

BLOOD AND THUNDER

Letters to the editor reflect the views of our readers and not necessarily those of the Brunswickan. Letters may be sent to Rm. 35 in the Student Union Building. Deadline: 1 pm on Tuesday. Usual maximum length: 300 words. Please include name, student number and phone number

Questions CFS fee increase

Dear Editor,

I recently became aware of an issue which I feel students have not been adequately informed. I believe that this is an issue which many students will take seriously; therefore I will attempt to explain it.

Recently our student council decided, on our behalf, that the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) was entitled to a fifty percent increase in the fees they charge UNB students. This amounts to a total increase of approximately thirteen thousand dollars which the student body will have to bear at a time when student resources are continuously being diminished.

You may wonder why I raised this issue when it only amounts to a two dollar increase per student. Well, you see, CFS is an organization whose prime purpose is to lobby government on behalf of students. They also have close ties to the New Democratic Party in terms of their policies concerning education and other issues which affect students; this is where I have a great deal of concern. For those of you who do not know, the New Democratic Party in Ontario has decided to cut student bursaries.

To me, this connection between the CFS and a Political Party, which obviously has little concern for students, is disturbing. But what is more disturbing is how our student council has decided, without our approval, to increase its payments to the CFS. I believe that students should be given full information as to the nature and reason for this increase; I, for one, question its appropriateness.

Brad A. Mullin

Not a dictatorship

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to Derrick MacLeod's letter entitled "a dictatorship" in last week's *Brunswickan*.

As a fellow residence community member, I am glad to hear that you have enjoyed and benefitted from your stay in residence. However, you may want to get involved a little more within the residence community before you "shoot down" anyone in the residence administration, especially Mary Lou Stirling. I have had the opportunity over the years to work closely with the residence administration and I have to say that they do the best they can to make life here a lot easier for us. For you to assume that the administration "doesn't care" obviously shows how naive you are about what goes on within the residence community. Take for example the recent fire at Lady Dunn Hall. If they (the residence administration) didn't care, approximately 90 girls would be out in the cold with nowhere to go.

Thanks to Dean Stirling and the administration, we, the Ladies of the Dunn, were well accommodated and taken care of after the fact.

As for your accusing the residence administration of being a dictatorship, someone has to make the rules and others have to abide by them. The residence administration has to deal with over 1500 students every year. With that many students, do you really think they have time to deal with every single problem and complaint? Did you actually go to the residence office and speak to Dean Stirling herself, or do you even know where the residence office is? Did you write to her more than once, or did you expect her to come running to you the day she got your letter? How do you know she even received it?

You've obviously never been in a leadership position, and over two years probably haven't had a chance to actually see how things work within our residence community. It's nice to be concerned about your community, but it would be even nicer if you could get informed before you accuse anyone of anything. If you're so "concerned", why not get involved and find things out for yourself?

I would have agreed with you a few years ago, when students felt somewhat overpowered by the administration, and when the chant "We pay to stay, Give us a say" was popular, but now I must ask you this "Don't you have anything better to worry about?"

France Morin
Former President of Lady Dunn Hall

British beer gripes

Dear Editor,

I am a British expatriate who has been living here in Canada for over 4 years while studying as a grad. student in the biology department. Coming from the only country in the world that makes real beer (i.e. bitter and stout) and where the pub is a national institution and the treasured national heritage of every true "Brit", I think it's high time I aired some of my pet grievances regarding Canadian pubs/clubs and try to educate/enlighten those of you who have never experienced a good pint of bitter.

First of all, what is the difference between lager, bitter and stout? If you have never drank anything other than North American beer (I pity you), what you have been drinking is lager — generally amber in colour and without much flavour. Bitter and stout are both native to Britain and Ireland. Bitter is brown in colour with a full body and rich flavour, while stout, traditionally an Irish beer, is black in colour with a strong, malty flavour and creamy head if its draft. Stout (e.g. "Murphy's" or "Guinness") is definitely an acquired taste, you either love it or you hate it; be patient though, with a bit of perseverance you might learn to love it as I do. Contrary to North America, the best

beer in England is draft beer; it is not the watered-down excuse for beer that you get over here. The only place in Fredericton that serves draft stout is the Luna Rogue which sells "Murphy's". Once in a while I treat myself to a pint and spend most of the night nursing it (at \$5.30 a pint it's a luxury I indulge in only occasionally).

About 2 years ago, being fed up with paying an arm and a leg for mediocre Canadian beer, I decided to take matters into my own hands and venture into the home-brew business. I couldn't believe how easy it was to make a good batch of bitter or stout, and what's more it costs less than a quarter a bottle (an important saving for a poverty-stricken grad. student such as me). I'd recommend it to anybody and have been making home-brew ever since.

Let me shatter a popular misconception that I am tired of putting up with: English beer is NOT warm!! I grant you, it is not ice-cold as North American "beer" is, but instead is cool — not warm, not cold, but cool. Did you ever wonder why Canadian beer has to be served ice-cold before you can bear to drink it? It's because it tastes so bad when it's warm that you need it ice-cold to numb your taste buds to make it bearable to pour down your throat.

At last the Hilltop has introduced pint-size mugs. I never could understand why you were forced to buy 2 half-pints at a time instead of a whole pint.

