

Blood and Thunder

Snippets of Mr. Dawes

During the past year, the students of UNB have, from time-to-time, received snippets of Mr. Dawes' views on the ethics of journalism and the 'responsibilities of a newspaper'. At times, these views expounded within your editorials have been obviously correct - at other times less obviously correct. Usually, I have defended these views during informal discussions with others, as I have shared your perspective as an Editor-in-Chief both at the high school and university level.

The benefits which go with such a position bring prestige, experience, and the ability to shape the newspaper in question so that it reflects your vision and our concerns. The students of UNB have seen 'their Bruns' promote 'multiculturalism', 'third-world affairs' and 'culture' to a degree unequalled in the past. This is your prerogative as Editor-in-Chief. With such power and privilege comes responsibility - a responsibility to supervise and ensure that The Brunswickan operates within the boundaries of ethics.

In last week's issue, Mr. Dawes, you utterly failed to produce a paper to which the term "ethics" might be attached. I might point out to you that a student newspaper published immediately prior to a student election is, in itself, the most important issue of The Brunswickan to be printed in any year. The requirement of the media to act responsibly and without any bias (or perceived bias), in The Brunswickan must be beyond reproach.

While Editor-in-Chief of The Resin, and as Layout Editor of The Charlatan (Carleton University's official student paper), a most rigid editorial policy was in place during CUSA elections. I still remember a staff meeting of The Charlatan where the Asst. Dean of Journalism warned us that campaigning in the offices, wearing buttons in the offices, or in any way printing anything which could possibly be construed as bias in the paper would result in immediate ejection from the paper's staff for the remainder of our career at Carleton - No Exceptions.

While looking at the last issue of The Brunswickan what did I see?

p.3.) Joe Savoie, Presidential candidate, is the only presidential candidate to receive coverage in your lead story. If it was essential to quote him for the story, you should have ensured that the other candidates got coverage as well.

p. 9) Jarret Wright, V.P. University Affairs candidate, is directly misquoted in his

personal submission. Paragraphs 5 and 6 were not written by him.

p. 11) 'Viewpoint': Both Rod Cumberland and Jamie Mahoney are quoted - with campaign picture - in this weekly feature. As both men are candidates, with their pictures already appearing in that issue, this 'double exposure' should not have occurred.

p. 38) 'The Big Screw-Up': Miraculously, Art Doyle's submission was reprinted verbatim as Joe Savoie's submission. Mr. Savoie's submission is left out altogether - except for two paragraphs which appear under Jarret Wright (see p. 9).

Student Profiles in toto: Some candidates pictures have captions identifying them, others do not. Why? Further, the layout of the entire candidate feature is atrocious! It is spread out throughout the paper, instead of running as one separate feature. The centre spread of 'The Bruns' is meanwhile occupied by a schedule of events for 'Multi-Culturalism '90!'. Mr. Dawes, this blatant attempt at 'agenda setting' goes too far in an election issue. This is shameful.

What, Mr. Dawes, ever became of the submissions of candidates Jim Macgee (sic) and Jamie Petrie? Did these candidates not meet with our approval? Do you think that your paper is without influence on this campus? If I was either of these candidates, I would still be purple with rage.

Lastly, I am aware of your attempts to rectify the Joe Savoie/Art Doyle mix-up with 1000 photocopies of the Brunswickan Flyer. Why did you not print up 8000 copies - the same as should have been circulated with your original edition? Why were Jim Macgee (sic) and Jamie Petrie excluded from this flyer? Were they not important enough?

Do not attempt to defend yourself with "you don't know how hard it is. . ." (Yes I Do!), or feeble attempts to explain away your mistakes by claiming "it's only a 'free' service anyway - it is not as if we owed you the space".

You bloody well did owe the space to these candidates. It is the implicit, if not the express desire of the publisher and the student body for space to be provided to all candidates on an equitable basis. The students pay for it, and we deserve our media to reflect our concerns in this one issue. You failed in this task.

It is your responsibility during an election campaign to see that no bias is expressed within The Brunswickan. It was and you failed.

I know how hard your job is - and so did you before you took it. There are no excuses for these egregious errors. They are the Editor-in-Chief's final responsibility.

Mr. Dawes, in this past year we have seen Mr. Yaqzan express unhelpful and condescending advice in this paper regarding your practices. This time, however, it is you who have been unprofessional and unethical.

Mr. Dawes, you should resign your position immediately. If this University had a school of journalism, it would not be merely me demanding your resignation, it would be the Dean as well.

