

SPECTRUM

Say yes to our future.

Make your own decision

OPINION/ With the constitutional referendum just around the corner, Jason Morton is asking everyone to read the accord for themselves.

by Jason Morton

"The Constitution is not exactly to my mind in all its details. But as a whole it is wonderful — really wonderful. When one thinks all the fighting we have had..."

This quote is an excerpt of a letter from George Brown to his wife, back in 1864. Realistically, it is impossible to please all the people all the time and this quote shows us that even a Father of Confederation was aware of this. Many of you who oppose the deal have decided to vote No because of one or two details in the accord. It is obvious that George Brown shared similar reservations, however, he had vision enough to believe as a whole the constitution was "really wonderful". It is much easier to oppose than to propose, and this has never been more evident to me than in the last month. We must realize that it is very easy to find something wrong with just about anything, even something we find as a whole very attractive. Shakespeare had critics, who found flaws in some of his plays like Hamlet, yet, there is no denying that his plays as a whole are enduring masterpieces.

It infuriates me to no end, to hear so many people complain, yet, when asked what they propose in its place, they retort that is what the politicians are supposed to do

(which they have) or give me a blank stare. In all fairness, there have been some people who have had great suggestions, but why are they only being expressed now and not before the accord was presented. If anything, I hope this debate helps in making people realize the importance of participating.

It also frustrates me to see Political parties like COR hide behind such issues as Aboriginal rights, when they really oppose another aspect of the accord and want to fuel their opposition with no matter what issue they can. At a recent debate Bev Bryne had the nerve to tell the public that she was concerned about Aboriginal women rights, when her CoR party stance on Aboriginals is to kick them off their reserves and have them become integrated in to Western society and let them try to save their culture and traditions on their own. I wish the party and most high profile NO people would stick to the real reasons they are voting no and stop hiding behind other issues. It is no secret that COR's real opposition to the accord is bill 88 which, as I mentioned in last week's article, if accepted will leave the COR party without a leg to stand on because the opposition to it is the one and only issue all it's members can agree on. The COR party and the Reform party have also been accusing the YES side of using scare tactics. Yet, they turn around

and do the very same thing in the same breath. They even stoop as low as calling it the Mulroney deal, in order to cash in on his low popularity. This is by no means a Mulroney deal, all the Premiers, and even Canadian citizens were involved in drawing up this accord. People who are voting No simply to protest politicians such as Mulroney and Premier McKenna, should really stop and think about the reasoning they are using. Imagine you hand in an essay you have been working on for the last month and it is handed back to you with a great big F on the title page and it appears that it was not even read by the Prof. You decide to confront the Professor to find out why you received such a low mark because you know your essay deserves a much higher mark. He goes on to explain that he does not like you because of a comment you made in

class and because of this decided to give you an F, without even reading your paper. Voting No, without actually reading the accord, is using the same unfair reasoning as this Professor. There will be elections coming up soon enough to express your dislike for the people in power.

My previous articles have dealt with the actual facts and issues in the accord for I believe that the contents of the accord is enough reason to vote YES on October 26 and it was my full intention to continue with this format this week. However, I found after talking to a number of people on Campus and the No supporters at a recent UNB debate (with the exception of Garry Allen), their biggest opposition to the accord were not based on fact, but on the issues I have addressed above. The decision we are making on Monday has a great effect on

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our future, for it is you and I, as soon to be grads, that will inherit this country. Do not let your judgment be clouded by rhetoric that is coming from either the Yes or No sides. Take the accord, sit down and read it, and make your own decision. I have done this and concluded that the proposals in the Charlottetown accord are fair and represents how I see Canada (a place where everyone is equal and respected). I hope that upon reading the document you will conclude the same and say YES to our future.

Community police An introduction

The Mobile Community Police would like to provide an opportunity for the campus community to address any concerns that they may have about law enforcement issues. Our section of the Fredericton Police force is presently working in ward 11 and the UNB/STU campuses are an important presence in this neighborhood. We feel that so many of the problems that we encounter in our work result from misconception and misunderstanding.

The model of policing under which we are presently working opens lines of communication, not only between the police and the community, but also between different elements within the community. Our role as peace maker takes on a new significance as we are able to mediate between elements of the community that find themselves at odds. This may sound like an unrealistic ideal, but has in fact manifested itself in many of our dealings with the student population.

