

Blood and Thunder

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rm. 35, Student Union Building, UNB Campus
DEADLINE: 5 p.m. Tuesday

November 23, 1984

THE BRUNSWICKAN-7

Editor's Note: The Brunswickan strives to be a forum for issues concerning students and the world we live in. The Bruns will print letters provided they are typed or printed and double spaced on one side of the paper. Letters of excessive length may be cut.

We require all letters to be signed including the student number. However, we will withhold the name upon request.

As a matter of policy, we will not print any letter that is considered sexist, racist or homophobic.

Note from editor

For a university of our size, the number of people who work on the Brunswickan is but a speck. We still try our best to bring you, the students, all the news that you may be concerned about. Sometimes we do it, sometimes we don't. Instead of complaining about the state of your newspaper, stop and think. The Brunswickan, unlike the weather, is something that can be talked about and changed. We need your input and your help. There's 7000 students at UNB and less than 40 work on the Brunswickan. We do our best, but we can't do it all. Think about it.

Lack of coverage

Dear Editor:

What does it take to get coverage by the Bruns? Does one have to be political? Or do we just have to have the name Bosnitch? This year there seems to have been coverage of epic proportions about Bosnitch or the SUB. UNB has more to offer for your journalistic endeavours than merely the aforementioned items. A case in question was your unparalleled coverage of this

year's Red 'N Black. I mean there was NONE!!!

Many individuals put valuable time and effort in the production, and the Bruns did not even recognize their efforts by writing a simple review. It is too bad that nobody showed up at the Playhouse to review Red 'N Black, for they missed a really good show.

What we should do for next year's Red 'N Black is to have John Bosnitch in the kickline, thereby ensuring the Red 'N Black gets the coverage it deserves.

Sincerely yours,

A disappointed cast member of
Red and Black 1984

Yaqzan responds

Dear Editor:

I was a little surprised to read your note in the Brunswickan of November 16, 1984, that you must discontinue the publication of my "Open Letter to the Jewish People." I also felt sorry that you were intimidated to do so.

It is not clear from your note as to who questioned your responsibility in publishing the letter, and threatened legal action, and whether the "illegal" material has already appeared in the first installment, or someone foresaw it coming in the future? If it has already been published, then I, and surely many of your readers, would like to know exactly which of my comments or views were "illegal" to publish.

I have sent copies of my letter to several Jewish publications and have not received a single complaint. The reason I do not wish any alterations introduced, is that I want to be responsible for what I have to say, or not to have to blame someone else for it. On the other hand, if any factual errors or logical flaws in my reasoning were to be pointed out to me, I would be more than willing to accept amendments, because I would rather be right than wrong.

I think that you owe it to your readers and to me to clarify as to who threatened

you and on what grounds. Assuming that you have read the letter yourself, what are your personal views on the subject, as the editor of the paper? Are the people threatening legal action a part of the university community? We are supposed to be a community of scholars. Is it not possible for anyone to enter into an intellectual discussion and point out any fallacies, if they exist, in my thinking rather than resort to intimidation and brute force? Civil courts were not created for resolving intellectual disputes, and their unrestricted use is what I consider a result of law "worshipping," to which I referred in the part of the letter you have already published.

Many newspapers and magazines are full of opinionated editorials and columns; and even outright lies are passed on in the name of "freedom of the press." What about your freedom as students at a university with the right and obligation to explore conflicting views on any subject? In other words, have you been blackmailed by the threat of legal action? What about my rights of free speech and free expression of ideas?

If you do not publish the rest of my letter, is it not tantamount to having been charged, tried, convicted and sentenced, without ever having a chance to defend myself? Will your average reader not assume that I must have written something terribly bad to be denied publication? Would it therefore be fair for me to threaten you with legal action for humiliating me publicly in the eyes of my students and colleagues by discontinuing the publication of my letter?

Apparently, you are already conscious of what law worshipping entails, as the following sentence expresses so eloquently: "No sooner do I get back from Ottawa than I step into a controversy where the dreaded specter of LEGAL ACTION rears its ugly head." You have expressed fright rather than respect for such use of the law, and I sympathize with you. If you and I can be muzzled by mere threats from those who have the time and money to indulge in legal actions, then all our cherished ideals and slogans about freedom and free speech would

mean little more than the dreams of those in the totalitarian states, where the powerful and mighty, we are told, control everyone's thoughts and actions.

Perhaps your very active SRC President, as well as those among the administration and the faculty, who profess free speech, academic freedom and student welfare, will go into action and help you maintain your freedoms.

Sincerely,
Matin Yaqzan

Money not enough

To the Editor:

On Monday evening, October 29, I happened to catch a news report depicting the current situation in Northern Africa, specifically Ethiopia. The pictures were harsh and brutal. Before the cameras were thousands of refugees, all of them starving to death. Children and grown-ups alike were wailing in pain, some were grotesquely deformed, while others just sat there, flies mauling all over them. Some were dead.

This scene, stumbled upon by a BBC television crew is one of many happening at this very moment. The reason for the magnitude of misery according to the report, is a combination of civil war ravaging the country, and a prolonged drought of four or five years.

People all over Great Britain and the U.S. who saw the initial reports began devoting money by the handful, and a substantial amount has been collected. The United States relief organization doubled their foot allotment value to 35 million dollars. Whoopie Shit! With that kind of money they would have bought one and a half F-18 jet fighters. Or they could have bought a little less than 1/10 of a nuclear-powered submarine. Or almost 2 ICBM's (Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles, the kind that whop the crap out of everybody. The point I'm trying to make is that the money being sent over there right now is significant only in the fact that it gets rid of the short term problem.

The whole problem cannot be solved by sending more money. Everyone's fingers seem to get just a little too sticky for my liking, handling all that cash.

No, the only way we can solve this problem is if we go over and help them ourselves. We need doctors and medical personnel for obvious reasons. We need Engineers and Engineering technicians, agricultural specialists and machine operators. We need everybody. And we need to sell a couple of nuclear subs, a few F-19 jet fighters, and a lot of ICBM's to pay for it all. Secondly to the whole situation, we might eliminate unemployment. Primarily, we would be helping starving and suffering people in the long term.

Starving and suffering. It doesn't sound so bad on paper. But imagine this. Imagine your 3 month old niece or nephew, crying because she's hungry. Isn't that sad. Feed her. Next time, when she starts to cry, feed her the day after tomorrow. That's short-term starvation.

I don't know what the whole solution is to their horrifying problem. But something better get done soon. It is not directly our fault that this situation is occurring but in the grand scheme of things, something is definitely wrong, and only we can change it.

Sincerely,

Name withheld

classifieds continued

Attention Skiers: GIZZ will be in the SUB Cafeteria this afternoon (1:30 - 4:30) to collect deposits for the Sugarloaf Spring Break Ski Trip. Do it soon, there are only 30 empty beds!!

Dear Men of Aitken:

We the ladies of the Dunn, would like to express our appreciation to the Aitken Animals (and the extra from Bridges) for helping us obtain trees for our upcoming Christmas Formal. We could not have done it without you.

Thank you

Luv

The Ladies of Dunn
P.S.: The A.A.'s are invited to party in the Dunn lean-to anytime!!