Blood and Thunder

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Rm. 35, Student Union Building
DEADLINE: 5 PM, Tuesday
MAXIMUM WORDS: 300

How It Really Is

Lest silence be mistaken as acceptance, I must say that reading The Brunswickan on Friday mornings has become about as much fun as a sexual assault. In fact, given the choice between the two, I think I might choose the latter - at least I would know that, at some point, the brutality would stop.

On numerous occasions in the past, we have been treated to John Valk's (Campus Ministry) manifestos on reproductive freedom for women. In last Friday's Brunswickan, we were treated to Tom Hanley's views on women and feminism. I guess it was only a matter of time before Prof. Matin Yaqzan entered into the fray. His interpretation of what really happened December 06, 1989 as fourteen young women engineering students were gunned down in their classroom can be read in The Daily Gleaner (Letters to the Editor, January 19, 1990).

I do declare that I don't know where we would be as women without such learned, experienced men as Mr Valk, Mr Hanley, and Prof Yaqzan to speak for us and tell us and the rest of the world how it REALLY is. Thanks very much gentlemen. For people who neither menstruate, conceive, or bear primary responsibility for the care of children with or without financial aid or the assistance of a partner, who earn more and perform less of the planet's UNPAID work, who may safely walk the streets at night, who are not abused in their own homes or workplaces, more clustered into low-paying dead end jobs, you certainly are the perceptive lot. Sensitive, too.

For those who do not know, the women on this campus have long awaited a page of our own in The Brunswickan, the student paper that we, as 46.3% of the student enrollment, help to pay for. We are given not a page, but a column - and not a week passes before we are treated to a full page rebuttal by a 22-year old male student who so graciously offers to "co-author/co-edit" our column. Thank you, Mr Hanley, but I think we can manage. It is only my opinion, of course, but unlike Mr Valk and Prof. Yaqzan who seem singlehandedly to have invented the art or rhetoric and oratory, you are not ready to do either. The Brunswickan carries enough example of exceerable writing - why add to the mess? Say what you will about Ms Freemont, but at least she is literate.

It may interest you to know that the Department of Extension and Summer Session offers free individual tutoring to students wishing to improve their writing skills. Also, if you truly would like "to know more," about topics raised in "The Women's Room," why not avail yourself of that very opportunity? Women's Studies 3003, for example, would offer you an excellent introductions to women's issues from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. The course is open to all students in any year or faculty. Faculty may obtain dispensation to audit. As one of the first three students to graduate with a Minor in Women's Studies, I recommend it to you, Mr Valk, Prof. Yaqzan, and any other student who finds him or herself curious.

Karen-Jean Braun
Co-ordinator, Student Women's Committee, UNB

Consistently Incorrect

It was a pleasant surprise to read an article in last week's Brunswickan about my home country, Scotland. It sounds as if UNB's debating team spent an enjoyable time there over the Christmas Holidays. I have fond memories of my years spent studying at Glasgow University: concerts by Runrig (Scotland's finest rock group) in the GU Union; my graduation ceremony in the magnificent Bute Hall, . . . but I digress.

What really bothered me was, and is, the seemingly unending ignorance of most North Americans concerning Great Britain. The most glaring mistake in this article was the "spelling" of the home city. "Edinborough" is no more the spelling of Scotland's capital that "Frederickton" (sic) is that of New Brunswick's capital city! Please get it right - it's Edinburgh. There's even an Edinburgh Street in this city, for anyone who hasn't noticed. Incidentally, it's pronounced "Edin-burra) not "Edin-burg" (with which I can sympathize), nor "Edin-burrow) (with which I can't!).

Secondly, the article states: "Their opponents were . . . University College, Wales (from England) . . ." Wrong again - try "University College, Wales (from Wales)!" Most North Americans consistently, but quite incorrectly, refer to the United Kingdom as "England": whatever happened to Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland? This is as absurd as referring to Canada as "Ontario" or "Quebec"! And for anyone who's really interested, Eire, from where groups like U2 originate, is actually a separate country and not part of the UK.

Finally, I can't help noticing that there is no department of geography at UNB. I wonder if these matters are related . . .?

Peter Duguid

Not Ineffective

It is always disturbing when many are condemned for the crimes of the few. The letter of "shop steward," for this reason, is disturbing. The incident involving Professor Barry Davies should not be allowed to cast a shadow over many of the other members of the Department of English. The letter which you printed in your last issue mentions the "complete ineffectiveness of the departmental chairman." The Chairman of the Department of English is Dr Roger Ploude. I was Dr Ploude's student; I also work under him. Certainly, there is no more industrious a professor at UNB than Dr Ploude; neither is there any better chairman in this University. Dr Roger Ploude is diligent, hard-working, just, caring and encouraging - he gives his all as a teacher and as an administrator. The last word that I will use to describe this gentleman is "ineffective." At any rate, the initial coverage of this story by the Brunswickan would allow no such conclusion.