Something I found very hard to get used to when I first arrived here was the custom (it's really a rule if you want to get served again) of leaving a tip when you go up to the bar to buy a beer. Why, after having to wait in line at the bar to get served, I should have to tip a barman for uncapping a bottle and putting it down on the counter is beyond me.

What I miss is the English beer garden, sitting on the bank of the river Thames with a pint in my hand on a long summer evening watching the boats go by — a simple pleasure. The Saint John river in Fredericton would be perfect for development — a few pubs along the bank with a beer garden on the green. What am I thinking?; such blatant advertising of alcohol outdoors for all to see would never be allowed in this God-fearing town.

Why is North America so strict about drinking? Sometimes I think I'm living in the prohibition era in the 1920's. In continental Europe, especially the Mediterranean, there are hardly any restrictions to drinking — does that mean that the place is filled with alcoholics and drunken drivers? Of course not. Alcoholism is a problem in Europe but it's no worse than it is over here. Because alcohol is a socially acceptable beverage, freely available, the vast majority of Europeans drink responsibly and in sensible amounts. I am sure that in North America, were it not for the restricted access and taboo of alcohol, teenagers and University Frosh wouldn't feel the need to rebel and get sloshed out of their minds. I think it abhorrent that you can be sent to war to fight and

die for your country at 18 and be considered mature enough to vote at the age of 18, but are not allowed to buy a beer until you are 19 or in the case of the States, 21.

Don't get wrong. I acknowledge the very real problem of alcohol abuse and its effect on families and the death toll on the roads, but I think that education is the way forward, not restriction.

A bemused beer lover,
Francis Mayle

Real men do drink coolers

Dear Editor,

In response to the disturbing letter written by Ms. Patti Post-Smyth, I would like to express my opinion (as well as other people's opinions) of the comments written in last Friday's "Wimmin's Room"; being a former employee as well as a member of the Social Club.

Upon entering the club, there is an average sized man who says "hello" and usually knows I am a member. He stamps my hand so I don't have to pay, or find my membership card, twice and asks me to check my coat. I gladly give my fifty cents plus a tip to the person working the coat check because they are always smiling and relieve me of having to keep an eye on my coat. If I need to take anything inside, I carry a purse (small enough for my belongings and recognizable as a purse). If you, Mrs. Post-Smyth, would prefer not to carry a purse, there are such things as pocket sized tampons you know.

Usually when I go out in public my appearance is neat. If you are so worried about your appearance, maybe you shouldn't go out. The guys are probably staring at your spaghetti stain, not your chest.

When I reach the bar I order my usual drink (a beer). I try to leave a generous tip since I know how difficult it can be to remember what all of the regulars drink. I enjoyed being a bar tender at the Social Club and got along very well with all of the employees. Of course, I don't have a "hate-on" for all men so my views may differ from those of some people.

Being a business student my remark on the ethics project being done in the corner would have to be one of disagreement. Not all business people are unethical. Actually only a few are, so I think we are being stereotyped. Besides, I generally have my work done before I go out for a drink (so nobody would no (sic) what my projects are about anyway).

Now I shall talk about the pool room. Since I am a so-called "shark" who plays on table one, I guess I am sexually frustrated. Of course, you don't know me, Ms. Post-Smyth, so I would like to know how you might find out about my sex life (or maybe you were stereotyping again). There may be a few people with large egos, but you get that with every sport. Yet I was playing

quite well on Friday and I started to get an erection while playing (until I remembered that I'm female). Not all females simply observe the game. The number of females who play has substantially increased since I've been playing pool. I would also like to know how it is possible that my testosterone level skyrockets while I'm playing this macho game of pool.

I must be a little more patient that some people because I don't mind waiting my turn to play. Then again, a person wouldn't have to wait if they had gone to the library like they said they were going to.

I would also like to point out the fact that the majority of students drink beer and hard liquor, that is why they are on special (I guess majority rules). I would also like to say that I think Mr. Harris is doing a great job with managing the club.

Being an adult who grew up the same time that feminists were rising (to a large degree), I have a few general statements about the "critique" of the Social Club by Ms. Patti Post-Smyth. First, I believe in equality. Second, I don't believe in stereotyping. Third, (a bit off topic) "Ladies" don't walk around with tampons sticking out of their pocket for everyone to see. And finally, "radical feminists" are what piss me off.

In closing I would like to say that this letter is my opinion, but I am generally speaking for my friends as well (the pissed off pool sharks of both sexes) that frequent the Social Club.

Thank you for reading my comments,
Melissa Allen

Violence against women unacceptable

Dear editor,

To Mr. Scott:

Thank you so much for enlightening me to your version of "the truth" of Dr. Hussien's trial for assaulting his wife. However, your "truth" seems to be rather selective. I have a few facts from the trial that would paint a very different "truth" than your white-washed version.

And I like your idea of putting this "slap that left no bruise" in context. Let's put "this slap that left no bruise," in the context of violence against women.

Wife beating was so common in England in the 16th century that civic regulations forbade it after 9 p.m. because of noise. Common law of Beauvais, allowed a man to beat his wife "when she refuses to do anything." A law of Bergerac permitted a husband to draw blood as long as he did so with "bono zelo."

Customary law in Bordeaux went so far as to exonerate a husband who killed his wife in a fit of rage if he confessed under oath that he was repentant. In English law it was legal to beat your wife unconscious but not to the point where "the body farted - a sign she was in

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