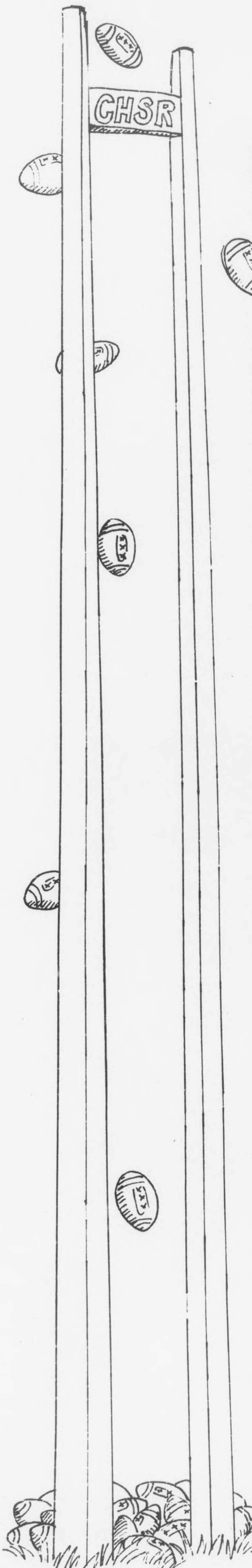


The Media



Since ages past there have been two great media empires here at UNB. These were, of course, the Brunswickan, that legendary media superpower with over a century and a quarter of history, and the other group, CHSR.

Now, in the bad old days, whenever the Bruns and CHSR got into a disagreement, tiff, war of words, minor skirmish, battle or all out war, the only thing they could do was to spend all of their time and money trying to slag off the other aggrieved party in the student press. These things would drag on for generations, and soon the original offense passed out of living memory, though the feud raged on. Nowadays, however, since a historic agreement twenty three years ago, that sort of thing is reserved for dealing with the ERTW and the Student Union Council.

For the past twenty-two years, the Brunswickan and CHSR have settled their differences, in a yearly clash of titanic forces, a tremendous physical contest called the Media Bowl, allowing them to save all their invective and polemical attacks and to move on to new targets.

The Media Bowl pits the awesome might of the Bruns Barbarians against the paltry powers of the CHSR Bunnies of Death in what is ostensibly a game of touch football. Despite the claim to be a friendly, non-contact sporting event where the two groups can peaceably settle matters, the game frequently breaks down into an all out slug-fest which leaves broken bodies littering the field, the screams of injured players echoing through the campus, and solemn mourning for those who have left this world of pain and suffering. This contest pits the brawn, brain and brawling ability of the Barbarians against the pathetic whimpering Bunnies, who have no such abilities. The only thing the CHSR Bunnies have going for them beyond their innate rodent characteristics—they are fast as lightning, scurry around a lot and seem to multiply every time they leave the huddle—is their fierce will to win and thus to redeem themselves for their pathetic performance to date. The result of these contests has been a string of Barbarian victories, netting them a 17-5 record. The poor beleaguered Bunnies hoped to break a pathetic string of losses spanning three decades by defeating their opponents this year on the chosen field of battle, the Heating Plant Softball field.

The Brunswickan Barbarians came onto the field confident of victory. They had, after all, defeated CHSR 17 times

Insult

out of 22 outings. Simply looking at the stats, there was little to make them question their dominance. CHSR for their part also seemed certain of victory. CHSR was extremely active in the off season, and acquired several impressive rookies in the pre-season draft, as well as making some impressive free agent acquisitions. Aside from the Nick Oliver super trade, the Bruns Barbarian front office had been remarkably quiet, failing to fill in some key losses, especially behind the bench. The loss of the Kwameister to the University of South Carolina was a serious loss to the Bruns, and CHSR planned to exploit it.

The Bruns, aware of this deficiency, underwent a serious internal reorganization in the months before the game. Aime Phillips was promoted to Director of Player Personnel, while Alan Carter took over the role of Head Coach and Karen Burgess was appointed to the important post of Offensive Coordinator. Perhaps most important was the Barbarian's appointment of Al Johnstone, Mimi Cormier and James Rowan as Ethics Commissioners responsible for overseeing Barbarian Public Relations and Information and ensuring the veracity of all information given out by the team. Without these three, the Barbarians could once again be victimized by falsified reports of propaganda and untrue press releases, something that the Bruns had to avoid at all costs. The Brunswickan sought to protect their editorial integrity, and thus felt that these new positions were crucial to the proper functioning of the game. The Barbarians were counting on these front office changes to forestall problems caused by a n y personnel turnover.

The weather for the game was not good. One Barbarian described it as "Wet, cold and miserable. The mud is up to my ankles, the turf is history and you can't get enough footing to stay standing when you try to turn or stop. In other words, its perfect." The Bunnies did not agree with that assessment. Their numbers decreased dramatically in the trek up to the field, with some (most) opting to remain in the comfortable confines

of the Social Club, where the warm-up was held. "Well, it's like this," said Lapin de Mort, chief Publicist for the Rodents of Doom, "We're furry rodents, right? So if we get muddy, it just gums up our fur and it takes weeks to get it out. Now the Barbarians, they don't give a damn." This was a sentiment echoed again and again by both Barbarians and Bunnies.

When the game eventually got underway, the Bruns' first kicker, Toronto Dave, sent the pigskin flying far down field with a tremendous boot, the ball landing near the Bunny 10 yard line. The Bunnies of Death had not anticipated the skill of Smith, resulting in a desperate scramble to get back to pick up the ball. The Bunnies were hoping to make some kind of run back to lessen the damage. What they weren't counting on was the speed of the Bruns Special Teams players.

Babyface Williams and Jeremy "Rocket" Earl were on the Bunny return specialist within moments of his getting the ball. Amazingly, the Bunny managed to break both tackles, and with help from wicked blocking, started moving the ball back up field. Unfortunately for the Bunnies, at their own 20 yard line, Mark "Major" Minor and "Killer" Rowan came in at the same blocker. Doing the only sensible thing faced with that confrontation, the blocker got out of the way. Rowan went low and Minor went high, and the Bunny went crashing to the turf under two massive tackles. The referee peeled both Barbarians off the flattened rabbit and helped Keighley off the field. Rowan received a warning for excessive taunting and cackling with glee, but no penalty was assessed. The touch football

