



Mugwump By Stephane Comeau Journal

People are continuously telling me my editorials sound more like "mugwumps", so I thought I'd give it a try.

Notice the stink going on in St. Pierre and Miquelon this past week? In short, the inshore fishermeh there are furious with the French government for letting large factory trawlers fish around the Islands because they are fearful the large boats will overfish their fishing grounds. As I recall, the Canadian government had a similar dispute with the French less than a year ago because the waters around St. Pierre and Miquelon are within Canada's 200 miles territorial limit. Maybe St. Pierre and Miquelon should join Canada and both governments could tell the French trawlers to piss off...

Only 25 school days left until mid-term break, for those of you who are keeping track.

Last chance to catch a Campus Entertainment event tonight in the SUB with a show by the TREES, formerly known as The Screaming Trees. Always a good show, but I'm anxious to see them let their computer do the vocals too.

For those of you who weren't at the Campus Comedy Contest on Wednesday at the CHSC: "President Bush"?!? Think about it...

Anybody else notice Winter Carnival? If you didn't go see "Big", go skiing or go to tonight's Trees concert you probably didn't. It was a real snow job.

How about them Red Devils! Good show last weekend guys... and chalk up another success for Varsity Mania: about 1500 people in attendance at the game, and I think I know where everybody was after the game too. (Right Mate?) It's hard to believe certain high mukety-muks are dumping on Carl Burgess for certain aspects of these events. Sponsors are a necessity to run even them kinds of things and they expect to get some kind of promotion out of it, to think otherwise is naive. It seems to me that the University should be thankful to anybody who is successfully boosting school spirit; aren't people who graduate from a school with good *esprit de corps* more likely to donate in the future? Right Jim:

On to the Superbowl. 7:00 PM Sunday we can watch Icky shuffle his way into oblivion.



OPINION...

The Ascendancy of Science by DAVID S. GORHAM

Human beings are both rational and irrational creatures. We need the humanities (history, philosophy, political science, classics, English, so on and so forth) in order to explain and demystify the human element in the word humanity. That portion not covered by the neat boundaries of science and the rational mind is the portion with which we should be most concerned. We are random animals, and therefore require the humanities to modify our randomness and stupidity in the face of impersonal and complex machinery.

This praise for the humanities leads to a careful criticism of the growing trend toward technicism and narrow specialization in our universities. This creeping technicism is invading our Arts faculty even here at UNB. It is often subtle in its appearance, as when intense streaming into one discipline shuts out the possible light one might obtain from another discipline. This is perhaps a funding problem: departments within the Arts faculty compete for money to attract new scholars and teachers, leading to a kind of internecine warfare. This technical trend can also be witnessed in innovations like the Centre for Entrepreneurship, where private business and the university are linked in a close partnership. This is not to say such an arrangement is wholly bad, but instead that it may prime the wrong pump. It tends to lead the university toward a simple assembly-line function, rather than allowing for the university to produce its own organic and indirect contributions to the public and private sector.

All this criticism does not mean that the endowment of business administration studies or support for scientific research are not important. These more technical modes of learning are crucially important if we are to keep from destroying ourselves in the future. Our use of technology can possibly be illustrated with the use of a New Brunswick analogy. A young person in New Brunswick has to complete and pass a hunter safety course in order to hunt at the early age of 14. Such a course involves the safe use of guns and ammunition while in the woods or fields and attempts to illuminate those senseless tragedies of hunting. This is all carried out through humanistic education. A gun is never to be pointed at another person, and never to be left loaded after leaving the woods. Various other aspects of such a course provide for the mitigation of that most fundamental of human frailties; the fault of not thinking enough.

From this analogy of hunter safety we can see that technology is only as good as the moving, often unthinking animal behind it. What then is the prescription for these problems in terms of our universities? The task is by no means simple. We must attempt to return to the original idea of a university, wherein there is true free thought and true interdisciplinary learning. No one department or faculty has a lock on the truth. Any thinking individual will accept that. This means we must have less compartmentalization in our universities, more staff for our overburdened Arts faculty (enrollments have skyrocketed) where class size has outstripped the ranks of teaching reserves. This can all come about only through a fundamental shift in attitudes, where intellectual chauvinism does not hinder our pursuit of the grail of knowledge.

