

**Editorial**  
Mary Rogal-Black

**Marketing the Union? Call me apathetic: I'm not buying**

When I first heard that one of Joie Hellmeister's priorities for this year is marketing the Student Union, I was incensed.

Isn't that like asking someone to give you five bucks so you can tell them how much they should enjoy paying you? I complained. Besides, the Student Union has a monopoly, and students have little choice but to pay their fees every year, so what's the point of marketing?

Will that Student Union ever smarten up?

Then again, maybe that's not really the question of the day. Another possible question is: where do I get off making judgements like that? Although we do it every day, drawing conclusions (often negative ones) based on relatively small amounts of information is second nature. How many anti-abortionists have ever had to seriously consider ending their own pregnancy? How many political commentators have ever run for Premier? Sometimes it's too easy to defend a one-sided opinion — especially when you don't have to make it public. Bringing that opinion into a forum where others are likely to disagree makes you think more deeply, and perhaps more clearly, about an issue. People should think clearly about issues that affect them, but who's got the time? And does not thinking about all those things make you apathetic?

SU Executives and, to be honest, some of us here at *The Brunswick*, sometimes resort to pointing the finger at that faceless mass, the Apathetic Students. For example, SU VP Student Services Trish Davidson said in her letter to students in the '96-'97 edition of *The Beaverhook*: "Accountability is a too-often used word in all realms of politics, both student and government — if you want your leaders to be accountable then you must give them someone to be accountable to; make them aware that it matters what they are doing, and if you don't like it — say so!" Davidson is aware of the burden of being a public servant: many student probably believe her to be underworked and overpaid and most of them are nameless, faceless people with little in-depth knowledge of what she's doing. Even though hers is, to a certain extent, a self-imposed burden, it must be genuinely frustrating.

But the problem with accusing people of apathy and relying on the masses to keep you accountable is that the masses have other things to do. It's not fair to suggest that as long as no one complains, you're not accountable for your actions. The people represented by the SU have courses, family, jobs and, if they're lucky, volunteer work to keep them busy. Further, few people are truly and completely apathetic: they just care about different things. If everyone cared about the Student Union and volunteered for it, who would do all the other things that need doing?

So while President Hellmeister's interest in marketing the Union doesn't sit well with me, I can't argue that the existence of the problem she's trying to address. Hellmeister is aware that students don't know a lot about the Union — and that many don't care. By looking for new and inventive ways to advertise the things the Union does, she hopes to alleviate some of that famous apathy. The silence that greeted her the day she was voted in by an underwhelming 5.5% of the UNB student body. It's apt that the first hurdle Hellmeister faces in launching her marketing campaign is finding volunteers for her Marketing Committee. She'll soon find out who cares. True, it would be really nice to see students care enough about the \$232 they fork over to the SU every year (\$102 in SU fees, \$25 for SUB Expansion and \$95 for the health plan) that they would go out and vote, write a letter to the editor, or drop an e-mail to the SU... even attending a council meeting once in a while can be an entertaining experience that makes you more aware of how that money gets spent.

The basic presumption underlying the need to make people more aware of the Student Union is that because it is our top priority, it should be everyone's top priority. While I do believe the SU is very interesting, a worthwhile cause and a rewarding place to work, I don't believe it is or should be the centre of the universe. Instead, students and their representatives need to meet halfway between the apathy and the advertising — as long as they fail to do so, there's no point in anyone complaining.

**Mudwump**

Joseph W.J. FitzPatrick  
**Vandalism sucks**

The other day I witnessed an example of the kind of thing which makes me ponder the true nature of human callousness.

I have always considered vandalism to be an expression of the lowest sort, but graffiti on bridges, concrete structures and slate cliffs by the road I can handle as juvenile exercises — puerile but tolerable.

No, the kind of action which really, more than anything, disappoints me, is the wanton destruction of certain kinds of property. For example, many may have seen the maple trees planted by the Associated Alumni in front of Singer Hall. Two or three years ago, somebody snapped one of them. I had to ask myself what killing that tree had accomplished, and the answer was nothing, nothing at all. Maybe the person who did it was drunk; maybe they were pretending to do martial arts and kicked it over, and maybe they did it just because they could.

The recent example that brought this flooding back is the missing sign in front of Le Caisse Populaire, on the corner of Regent and George Streets. I suspect that the lit green sign may have just been taken down by the owners because it had been damaged so often.

The number of times I saw that green sign shattered made me think of the uneasy horror I felt when I read the stories of the desecration of Jewish cemeteries in the office of a Monument Dealer in Saint John when I was eight. I couldn't understand then and I still can't understand, what would drive anybody to desecrate the graves of human beings, even if they were of another religion.

