



**The Brunswickan**

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# Editorial & Mugwump

## EDITORIAL

KAREN BURGESS

You've been out drinking with your friends. As the bar closes, you fish out your car keys and prepare to drive yourself home. Suddenly, somebody says "Hey, are you all right to drive?"

For most of us, the answer would present itself as a blaring, flashing, neon negative, but the problem of drinking and driving persists nonetheless, killing thousands of people each year on North America's highways.

The abuse of alcohol has serious repercussions which affect not only the abuser, but any number of innocent victims as well.

Impaired driving is just one of the crimes which can be linked with alcohol abuse. Statistics have also shown a connection between alcohol consumption and violent crime, and indicate that as many as 75 per cent of those committing acquaintance rape or assault were impaired at the time of the incident.

Since Thursday, October 14, UNB has been participating in national Alcohol Awareness Week, which featured numerous events hosted by Team SMART PACC.

The campaign is designed to make students aware of the consequences of alcohol consumption, but students don't want to be preached to. While the effectiveness of water gargling contests (a prize is given to the contestant who can gargle longest without stopping for a breath), and Mocktail competitions at conveying a serious message may be somewhat suspect, they have the entertainment value needed to catch the interest of the student body.

The real merit of this year's campaign, however, lies in its ability to accept that most students won't stop drinking altogether. Moderation, not abstinence, is the theme that co-ordinators Lisa Lane and Krista MacFarlane stressed for Alcohol Awareness Week 1993.

"We want students to have a good time," explained Lane. "But to stay

in control. Alcohol was meant to be enjoyed."

The team, which for the last two years has been named the foremost of its kind in the country by Bacchus Canada (the national umbrella organization), presents students with new takes on alcohol responsibility to get them thinking about their behavior while under the influence.

Pamphlets distributed at the campus dining halls and cafeterias show the relation between alcohol use and the ever-growing problem of sexual assault and acquaintance rape, and the BARF (Be A Responsible Friend) campaign, reminds students that even if you don't need a designated driver when you go out, it's always advisable to have a sober person in your group to take charge in case of an emergency.

"It's to encourage them to use a buddy system," said Lane. "Treat your friends as you'd want to be treated" is our message. It's about respect really."

Just in case any one still holds the stereotype of SMART PACC as non-drinkers who don't want people to have any fun, an impression Lane says she comes across frequently, the team has included the Social Club and The Pub In the SUB in its final Alcohol Awareness Week activity.

Tonight, if you go to either establishment, you can register your designated driver in the lobby of the SUB. They will receive a bracelet which will entitle them to non-alcoholic beverages during the night, and if they are still alcohol-free when they leave, they can win a prize.

Servers at both establishments have been instructed to take back bracelets from anyone registered as a DD who purchases an alcoholic beverage during the evening.

It's nice to see alcohol awareness treated in such a reasonable and responsible way. SMART PACC should be applauded for once again demonstrating its ability to organize and stage an effective alcohol awareness campaign. This year's Bacchus Canada conference will no doubt find them in the same standing they held after last year's campaign—a decisive first.

## MUGWUMP

### The Quest for Content

How am I supposed to work in these conditions? I had just sat down to write my column, my thought processes were finally starting to gear up, when in march the Tiny Tories. Worst of all, I had my back turned and didn't see them come in.

For a moment, I started to look for a weapon (a fax machine) to defend the press against an attack. I thought for a moment that they were launching a takeover (it wouldn't be the first time in Canadian history), but then I saw that their fearless leader was with them. If Bud was here, he must be keeping them under control, so I felt safe. Jim MacGee, everyone's favorite PC Youth person was leading the pack, taking them around to all the places where the students hang out. I didn't have the heart to start chanting our new slogan: Keep Jim in Ottawa! Vote Tory!

It really makes you think, though. If Bud Bird, running in a 35 year Tory stronghold, needs to campaign for votes personally on campus with less than a week before elections, something really weird must be going on. Rumours of a Reform party lead (or at least a good showing) have been floating around for a few weeks now, but since no one ever does any really scientific polls around here, no one really knows.

I for one will be glad when this election is over. It has

been positively unseemly to see the PCs and NDP fighting for second place. I mean, we all know the NDP has a snowball's change in a supernova of winning, but to explicitly campaign as protest candidates is just so...blatant. Besides, with the Natural Law party running, I don't think we need any more protest candidates.

Here on the home front, the new student union types are settling in to their jobs. Fitz is getting much too keen already—I can't wait to see him around mid-terms next term.

Speaking of Keenerism above and beyond the call of duty, Jamie van Raalte, in a spirit of camaraderie, friendship and love reminiscent of the now famous "Don't think of me as your boss, think of me as the team leader" comment, has come up with a new idea for the off-nights between the bi-weekly council meetings. This new idea: Mandatory Attendance Issues Meetings, where Council will get together and discuss items of burning importance to the students and get a better feel for where they're coming from and the wide array of viewpoints represented on Council. This may be a good idea, but it's too smarmy for words. But hey, to all you Councillor types, I sympathize. You should have seen the Wednesday Night Employee Sessions.

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