

## EDITORIAL

Well, have you decided yet? Yes once again it's time to cast your vote for the next generation of bubble gum politicians here at UNB. The only difference in this year's line up of choices is that you are being asked whether or not you want the UNB Student Union to stay a part of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

The first thing that strikes me about this issue is that the SU is being careful to avoid connecting the referendum on CFS with the newly formed student alliance known as CASA. However, as UNB SU President Paul Estabrooks and VP University Affairs Pat Fitzpatrick were founding members of CASA and Estabrooks is the President of the organization, can the two issues really be separated? Should they be?

In September, before the formation of CASA, council decided that with a strong Atlantic Federation of Students and New Brunswick Student Alliance (formerly CFS N.B.) and growing discontent within UNB's SU council with the CFS political wing it would be in the best interest of the students of UNB to pull out of CFS. Meanwhile CASA was formed in January of this year at a meeting hosted by UNB. The student union joined CASA through an act of council at the first meeting in February, pending ratification by the students in a referendum to be held in March of next year. This means that, if we choose to ratify this decision, students will be paying one dollar each in membership fees for CASA. Currently students pay \$4.50 each in membership fees for CFS and the referendum question is worded in such a way as to infer that the students will see this money returned to them. However, if students actually expect to see dime one returned to their pocketbooks, I think that they are deluding themselves. It is more likely that this money will be channelled into other areas in need of funding. Therefore, the question is not one of do you want to save money but what kind of bang can you expect for your buck(s)?

As a lobby group with sixteen university members representing a total of 220,000 students in CASA— as opposed to sixty-four university and college members in CFS representing 430,000 students— CASA claims as members almost all of the larger Canadian universities, with the exception of the University of Toronto. And as we all know, the concerns of larger universities get more attention from the government than the smaller ones.

CFS on the other hand can claim greater per capita membership than CASA and in lobbying governments the numbers you represent mean at least as much as what you have to say. The more people you represent the more clout you have. Therefore the political clout of students will presumably be less under a group such as CASA which has a smaller membership than CFS. However, on this point it only seems fair to point out that more students are not represented by any one national group than are represented by either group.

But when it comes to effectiveness, CFS holds to the concept of lobbying for zero tuition while CASA takes the view that zero tuition at this point is an unrealistic goal. Therefore while CFS is lobbying for a decrease in tuition, CASA finds it more prudent to seek a freeze on tuition at its current levels.

Finally, on behalf of those students who are sick of this bullshit and tired of hearing manipulated numbers being thrown around like crazy (it's all fun and games until someone loses an eye) I will take this opportunity to send a message to both sides: "SHUT THE FUCK UP!!!!"

P.S. Vote *The Brunswickan* as a write-in candidate for that four dollars and fifty cents as we need more money and represent at least two students.



Welcome to the yearly *Mugwump Journal* election ranting. First, elections don't turn my crank and second, I share a common apathy with everyone else here. I don't care. Remember that environazi saying that went something like this: *Would people cut down trees, if trees could scream?* Well the answer is a resounding, sure why the Hell not. If you've been walking the hallways of any given building on campus you'd know that the 'Vote Me, vote me!' signs have taken over. The hum drum brick walled decor of most of our buildings are now replaced with a diarrhoea of green, yellow, pink and white campaign posters. Every candidate's poster I've seen is an atrocity towards treemanity. 'Ob the Treemanity' Yes, our straight upright, sometimes yellow, sometimes green and sometimes bare friend, the tree has been victim to numerous of injustices caused by man. Alas, it even seems to me the vile beaver has been known to amputate a tree's limb or two.

Does a timber holocaust help these candidates win an election? Sure it does. Just ask the persons who win. I'm not an environmental nut or anything but all that paper that could've made paper mache pinatas.

Boy, the Canadian Armed forces sure flexed their muscles by sending out a couple of tough little scrap iron frigates to fetch a rickety old Spanish fishing boat. They should be so quick to send out the clowns at Pierre Trudeau's funeral when he parts for the big sleep. Brian Tobin, Fisheries minister, is becoming pretty popular abroad.