Members of our section, having graduated from UNB within the last ten years have been able to bring a unique understanding between the student and non-student community. But there is certainly

confusion about our mandate and purpose in the area. The principals of Community Based Policing are such that this confusion can be eliminated quite easily. Our mandate comes directly from the people we police. In a field that is traditionally hierarchical, this marks a refreshing and effective change. We have a strong commitment to the communities that we police and so our mandate must only include such goals as are in the best interests of the entire community.

So we must then be able to reach as many members of the community as we can. This brings us back to the *Brunswickian*: we will attempt to bring some of our perspectives to this column on a weekly basis. This will help to dispel some rumors and misconceptions, but we really want to hear from the *Brunswickian* readership. We will do our best to answer your questions and concerns, whether in person or in this more public format. So drop by and see us at our office which is presently located at the corner of Graham and Albert, or just give us a call at 451-5908. If we are not in, leave your question on our answering machine and we'll get back to you.

Metanoia Talk to me

INTERACTION/ Developing close relations with others.

by John Valk

Late last week the University of New Brunswick lost one of its students. Dan Barrow, a second year Forestry Student from Oxford, Nova Scotia, gave up the will to live. Insurmountable pressures severely tested his ability to cope. Vulnerable and adrift, Dan sought peace in an ultimate way from his painful world.

Those at UNB who were closest to him detected no warning signs. Dan appeared to be normal, albeit quiet, kind of guy. No one expected or anticipated his action. Dan kept what troubled him bottled deep inside.

This is not unusual in the world of men. Many try to conceal inner pain with outward calm. But such frequently debilitates them, and can devastate the more vulnerable. Men, unfortunately, have few non-destructive means to vent a turbulence brewing beneath a complacent surface.

Men are able to share with their male peers. But what do they share? The language and content of their talk is predominately competitive. Bravado and brawn, muscle and aggression, advantage and competition frequently dominate the conversation. In the history of our gender this has served to define what it means to be a man.

Our youth culture does not fail to reinforce these notions. Lifestyle advertising tells us what is most crucial in life, and what makes for exciting interaction. Hence, we receive abundant information — technical, graphic, protective — for physical intimacy, but little teaching, training or preparation for emotional intimacy.

Our educational system frequently fares no better. We teach youthful Canadians to hone their competitive and aggressive skills to gain advantage: "it's a man's world out there". And, so we perpetuate the narrowly defined world we men create for ourselves, and restrict the interaction we reap for ourselves. Not surprisingly, we then all too easily understand success, prosperity and wealth in economic rather than human terms?

Active engagement in sports, feverish partying at weekend bashes, passive involvement with television, constitutes much male social interac-

tion. In the formative years of any young man's life, when issues of male self-identity, questions of the meaning of one's life, concerns about relations with the opposite sex, and worries about one's future career are so prominent, such forms of interaction contribute but little in the dramatic struggle to piece one's life together.

To be able to develop close relations with others is a great fortune. Spending time wrestling with life's most crucial and intimate questions — who are we and what is the meaning of our lives — can increase one's real education. This is best done in conversation with others. Men must chat with each other.

Getting beyond the surface conversations and pretensions, to expose our weaker and vulnerable selves, is not easy. For males, it is especially risky. Pressure to conform to the perceived expectations of the group, to be one of the boys, to join in the fun is exerted from all sides. All too frequently we men chose to nurse a case of beer rather than nurse our emotional selves.

There are growing signs, however, that men are eager for change. Experiences of shallow or broken relationships with father, sons or partners are forcing men to look anew at themselves. They are searching for ways to listen and talk to each other. Some are learning how to share hopes, fears and aspirations with each other.

A death like Dan's reminds us of our communal failures, as well as our communal responsibilities. It reminds us tragically that what we frequently think is so important, what we spend countless time, energy and money on, pales in light of what we really desire and need: communication with others.

In today's world advantage, competition, sports and beer parties may have certain place in our lives. But these are misdirected and stifling if they define what constitute human life. Sharing our greatest hopes and fears as well as our greatest successes is necessary in building community. It is the more difficult, but also the more rewarding. Are we not our brother's brother?