I realize that it may be seen as a bit extreme to compare desecration of tombs to the destruction of a sign in front of a bank, but I see a link between them. The underlying reason is one of disrespect for others. Disrespect for others is among the worst crimes humans are capable of. Jean-Paul Sartre once said, "Hell is other people" and this potential for disrespect, I believe, is one of the reasons why he said that. If we lose respect for one another, it is suddenly easier to treat others differently from yourself.

The most important lesson to draw from the results of loss of respect is to remember that everybody has been, at one point, treated this way. It's easy to forget that despite the Kennedy's wealth, millions of Irish people dug ditches and did job postings which declared NDA (No Irish Need Apply). And let us not forget anti-Catholicism, which is becoming fashionable again. In Victorian times, the most lurid pornography consisted of "confessions of a nun," on the sordid sexual behaviour in Catholic convents, nearly all of which were completely fabricated. It is easy, now, to look at the residential schools, or watch *The Boys of Saint Vincent*, listen to reports of sexual abuse or sexual impropriety of Catholic priests and defend the Catholic Religion as patriarchal, hierarchical, and out-dated. But this anti-Catholicism, while fashionable, is still just another kind of disrespect for others.

Don't forget that there is no glory in forcing a culture or religion or a society to recant what we may see as evil ways. What do we gain by forcing the German people to continually atone for the Holocaust and, at the same time, allowing the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to be seen as "militarily justified"? Few people see how frail the distinction is between justification for the Holocaust and the Bomb. The numbers of people dead are different, but we should not take comfort in that. Can anyone fathom what 100 deaths mean to humanity? 100 lives, as complete as your own, knowing people, having hopes and dreams, people who lived, loved, and were happy. Several of those people were poor, some were "bad people," but no one deserves death. So how can we, as a species, justify 1000, or 10,000, or 100,000, or a 1,000,000 dead by our own hands? Methuselah was lucky — he would not wash his hands of his sins, but his death stopped his pain. As the human race, we can not be so closed-minded as to say that others do the bad things, not us.

Unless we believe that all people are equally culpable, we can not learn to prevent evil. This does not mean that no one is responsible for their actions. I am imposing a more complicated paradigm society is responsible for the actions of everybody, and we are each responsible for our own actions.

**BLOOD & THUNDER**  
*Letters to the Editor*

**Mudwump out of bounds: 'amazing propensity for insults'**

To the Editor:

As a student of UNB, and a member of this community, I feel that it was very inappropriate for Mr. FitzPatrick ("Mudwump") to imply in his article last Friday that all football players and especially those from this community lack the intelligence required to attend university. I think that you are perpetuating a negative stereotype of footballers and that your opinion is one that bleeds ignorance and misfortune. Also, I thought this was very classless for the author to imply that students from this area are below average students. I played football in high school and I was a good student. I was accepted to the school on the basis of my academic achievements, not my athletic ability.



also like to point out another error in your argument. I have a very reliable source who is close to the "Friends of UNB Football" committee. I was informed that the starting budget and costs for the first year would be about \$240,000, \$70,000 of which would come from the student levy. This is a far cry from your figure of \$400,000+. I think what you may have heard is only anti-football rhetoric. It's fine with me that you do not like the idea of resurrecting the football team, but I think that if you are going to write your opinions and use facts to back them up, perhaps you should use REAL facts. As for the alumni, I think it is extremely generous of them to donate large amounts of money to this school

and I think that football would be just another avenue to show their support for this fine institution of higher learning. There are many students at UNB from Fredericton and the surrounding areas who would not agree with your jaded point of view. I think your article was in bad taste and should have been better researched before it was written. Don't insult the intelligence of the students here at UNB, even those who did not have particularly brilliant high school careers, often these students tend to be the ones who work the hardest at learning. Sincerely, Kirby Arbeau

school and he thinks that those people are generally athletes (especially football players). Which is it Mr. FitzPatrick? Do you want to deny people an education because they did not have an honours average? Would you prefer that football players not coexist in nature with other humans and be left in the jungle with all the other primates, so that they can't hurt anyone? I would like your stand on these issues, as you really didn't have an opinion, except that footballers and those who hang around them are of a lesser stature than other people.

Although I am very concerned with your academic assessment of Fredericton area high school students and football players, I would attend a university football game and see some of the amazing school spirit that can be generated there. After the game maybe you should chat with some of the players, you would be amazed at how well they can form sentences, almost as well as any hockey player or soccer player. It is disappointing to read this article in a university paper of all places. I thought university was about becoming educated, and educated people don't form opinions based on juvenile stereotypes. Well, except maybe for "avenging entities of lesser intelligence."

