

UNBLJ FORUM:

THE DANISH CARTOON CONTROVERSY

EDITORS' PREFACE

Traditionally, the *University of New Brunswick Law Journal* includes a Forum section featuring essays and commentaries presenting diverse perspectives on a specific topic of current legal interest. Initially, this volume's Forum was slated to examine the evolution of alternate forms of (and forums for) justice in Canada.

However, following the violent uproar surrounding the publication of "the Danish Cartoons" by *Jyllands-Posten* in the fall of 2005, our editors decided that the legal issues stemming from this controversy represented a more topical choice for analysis this year. By February 2006, heated reaction to the dozen editorial cartoons depicting the Muslim Prophet Muhammad was spreading across the globe, and debate over the merits of publishing the inflammatory images broke out in Canada. *The Cadre*, the student newspaper at the nearby University of Prince Edward Island, was among the first Canadian publications to reprint the cartoons, and faced almost immediate censure and censorship from university officials and the student government. Across the country, the *Western Standard's* decision to publish the images led to the magazine being pulled from shelves and a complaint being lodged with the Alberta Human Rights Commission.

In soliciting submissions, our ultimate goal was a fair and balanced Forum which gathered together a wide variety of opinion from across academia and the public and private spheres. The published selections deal with multiple aspects of the cartoon controversy, from international law to realpolitik to the fundamental freedoms of expression and religion. We hope that this Forum will be a valuable contribution to the ongoing dialogue on the tenuous balance between the protection and promotion of civil liberties and respect for religious beliefs in an increasingly tense and fractious world.

Jeremy DeBow
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