

Blood & Thunder

Letters to the Editor must be signed and contain a phone number where the writer can be reached. Length: 300 words max. The Brunswickan reserves the right to edit for clarity, grammar and length. **Deadline: Monday 5:00pm**

Acadian Festivities "major accomplishment" for Saint John

Dear Editor

Acadians in Greater Saint John had cause to be proud during their recent celebration of Acadian national day held August 15, 1993. This year, the latter were given the opportunity to partake in a celebration that was none other than spectacular.

In fact, the Acadian festivities, as organized in Saint John this year, were a major accomplishment. Up until now, no one would've thought possible to hold an event of this magnitude. Obviously french speaking residents would not have dared to walk the streets of the loyalist city, holding proudly the Acadian flag. Up until now, Acadians did celebrate their national holiday...but

discreetly.

This year was certainly a true revelation with the holding of a parade which gathered close to 100 cars. This cultural event presented as part of the program of Festival by the Sea in King's Square attracted a gathering of approximately 400 spectators. Really, this demonstrated well the commitment and enthusiasm of french speaking Saint Johners. We believe better and bigger things are sure to follow because of the enormous vitality of this french community and Acadian minority in Greater Saint John.

Allow me to share with you that I have never been so proud of my Acadian heritage that on August 15th last.

Obviously the participation of the french community in this event was an important contribution to the success of the Acadian festivities in Saint John. All throughout the day, we were brought to recall how Acadian communities would gather in great numbers to meet the challenges of many significant and major projects.

Suffice to say that these types of efforts were once again deployed by the french community in Saint John this August 15, 1993. People demonstrated proudly their presence in the streets of the port city. Once again, the Acadians rallied together to meet the challenges of an honorable task, that of promoting their cultural heritage and community wellness in South Western NB.

We are proud to be Acadians and proud to be residents of this magnificent city. We rightfully take our place while sharing with all our rich history and culture. Let's be respectful toward one another, let's share our culture while fully living our own potential. May I suggest the latter as the perception we should emanate to all minorities.

Bravo to the organizing committee of the 1993 Acadian Festival, to staff and to the friends of the Centre Samuel-de-Champlain.

Roger Savoie, president
Samuel-de-Champlain
Community Council

Penpal wanted

Dear Students:

I am presently confined at the "Chippewa Temporary Correctional Facility" and I would be very grateful if I could perhaps establish a correspondence with anyone wishing to do so. Please understand - just because I'm in prison, that doesn't necessarily mean that I'm a criminal. We all can make a mistake - because imperfection is due to anyone who's not perfect. But nothing can change a particular situation - unless there's a will to do so. Is God! the only one who forgives? I hope it hasn't been accounted "presumptuous" if a man of low and humble station - has ventured to have a friend. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alphonso Hayes, #179535
Chippewa Temporary Correctional
Facility, 4535 W.Tone Rd., Kincheloe,
Mich., 49788-0001

Spectrum

Prospective Writers must submit three columns prior to publication. Spectrum length is limited to 500 words.

Deadline: Monday 5:00pm

Positively Pink by Colin Longman

Why is there a gay/bi/lesbian column in the Bruns? It's purpose is, in my opinion, twofold. First, we're here for all the gay/bi/lesbian people on campus. Growing up gay can be a very isolating and difficult experience for some. Hopefully the weekly presence of a gay/bi/lesbian column will be beneficial to those who are just beginning to deal with their emerging homosexuality. For those of us who live publically as gay/bi/lesbian people perhaps this column can provide some empowerment to help you through the day.

The second purpose for this column is to make gay/bi/lesbian people and concerns visible in the heterosexual community. Through exposure to us in everyday situations that you, the straight population, will gain a better understanding of our community. You'll never be able to completely understand what being gay/bi/lesbian is like but then, I'll never understand completely what it's like to be straight.