I urge you and your closed little mind to

an honours thesis in history and another is a chemistry major on full academic scholarship. Perhaps if UNB would allow "illiterate graduates who can't think, read or write" into this school and they actually make it through the first term, that's a curriculum problem and not an athletic one.

Of course their is always the stereoid concern, but that's what CIAU testing is for. Maybe they should start doing random, unannounced tests of ALL students for pot (also an illegal substance). Now that would be interesting.

Jennifer Copeland, B.Sc.

**Mudwump's second down: 'narrow-minded'**

To the Editor:

This is my first year at UNB and thus far I have been impressed with *The Brunswick* and its writers. Until last week, when I read Joseph FitzPatrick's narrow minded and pathetically stereotypical article on football.

Whether UNB has a football team is of no concern to me and perhaps the financial issues raised are valid ones. It's statements such as "the type of person attracted to and by football" that I have a problem with. Since some of my best friends are football players, I feel compelled to respond. Of these friends, 2 are currently doing

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interaction and acceptance. Little girls are mostly urged to play with dolls and little boys are given cars and trucks." Well first let me do a survey of my own. How many women would like a man to give them a slap on the back as a greeting like guys will do. I don't believe very many would (although I do know one girl... just kidding). The fact is that men and women do act and interact differently, and I for one don't believe there is anything wrong with that. It doesn't mean we are not equal, we're just different.

Secondly, if someone had given me a doll for Christmas when I was a kid, I would have given it back with a look on my face of "Are you nuts?"

Rob Stewart

**In defense of differences between men and women**

To the Editor:

In response to Nadine Goguen's Womynsay column in the October 4 edition of *The Brunswick*, I offer a few points. First though, let me make myself clear: I believe that men and women are equals and that they should be treated as such. Period. However, sometimes statistics quoted can be easily taken out of context. For instance the aforementioned column reads: "only 22% of the full-time UNB faculty are women, not unlike the national average in higher learning institutes."

Well all right, at first reading I admit I thought, "Hmmm...that is kind of low." But after some more pondering I asked myself another question: "what percentage of women actually want a job in a higher learning institute?"

It seems easy to look at statistics and say that because less than 50% of employees in that field of work are women, women are being discriminated against. But I have hardly ever heard talk about what percentage of women actually want to work in that field. If say, out of 100 applicants to a certain company 34 are women and 66 are men; is it then discriminatory to have a 66% male work force in that company? Besides, I don't hear anyone complaining about the men to women ratio in fields where the ratio is higher for women. (Nursing or flight attendants come to mind.)

Another point mentioned in the article is that: "We still teach children that gender differences are an important part of social

What is this for?" I wonder how many girls would have done the same if they had gotten the latest GI Joe Super Duper Bunker set complete with its own Cobra Scan Radar system? Generally boys and girls are different in their likes and dislikes. I certainly don't believe that toys should be pushed upon kids; but I think we can also remember that "Girl-stuff" and "Guy-stuff" were different things when we were kids. Lets not make girls play with frogs and snakes after school in order to show that men and women are equal. And please, no dolls for me this Christmas.

Members for their participation. The volunteers were excellent. They included Al Daley, Bob Hunter, Ken Hunter, Marc Vienneau (and his students), Mike Simmons, Reagan Alexander, Hossein Davoodi, Glen Wilson, Kim Arnsen along with all other helpers that day. Our sponsors were the Bank of Montreal (campus branch), College Hill Social Club, UNB Bookstore, Ben's Spring Water, Coca-Cola and Lobster Hut. Special thanks go to them. Thanks to all coaches and captains and assistant captains who got their teams prepared. All your efforts were appreciated.

George Hubbard  
UNB varsity run '96 coordinator

**Thanks to UNB varsity runners**

To the Editor:

The 1996 Edition of the UNB varsity run, benefiting the UNB athletics program, was recently held. Over 170 people participated. This event, along with the previous four, has now raised a total of \$3500.

This year's event was received very well and went off without a hitch. Refreshments followed and awards were given to top age group winners. Organizers would like to thank all those who participated: runners, walkers, sponsors and volunteers. Specifically we would like to thank Maureen Sparks, Beth Wright and Jim Born (UNB varsity athletes), all the UNB varsity and Club teams, Capital City Roadrunners and Fredericton track Clu

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George Hubbard  
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**Viewpoint Banner**  
Illustrated by Kent Weizel

*This issue is dedicated to:*  
Ellen coming out,  
turkey-flavoured tofu and vegetable-flavoured turkey.

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