I love the fact several international countries now believe Canada is a regular nation full of politicians practising to become pirates. I can only think of who fits that bill and they don't have a leg to stand on in the next federal election.

Why is it Spain and other countries can find fish in and near Canadian waters, but our fishermen can't?

I can't believe that Danny Cameron stepped down as Confederation of Regions leader. Wait a sec. Didn't Dennis Cochrane the PC leader step down too. Who's next Frank? No actually I think both individuals knew they couldn't beat McKenna. Even old Dickie Hatfield couldn't beat Frank. Man potatoes never tasted as good as when old Dick was premier.

This issue of The Bruns is brought to you by the letter Y, Slinky and Viewmaster

# Blood n' Thunder

## Why Did Ms. Ensor Resign?

By not having the integrity to sign their personal names to the bottom of their letter, written to the *Brunswickan* on March 4, 1995, the *Aquinian* Board of Directors have lost all credibility. In fact this tasteless display has further damaged the already questionable credibility of the *Aquinian* itself.

In their letter, the *Aquinian* Board of Directors has failed to deal with a number of issues. Sure 86 students may have been published in the *Aquinian*. Nothing, however, was mentioned about the other 40 that were not. Surely they cannot dismiss all their works as tasteless. In fact the Board of Directors are unable to pick anything out of my works that could be deemed tasteless as they claim.

The second issue the *Aquinian* Board of Directors did not deal with is the overwhelming amount of spelling mistakes in each issue of the *Aquinian*. In one issue the name of Saint Thomas's Chancellor, Bishop Edward Troy was spelled Edward Traw. Yet, the *Aquinian* clique wonders why students consider the newspaper a rag-sheet.

The final issue the Ragsheet Board of Directors did not deal with was Ms. Ensor's resignation. Why did she resign? Was it because half her staff quit? Perhaps it was because she came to the realization that the job requires printing letters and material that she might not personally agree with.

Finally, to the Board of Directors why would I show up at your meetings when you don't even have enough confidence in yourselves to sign your names to the bottom of a letter. Unlike the Ragsheet Board of Governors I have no hesitation in signing my name to the bottom of anything.

—Sean J. Scully

## "Keeping an Open Mind": A Response

In the March, 3<sup>rd</sup> 'Forest Breeze' column, Michele MacNeil, encouraged readers to "keep an open mind and stay informed" of environmental issues related to forestry practices. MacNeil claims that "extremists heading environmental groups" threaten to bring forest practices reform to a "standstill." With the greatest respect for MacNeil's "open-minded" approach, nothing could be further from the truth.

The progress in forestry practices which MacNeil spoke of is all relatively recent in the history of forestry. The technological advances in harvesting and growth have far outpaced the larger considerations of conservation and sustainability. The political and economic pressure generated by environmental groups is the driving force behind the recent conservationist trend in forestry practices. The industry, for the most part, continues to demonstrate its willingness to sacrifice environmental values and jobs in the myopic pursuit of short and medium term profits.

"It seems impossible to imagine a world without wood." Yet it is all too easy to imagine a Canada without the forests of PEI, without the forests of the Christmas Mountains, without the forests of Lake Temagami, or without the forests of Clayoquot Sound. Wood we may well have for some time to come,

the mono-cultural tree farms, which New Brunswick has an abundance of, will ensure that. It is the forests and their eco-systems that are rapidly disappearing.

"... Foresters are [italics not in original] destroying our planet [precisely] by doing what they've done for hundred of years." The perception that forests are renewable resources and that we will never run out of them still persists. Whole forests cannot simply be replanted, bio-diversity is lost: tree farms result. Time is running out to preserve the few remaining virgin forests in this nation. Those forests will shortly be gone forever without the intervention of the environmentalists who are giving "a bad name to environmentalism."

Forester's (sic) may be inclined to view the progress of the logging industry to more sustainable practices as the result of "research for better forest management." The reality is, however, that progress has resulted from the efforts of native communities to regain their lands and from the attempts of other citizens and environmentalists to reassert control of these common resources; which, for the most part, are in the hands of the multi-national timber companies.

