

MUGWUMP

by G.F.H with inserts from the Editor (Aime, who is once again partially delegating her work load to unsuspecting friends)

1) Woman: My usual complaint about woman is that there are not enough of them, but lately I find myself complaining that they are taking up too much space on the damn sidewalks. For you see, I have what is called an ankle rule: If the snow goes over my ankle, I refuse to step off the sidewalk when three woman walking abreast (no pun intended) are coming towards me. Normally, I'm a nice guy who will gladly step aside when the earth is dry; however, I will become a linebacker and plow my way through a line of woman (*and men?* -ed. note) in order to remain dry. (*ed. note #2- About those sidewalks.... I have had the honor of walking in the rain in cities from Toronto to Halifax, and I have never, EVER, walked on sidewalks like the sidewalks of Fredericton. They are, in my expert opinion, made of sponge. It doesn't matter where you are, uptown or downtown, even if you have the best depth perception in the world and you judge a puddle on Fredericton sidewalks to be an estimated 3.27 cm deep, when you step your foot into it the specially-made, high sponge-density cement will envelope your foot and slowly swallow it up. If it's slushy out you even get to experience a "sloooosh"-y sound.*)

2) Varsity Reds: Who was the marketing genius behind this campaign? Of all the names that were available this one was the best of a horrible lot. We had the choice between two American franchise names - Falcons and Mariners - one Red Lion (what the hell is a Red Lion and more importantly, where do we find one? Maybe it's sick and needs medical attention!) Finally, the Varsity Reds. At least with the nickname Varsity Reds the teams can retain their historical names. The woman's basketball team can remain the Varsity Red Bloomers, the men's basketball team can remain the Varsity Red doormats. (*ed. note #3 - Low blow on the men's basketball team! I hope you don't end up walking into a couple of them on a sidewalk one rainy day! My peeve with the new team name thing is the fact that the referendum the Student Union had concerning a name change two years ago was totally ignored (we said it was a bad idea to change them). And then when they decided to have those loonie bins they didn't have a bin to put a dollar in if you wanted things left the way they were. And another thing, if there is going to be a transition period next year with the teams adopting the Varsity Reds logo along with their given name, and the whole idea of getting a new, unified name is designed to promote marketability, I really think it would have been a helluva lot more intelligent to pump some money into the teams the way they're named now and focus on the one aspect that the university athletics has over all of North America, the fact that all our varsity teams have unique names. whew.*)

3) Professor evaluation sheets - What use are these things other than wasting class time? In my opinion, the Student Union should implement its own Prof evaluation booklet. At the end of each term a student consensus report could indicate everything from a great prof to a course that is a GPA deathwish, complete with a skull and crossbones. The booklet could be sold at the beginning of each school year. (*ed. note - good news for you, my friend! The Student Union IS trying to put together an "Anti-Calendar" and in fact, they began compiling data last term as far as I know because I answered one of their evaluation form in one of my classes.*)

OPINION

The opinions found in this column are not necessarily the views of the Brunswickan

Safe-Walk program "misrepresented"

by Brent Kay, Don of Neill House
Craig McInroy, Neill House Proctor,
and Jason Krickler, Neill House President

In response to the article, "Are Safe-Walks Safe?" by Karen Burgess in the March 12, 1993 issue of the *Brunswickan*, we feel it our obligation to clarify any misconceptions that may have been brought forth. To begin, we will properly outline the purpose of the Neill House Safe-Walk program, the call-in procedure, and conclude with personal comments as to those made in the aforementioned article.

Purpose:

To provide men and women attending both UNB and STU with a walking companion from dusk to dawn.

Procedure:

- 1) A university student calls UNB Security at 453-4830.
- 2) Security contacts Craig McInroy via a telephone pager (donated by NBTel).
- 3) McInroy personally chooses a safe-walker.
- 4) Once a safe-walker is chosen, McInroy calls security, informs them of the name of the safe-walker, and in turn receives the name of the student, location, and destination.
- 5) The safe-walker receives one of the four highly visible escort jackets (donated by Pepsi) and carries out the assigned task.
- 6) The safe-walker returns the jacket to McInroy and makes a verbal report.

Now that we have accurately portrayed the Neill House Safe-Walk program, we wish to comment on several of the opinions expressed by Karen Burgess, Valerie Kilfoil, and Allan Carter.

After reading the article and the editorial, it became apparent that the traditional media misquote had bared its ugly head. Burgess said "MacInroy(sic) says the fact that patrollers are aware that UNB Security and the caller have his name would prevent any negative incidents from occurring. { In fact, McInroy stated that the security's recording of the details of each safe-walker was a way to get security involved as an integral part of the program. This involvement was a necessary condition expressed by the university administration for the program to be initiated.

Burgess clearly states that there is no formal screening process for those who wish to volunteer. During the past academic year, McInroy and Rick Peacock, head of security, have discussed plans to implement a formal screening procedure next year. If Burgess had bothered to ask or, better yet, if she had informed us of her intentions to write an article about our program, she would have been made aware of these plans.

Nonetheless, even without a formal screening process, there does exist an extensive informal procedure. We would add that by living with any person for eight months in such confined quarters as a university residence, personal behaviors and attitudes toward race, religion, and gender are well observed, especially by a proctor (much more so than can be observed in a fifteen minute interview). However, we are the first to agree that the addition of a formal process would only strengthen the security of our Safe-Walk program

In Burgess' article, a member of the UNB Wimmin's Collective (Valerie Kilfoil) comments, "if any of them were really serious they'd form a men's group to deal with the attitudes of men about violence against women." This statement demonstrates Kilfoil's narrow minded approach to our situation. We, at Neill, do not consider the Safe-Walk program as solely a means of protecting women. It is intended to provide men and women with a walking companion and peace of mind. (I don't like to walk alone at night. Do you?) We support her idea of establishing a men's group to deal with violence against women. However, we feel this issue would be better served by a Student Union sponsored group that would represent the entire university male population. We would be glad to volunteer members of Neill House to participate in any such endeavour.

Kilfoil makes a very disturbing statement by associating the Neill House Safe-Walk program with a "Pick your rapist" service. This would be similar to publishing a rumour that all Wimmin's Collective suffer from penis envy. Not only is this statement completely unwarranted, it has no place in ethical journalism and does not contribute to the subject of the article. Surely Burgess has better standards than to allow comments of this nature to appear in one of her articles.

Another disturbing association appears on page 4 of the same *Brunswickan* issue, where Neill house Safe-Walk volunteers are grouped with "the psychopath lurking in the bushes" and "the stranger at the library." Again, this demonstrates the poor journalism standards of the *Brunswickan* and its editor.

In conclusion, we wish to express our concerns regarding the blatant misrepresentation of the Safe-Walk program. The program was adopted by Neill House in the fall of 1991 as a purely unselfish act to make some (albeit sma!l) contribution to the university community. During its two-year duration, we have had enthusiastic support from the UNB Security, Mary Lou Stirling (the Dean of Residence), the *Daily Gleaner*, and men and women who have used the service. Because of our success, several universities across Canada have contacted McInroy to inquire about the service, as a precursor to establishing their own. We have corporate sponsorship from Pepsi-Cola Ltd. and N.B. Tel. Most importantly, we have never had a complaint or incident involving any aspect of the service.

As a final note, the Knights of Neill would like to make it clear that we are the only group at UNB to take any such initiative upon ourselves. Perhaps more groups would if they were not met with such excessive criticism. Instead, more constructive efforts might help us improve our service, or provide some viable alternatives.