Fredericton, believe it our not, has a fair number of things to offer the gay/bi/lesbian population. GALA, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance of UNB is open to all students, staff

The Fredericton gay scene

and faculty of UNB and STU. If you're looking for a non-threatening, quiet place to come and meet people from the campus community then this is the place. For information on when and where GALA meets please contact the Gayline at 457-2156.

The Gayline is an anonymous service provided by FLAG, Fredericton Lesbians and Gays. If

you're wondering what gay/bi/lesbian social events are planned in the capital area or if you want someone to talk to then give the line a call at 457-2156.

Finally, if you like to dance there's Kurt's Dance Warehouse. The music is great and the people are friendly. The club is open Wednesday to Saturday.

Well, my first column is done. Be on the lookout for bi and lesbian columns to follow in future issues of the Bruns - the plan is to alternate every third week. One final word to David - I hope you've been as happy as I have over the past week and I look forward to spending much more time with you.

Metanoia

by John Valk

Tomorrow (Saturday) is Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement. It is the most sacred of Holy Days. Even those who seldom frequent a synagogue or temple manage to set aside an hour or two for worship in this special day. American cities with large Jewish populations virtually declare it a legal holiday. Why is it so significant?

The Hebrew Bible (Lev. 23:24-29) gives us only brief mention of it. It is a day set aside for ascetic discipline; a day of "afflicting the soul". It is a day to seek forgiveness, for transgressions against God and fellow humans. Does any of this have relevance today, even at a modern public university?

Secular education has chosen to ignore rather than explore religion. That is unfortunate. To be ignorant is not bliss. Significant historical and cultural dates (Labour day, Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day) are acknowledged, even celebrated. But seldom do we give heed to religious dates, unless they have commercial potential.

What is atonement, and why is it important? Atonement has to do with reconciliation, making amends or reparation for offense or injury caused. At minimum it requires reflecting on the past year. It entails thinking seriously about things done, or not done. No doubt most of us do that.

There is, however, a more crucial element that concerns recognizing some of our deeds as misdeeds. That is a taller order. We seldom admit misdeeds, or consider it of any consequence to do so. How often do we speak of wrong acts, especially wrong moral acts? Our tendency is to operate according to self-made values, morals and standards. Hence, if there is not absolute or universal code or standard, then there are no wrong or immoral acts, only personal preferences.

The Jewish Day of Atonement pretends to no such thing. It recognizes that none of us are free from wrong thoughts and acts. Furthermore, it recognizes the necessity of acknowledging these acts as such, if we are to flourish as individuals within community.

To judge some act as right or wrong presupposes some standard. For Jews, as well as Christians that standard is God. And, God has issued certain universal guides, to give direction to human freedom. Many of these undergird our Canadian civil and criminal codes.

Of course, for any of this to make sense presupposes also the existence of God. Most Canadians believe in God. It is not so clear, however, how many actually believe that God impinges their lives. That is, do they actually believe that God has

something very specific to say about what we do and how we treat one another? Furthermore, do they believe that when they do certain things — mistreat others and the earth — they contravene or break important universal principles, more or otherwise.

What is of significance here is not that we mess up. We don't seem to be able to avoid it. What is important is that we acknowledge certain of our acts as wrong, and seek release from them. That is good for the soul, which in turn is tied to our psychological well-being. Confession is liberation of the spirit, as any good therapist will tell you.

What makes Yom Kippur so odd, yet so intriguing today? This Holy Day of Atonement forces us to reconsider our past. What about our misdeeds: our failure to love God, observe God's commandments, love our neighbor as ourselves, protect, feed and clothe those vulnerable and less fortunate? What about looking to God for guidance and direction, as we seek liberation and freedom?

Lest we drift into a somber, dower and depressing state, it is to be remembered that Yom Kippur was always recognized as a two-sided day. When forgiveness for past transgressions

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Hello? Hello?

Anyone out there?

We want to know what you think. Submissions for Opinion columns, regular Spectrum features, and Blood and Thunder letters will be accepted at Room 35 of the SUB. Deadlines for submissions is Monday at 5 p.m. No exceptions.