Most of the recent and more radical environmental actions have taken place on the west coast. There, the fate of the ancient temperate rain-forest has been the focus of much effort by groups such as the Nuun-chah-nulth peoples, Greenpeace, the Sierra Club of Western Canada, the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, the Friends of Clayoquot Sound, and Earth First-Terra Prima. The battles for places like Clayoquot Sound have brought a great deal of attention to the fate of this nation's oldest, largest, and most majestic forests. B.C.'s new Forests (sic) Practices Code, described by Premier Harcourt as the strictest regulation in the world, is the direct result of the pressure of these radical environmental groups overcoming the intractability of the logging industry.

Future generations will have the environmentalists to thank for what little of this nation's biological, cultural, and aesthetic heritage is salvaged as forests. Progress in forest practices is the result of political pressure by environmentalists. Environmentalists simply want a sustainable industry which is mindful of other non-timber values.

—Aran O'Carroll

## Looking for Recipes and Words of Wisdom

Dear Mr. Johnstone:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you our Labatt Relay Team. The Labatt Relay is a fund raiser organized annually by the Hospital Foundation to purchase necessary equipment for the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital. This year the funds will go towards purchase of equipment to help in the fight against cancer. More details will be available later if you are interested in what the money will buy.

The *All Sorts* have been participating in the Relay for the past six years, having originally started as the Exciting Electrons, then becoming the Engineering All Sorts and last year breaking into two teams, St. Huberts Hammered All Sorts and the Right Spot Righteous All Sorts. This year, we will be returning to

the one team format and as of yet have not decided on a final name. We are planning to be at least 50% university faculty/staff/students and most of these will probably be from engineering. The team has had good years and bad but has always been able to hang in there and participate fully in all the activities. This year we are doubling our efforts as we are running this year in memory of John Murphy, one of the founding members of the team and former Chief Technician in Electrical Engineering, who died in October of 1994.

This year we are trying to organize early and have decided to start our fund raising with a fun and fact filled recipe book which we plan to sell on campus and possibly other places if it is permitted. To have a successful money raising event we need high profile people to attract attention. We would be interested in receiving your favourite recipe to include in the book. We would also like a comment, cooking hint, joke or words of wisdom that would add to the enjoyment of the reader/cook. We understand that you have a very busy schedule but hope you will be able to find the time to help us out.

You can contact me at work, 453-4561 (Electrical Engineering) or at home 363-5208.

Thank you again for your help in this worthwhile cause.

—Saundra Mazerolle, Past Captain, Present Pledge Coordinator

## Wal-Mart is Weakening our Economy

Dear Editor: The following is a letter sent to Prime Minister Chrétien on Friday, February 24th.

Dear Prime Minister Chrétien:

I write on behalf of the Fredericton Area Coalition for Social Justice, a group of individuals and representatives of over 20 national, regional and local organizations in our area who are affiliated with the Action Canada Network. As Canadians we are deeply concerned that the Canadian government is not doing anything to screen or regulate US corporate giants like Wal-Mart that roll into Canada and undermine real economic development.

Wal-Mart costs Canadians 1.5 jobs for every one it creates. By offering low-wage, part-time work with next to no benefits, it is weakening our economy. Wal-Mart displaces Canadian businesses that reinvest in our community and country, genuinely contributing to our economic development. Wal-Mart is one of a growing number of foreign transnationals that are incorporating in New Brunswick and taking advantage of lax regulations to conceal their yearly financial audits from the Canadian public.

We ask you, through Industry Minister John Manly and his Department, to face up to Wal-Mart and to enforce and strengthen the policies under the investment Canada Act that oblige foreign investors to change policies that adversely affect our country. As Canadians our economic backs are up against "the Wal," and our economic recovery depends in part on the protection of communities and the encouragement of investment in Canada by and for Canadians.

Your reply would be appreciated.

—In the name of economic justice,  
Brian McIntosh,  
Co-Coordinator Fredericton Area,  
Coalition for Social Justice.