always work this way in practice. The reason given

is that students are so apathetic, they don't care what the student unions are doing. One must wonder, though, if apathy isn't the inevitable result of an electorate cut off from the decision-making process. In short, how can students care if they don't even know what they should care about?

In order for the students at large to mandate their representatives to take a course of action, they must be informed. How are students to decide whether or not they should vote for SUB expansion if they don't know the pros and cons of the issue? Earlier this term, UNB students were asked whether or not they wanted to pay \$10 a year for the football team. Were they able to make an informed decision? Only the students can answer that. But if they weren't, the responsibility for this falls on the shoulders of the campus media, not the student unions.

The students pay for campus media as part of their student fees. At STU, students pay media fees as a direct levy. With the money goes the direct responsibility to provide the students with information. Not just any information in a haphazard way, but information put in its proper context so that the reader can act on the information if he/she feels so motivated.

Journalism has a code of conduct that must be adhered to whether you report for the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, *The Washington Post*, *The Aquinian*, *The Brunswickan*, or CHSR.

I would like to dispel some misconceptions of what journalism is about.

(1) The Journalist as Judge and Jury. A reporter does not have to take a side when reporting a story. In fact, in a news story, the reader should never be able to tell what side the journalist favors. This can best be summed up by one simple motto. It is not the role of a journalist to tell people what to think, but rather what to think about. Present both sides of any issue and let the reader decide which side he/she believes is right. For example, if the *St. Thomas* student union decided to amalgamate all five executive positions into two, students reading the *Aquilian* should be able to find out why it's being done, what the move is intended to accomplish, why some counsellors support it, why some oppose it, and what the possible ramifications are, both positive and negative. If done properly, the reader will decide how he/she feels about the issue. If they want to talk to their SRC rep

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The Brunswickan, in its 130th year of publication, is Canada's oldest official student publication. We publish weekly during the school year, with a circulation of 10,000 copies. The *Brunus Online* is an ongoing e-zine version of *The Brunswickan*, located on the World Wide Web at <http://www.umb.ca/web/bruns>. The opinions contained in this newspaper are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Brunswickan*.

All members of the university community are encouraged to contribute to *The Brunswickan*. While we endeavour to be an open forum for a variety of viewpoints and ideas, we may refuse any submission considered racist, sexist, libellous, or those containing attacks of a strictly personal nature. *The Brunswickan* reserves the right to edit for brevity and clarity. Letters generally shouldn't exceed 300 words in length and must contain your signature, student number and phone number, or they will not be printed.

All copy submitted must be double spaced, on one side of the page only and must be legible. If we can't read it, we won't print it. You think that sounds obvious, but if you could see the horrors we've seen... *The Brunswickan* accepts copy on 3.5 inch disk, either Macintosh or MS-DOS format. Articles printed in *The Brunswickan* may be freely reprinted provided proper credit is given. Cause the last thing we want is the accused of its greediness.

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