

EDITORIAL

A Retraction and apology

Last week's issue has been criticized for a large number of things and while we regard some of the criticism as unwarranted we agree that we have failed in at least one respect. The personal that appeared in last week's issue that objectifies women as sex toys to be bought and sold and presents a disturbingly negative image of women should never have been published. We failed to pull it because of an oversight on our part. When it was brought to my attention on Friday morning, I was appalled and ashamed. On Tuesday evening the editorial board met and decided that we would not publish material that denegrates women in that manner. We apologise for the insult it caused to our readers and we will attempt to maintain a policy of integrity in our editorial practices.

Notes on the Union

It has come to my attention that last week's editorial caused a certain amount of consternation among a number of people attached to the Student Union. It would be untrue to say that the *Brunswickan* did not anticipate such a reaction, however it is important to state clearly that the *Brunswickan* is very committed to ensuring that the students of UNB are given a clear chance to consider the issues at stake with the Social Club and the Student Union. To do this we will attempt to allow the Student Union to make a case for itself. The Editorial, written by Bill Traer may have appeared lopsided but it represented the culmination of several heated discussions in the *Brunswickan* offices over the past few weeks. I must say, however, that I am still to hear a fully articulated position on the issue from the Student Union. I understand that politically it may be wiser for them to keep their cards close to the chests, but the longer the silence continues, the more opportunity the imagination will have to come to conclusions about who is right and who is wrong. We understand that the Union will be publishing a series of statements on the issue in the next few editions of the paper. We hope that these releases will give us a clearer perspective on how the Union is functioning on behalf of students. It remains my conviction that the Student Union is far more equipped and interested in seeing to the interests of students, therefore I will have to continue to assume that this move is in our interest. Naturally, my position will not remain this way forever. Time is running out.

In the hub of putting the paper out last week, an old Brunsie happened to look at one of the flats with a story about the march organized by the Union last week. She expressed dismay at the negativity shown in the story. Our News Editor wasn't in agreement with that summation and argued that the story reflected the truth of the event. It was a low turn out and the Student Union President said he was pleased with the turn out. However, the old Brunsie's position was a little more complex. For her, the act of organizing a march of this nature was commendable. She did not think that it was the Student Union's fault that the turn out was so paltry. She argued that stories that painted a negative picture of such a noble and positive effort only heightened student apathy.

Surely, she has a point there, but our News Editor was convinced that the President's statement about the turn out was a trite summation of a very serious problem. The poor publicity effort in promoting this march may have played an important part in shaping the view of the news writer. However, when all is said and done, the story was an accurate one and the choice to criticize the Union was a careful albeit very difficult one. The dilemma that such a story represents is typical of those faced by any media organization which is why newspapers will never succeed in pleasing everybody. For the record, though, the *Brunswickan* would like to state that the attempt to organize such a march was commendable, but it is likely that with greater planning a march of this nature could be far more successful.

It is not clear how many people know this, but the Student Union has been having a very successful year of it when it comes to campus entertainment. The latest concert which featured the Northern Pikes was, according to all reports, a mammoth success. The show was sold out in virtually forty-five minutes during pre-show sales, and I watched many people pleading and begging their friends to "off-load" a ticket or two that they had. It has been a while since I have seen a campus show create that kind of hype. And yet, the show itself lived up to all expectations. Bands that are touring universities are generally very unpredictable. At some venues they may perform with verve and power while at others they give lack-lustre showings which disappoint audiences. The Pikes delivered. People are still talking about the high energy they showed and the sheer devotion to entertaining that the show displayed. The Student Union has scored sweetly on this one and we hope that they will continue to do so.

The Student Union Building was built and designed for the needs of students. This is what I managed to glean from reading *Brunswickans* of the late sixties and early seventies when the building was an issue. Today, the building is too small for the student population and there was talk last year about an expansion plan. The Student Union has not spoken much about that this year and one wonders whether there is still a plan afoot to see to the expansion of the building. If the building is to be expanded I have a few requests:

(a) There should be a designated smokers room. (Frankly, I think there can be one now even without the expansion and I don't mean taking *Brunswickan* space either.) But with the expansion, the room should at least be furnished with a water cooler, some vending machines and a fire extinguisher. Chairs - comfortable ones - and ash trays would be a bonus as well.

(b) A small studio theatre seating about two hundred, and equipped with lights and an excellent PA system should be built. This theatre would host alternative bands, classical acts, student productions etc. It should be set up as an incorporated enterprise that is subsidized by the Student Union.

(c) A room, as far away from the t.v. room as possible, for the enbicon club members. I am sorry, but while I think as a student organization they deserve equal access to the building, I feel strongly that they should be a little more considerate when they get involved in their games. It is impossible to watch television in the Blue Room while a game is going on, without turning up the volume full blast, and now, the speaker for the television is blown. Coincidence? Why, the only programme one can watch with relative serenity is Star Trek, The Next Generation. These gamers just happen to be trekkies, you see? Now this is not an appeal to have the gamers removed, merely a request that they be more considerate. Perhaps we could let them use the small studio theatre when the building expands.

by Kwame Dawes

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by Luis C