Note: As this letter is submitted prior to election results, let no person charge me with 'sour grapes'. My anger is sincere and heartfelt, regardless of who may happen to have won.

Grave Injustice

We believe your paper has committed a grave injustice to Jim Sullivan, his rink and those who admire his stunning accomplishments at the 1990 Labatt Brier.

The Jim Sullivan rink came within two points of being Canadian Men's Curling Champions and you people see fit to give him a subtle mention on p.35 of your paper. This is an atrocity, the fine members of Sullivan's rink (Charlie Sullivan, Craig Burgess, Paul Power and D. Alderman) all of whom attend UNB deserve many more accolades than your paper saw fit to give them.

Surely a team that consists of five UNB students and finishes an extremely close second in such a prestigious sporting event as the Brier demands a top billing in your paper.

We realize that funding, volunteers and time are always in demand but we truly believe your paper made a mistake in its lack of proper coverage.

Disappointment

When one becomes curious enough to tune into CHSR-FM (at any given moment), the feeling that often follows is that of disappointment or perhaps even disgust. Upon listening at various times of day, the (so called) "music" usually ranges from depressed guys singing in odd meter, to girls screeching in against a synth drum beat, to drug-influenced acid rock, to grinding industrial metallic noise that doesn't even remotely resemble MUSIC. In view of this, and the negative attitudes expressed by many students, we must begin to question why we operate and even fund CHSR.

In reference to Bruns March 9th, I support Scott Dunham's idea of CHSR being an entertainment and information centre

and of its vitality. However, I strongly disagree with such liberal application of the word "alternative" as it is being applied to musical programming. As an information source, the station succeeds and I accordingly commend them of this. But where CHSR sadly fails, is in reaching a decent sized listening audience via music. By exclusively choosing ONLY alternative music for airplay, it seems CHSR is digging its own grave.

Mr. Dunham has stated that if even a "handful of listeners are positively affected by CHSR it is worth it". I outrightly disagree with such a view. We are talking about \$105,000.00 a year here and justification of such spending to benefit a select few is outrageous to even consider. Realistically, statistics DO mean more than principle. . . especially when it involves money from our own pockets and very little return.

The fact that the station is primarily funded by students should indicate that its ultimate purpose must be to reflect the tastes of the MAJORITY of this body. A campus-wide survey would quickly illustrate that CHSR has failed to do so. It is by deviating so radically from commercial radio, the station alienates the great number of students who much more readily enjoy this form.

In a weak attempt to minimize commercial radio, Mr. Dunham has described it as being, "background music for insecure people". Such a comment provides little more than I falsely stating that alternative radio is merely, "therapeutic noise for musical pariahs". Clearly, making opinionated comments proves to be a poor excuse for REAL arguments.

The truth is. . . commercial radio is prosperous because it is utilitarian (ie. satisfies greatest number) and alternative radio can only (as demonstrated) satisfy a handful. All the promotion in the world will

not save the present CHSR and increased funding or the proposed media fee will only create temporary stability. The only thing I feel can eventually save CHSR is a reformed programming schedule that will include an adequate dose of commercial music. Fans of CHSR will of course feel threatened by this solution. But by merging the 2 forms, you potentially create the capacity to cater to EVERYONE'S tastes. Hopefully, they will see my suggestion not as a "sell out", but as the functional compromise it is. While I realize it is much too late (in the year) to begin such change, if implemented (by next year) it would most likely be beneficial to the future of campus radio at UNB.

Sincerely,
Jason Tremere BSc (CS) I

Ludicrous

We would like to express our disbelief regarding the feature "A Decade of Multiculturalism in Prospective" from the March 16th edition of the Brunswickan. Canada's policy of multiculturalism entails the concept that all ethnic groups be allowed to manifest their ethnic beliefs and identities. The art work that accompanies the interesting and potentially unbiased lecture series is ludicrous. The layout includes thirteen relevant depictions of visible ethnic minority groups who have every right to practice their ethnic beliefs. Is the white ethnic minority like the Italian or Polish Canadian not considered an element of multicultural society for the simple fact that they are white? Your layout presents to the UNB student population the common misconception of the Canadian population regarding the revolutionary policy of multiculturalism. How can two insightful and respected personalities on campus be so shortsighted as to strengthen this harmful stereotype?

Sean Donaldson Demmons

On Professionalism:
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"Old age and treachery will overcome youth and skill every time."
-Anonymous

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