

# EDITORIAL

On Tuesday afternoon, the memorial service was held for Constable Aucoin, the highway patrol officer shot earlier this week, while performing his duty. This year, three law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty; last year seven were killed. On each occasion, various groups have used the opportunity to call for the re imposition of the death penalty. This time it was different.

At a time when it would be natural to expect a cry for retribution from a bereaved family, we received instead a statement of peace. The priest conducting the memorial service read an appeal on behalf of Aucoin's widow. The message was simple: Aucoin had volunteered for his job, fully cognizant of the risks inherent to it; further he was personally opposed to the death penalty. Aucoin would not want his death to be the rallying point for those who seek the return of the death penalty, rather he was concerned with the circumstances that left him and his fellow officers exposed to unnecessary risk. Moves are now hopefully underway to address his concerns.

His widow's statement deterred the usual cry for the death penalty. Let's hope this peace officer's message continues to be heard during the debate on capital punishment.

—Christopher Earl



Mugwump

By VALERIE WHITE  
Managing Editor

Journal

I promised that I'd take time out every week to say something positive and uplifting. Well, I might as well get it over with. Do not despair because spring is a mere 8 days away! And in only 27 short days (including weekends), this term will come to an end. And if it's any additional comfort, it has been rainy, windy and cloudy in Florida for six days straight.



I realize that things should be melting by this time of year. Unfortunately, it has been unusually cold and the remnants of the winter months are hanging on. Normally, I would praise the university physical plant for their quick and efficient removal of snow from the walkways, roads and paths. Even though there has not been a substantial snowfall in the last couple of weeks, many pathways have been covered with ice and drifting snow, making them very dangerous, especially the walkways leading into the SUB parking lot. Perhaps a little more salt would do the trick until the weather gets warmer. It would be extremely unfortunate if someone were to fall and break a part or parts of their body.



If you'll notice in this week's paper, there is a plea for help to get several students back on their feet. After the unfortunate fire downtown, several students were left without many of the everyday essentials. A reminder for the professors — the students lost textbooks, notes and assignments as well. Any donations can be made at the Help Centre in the SUB lobby. And may I add that this call for aid was organized by the SU President Larry Hansen — he can't be all bad now, can he? Also, I'd like to call attention to the Social Club's efforts to help. They are donating all profits from their St. Patrick's Day Bash to those students. It's nice to see that people are helping out in a time of need.



I know you've noticed by now that the final exam schedule is in this week's paper. Once you get a copy of the paper with the exam schedule in it, hang on to it because they go fast and there are often not enough to go around. For once, don't throw the Bruns on the floor, in the corner, in the garbage. . . .



It seems to be the time of year for elections. My congratulations to the new Student Council and other newly elected officials at Saint Thomas. UNB elections are coming up quite quickly. It looks like it's going to be a three-way race for the presidency, and no — Larry Hansen is not one of the candidates. Frankly, I don't blame him a bit. However, Larry is not giving up the gun completely. He will be running for another position within the governing council. I guess he's just a glutton for punishment.



And speaking of elections, there will be one election being held next week that is very much out of its regular time slot. It would seem that the present Grad Class president, Tim McLaughlin, has resigned. How unfortunate, for Tim has done quite a good job so far. I hope that his successor can finish the year with as much flavour and fun as the last few months have seen.