UNB's Department of English is blessed with some of the finest people I have known: Professor Emeritus David Galloway, Dr Anthony Boxill, Dr Ron Rowan, Dr Allan Donaldson, Dr William Bauer, Dr Robert Gibbs - and Dr Roger Ploude.

No doubt, the students of English 2803 have a legitimate complaint. Hopefully, action will be taken; but that action should not include condemning the finest in our university.

I thank you for printing this letter.

Daizal R Samad

Role Models

In reference to a letter in last week's "Blood and Thunder" column, we would like to comment on a letter from Terry Richard.

Being in the Education faculty, we pride ourselves on being what society considers "normal". A teacher, as most of us in this faculty plan to be, is a role model that students look up to.

In no way will a homosexual ever be a role model that most people would look up to. In addition to this, we would deeply resent our children someday being taught by a homosexual. We resent Terry Richard's false claim to being an Education student when in fact, he is not (according to the UNB Student Directory). The homosexual movement is not very popular, nor is it acceptable to many people.

We feel it was unnecessary for Richard to sign his letter as being an Education student. We fear that by doing so, he will give the rest of the faculty a bad reputation. Personally, we strongly oppose homosexuality.

Stuart Chase (BEd 4th year)
J C Cormier (BEd 4th year)

Grossly Obscene

Bravo Pamela Fulton!

Your sentiments are mine. D'Avray Hall is the scene of an antiquated and grossly obscene display of animal parts owing to a twisted art form. There is no rightful place on campus for this ugliness, let alone a building which is often visited by children, regardless of the alleged exchange agreement of money for display space that was drafted some years ago. It is time that the administration mothball this stomach-turning display. It is more a testament to cruelty than it is to beauty.

Terry Wishart

A Simple Question

Pertaining to Ms Alexandra Fremont's article on feminism (Jan 19, 90), I would like to pose one simple question in regards to equality. Who determines equality "at work, at church, at school, at home, and in the bedroom!"?

Sean Leland

Simon Says

The Brunswickan, 12 January 1990, front paged a most disquieting article on Barry Davies, the absentee professor, and Dean of Arts Peter Kent. The article informed readers conclusively that Davies, during the last two years at least, had not been honouring his classroom responsibilities. Apparently he has better things to do than attend his own lectures and even failed to show up to administer his class' final English exam in December.

A couple of years ago I had reason to complain to UNB about the public utterances on AIDS made by an AIDS apostle in her official capacity as Asst. Professor of Nursing UNB. I ended up with the Vice-President (Academic) who informed me, somewhat smugly, that UNB never interferes with its teaching staff. That the administration has full confidence in the integrity and expertise of its professorial performers. When I referred to this arrangement, dubiously, in a public letter some months later, Pres. Downey, in a return letter, dismissed my observations as beneath contempt.

Perhaps you will permit me now to return that contempt safely to its original despatcher.

Several points in your article warrant consideration.

UNB's refusal to supervise professors is denial of responsibility on the part of the president. The university was warned - "last year an unofficial complaint was made that he had missed fifty percent of the classes for a course" - but apparently took no action.

"Then again, if Prof. Davies had shown up for the exam there would have been no complaint." How widespread is this crippling professorial irresponsibility? If the Downey administration has no idea of how the professors conduct themselves or of what they are or are not teaching, and if students will only complain if absolutely driven to complain, what is the general educational situation at UNB?

At all Canadian universities? Are our universities disgorging hordes of potential leaders who are, at best, only semi-educated? From the plummetting fortunes of this country over the last 20 years, there would seem to be justification for that question.

Davies' class will all pass Davies' final exam. No student below C or above A. This is a negotiated settlement which has nothing to do with reflecting the personal accomplishment of each student. What has this to do with education? With learning? It's right out of the union bible which grimly discourages ambition and effort in favour of toe-the-line egalitarianism. How common is this type of compromise at UNB? Is this the calibre of higher education for which the Downeys of this country are continually screeching for more money? More money from the taxpayers? Why no just give out the degrees and forget about the education? Save money, lower the deficit, scrap the GST.

There's a connection between this Downey/Kent/Davies mess and Jason Debly's letter of harangue (Malcolm Ross) against Matin Yaqzan on page 29 of the same issue. Debly, like so many others who espouse strong views, seems to wrap his entire argument in a buzzword - last resource of those without resources.

He states dramatically that Malcolm Ross is an anti-Semite. So what? Is that a capital crime? Debly appears to be anti-Ross. And anti-Yaqzan. Again, so what? How many people who rely on buzzwords have ever given any thought to what they really understand of the term anti-Semite? Or anti-anyone? Does it signify something

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