

Blood and Thunder

Ban Smoking

To Whom it May Concern:

In approaching the issue of cigarette smoking in public buildings, I believe it is important to at first address the phenomenon of cigarette smoking itself. The bizarre "habit" of inhaling tobacco smoke is initially an individualistic decision based on a person's right to exercise their free will within the laws and customs of our society. The decision to smoke defies all logical initiative for supporting and maintaining a state of good health. When a person makes a choice to do anything, which in this case is to submit to a potentially toxic, carcinogenic substance, they should be in fact assuming responsibility for their actions. My point is that individuals who smoke may be assuming responsibility for their own somewhat diminished quality of wellbeing but, they are overlooking the rights of all other persons who choose not to encumber themselves with this foul habit. As I see it there are individuals who smoke cigarettes

and those who choose not to, the latter of which happens to represent a majority but, even if they did not the argument I present would be just as valid.

When an individual claims "smokers' rights", the only rights they are actually entitled to are the initial right of exercising free will and the right to clean air, as any other individual has. They do not have the right by any stretch of the imagination, to openly pollute any indoor public environment with the repugnant smoke and stale afterscent of tobacco; especially if the indoor area does not have proper ventilation. A fireplace serves its purpose through containing heat and exhausting the wood smoke but, if it has no chimney the smoke engulfs the immediate area. This is exactly what happens when people smoke indoors, the smoke lingers around those who do not choose to breathe the unfortunately contaminated air.

The Nackawic Pulp and Paper Mill was forced to install a special scrubbing device on its smoke exhaust system because of its offensive nature. The same principle must be applied to

indoor areas but, until that time or until a similar effective alternative can be found, smoking should be banned. A person may have the right to pollute their own private environment, and in the past may have taken it for granted they had permission to pollute the air space of others but, today a much more enlightened and health conscious public is recinding this assumed right. Smoking cigarettes has been proven to be a high risk activity in many ways and as a result, courtesy and respect for the health and welfare of those who choose not to smoke should be considered to be a natural priority.

In closing I wish to point out that public bars and taverns etc. may be the exception to the rule of smoke free indoor environments but, oddly enough, the notion to cigarette smoking and the somewhat altered state of mind which liquor induces are from the most part equally unnatural elements of the human condition which makes them thoroughly compatible bedfellows.

Sincerely,
Chris Crawford

Bloomer Thanks

On behalf of the UNB Red Bloomers I would like to thank all those who participated in the final Varsity-Mania. Your enthusiasm certainly added to the excitement and the intensity of the game. In our pre-game meeting, coach Mitton commented on the large crowd, "As athletes, there will be special moments, like tonight, that you will always remember." Thank you for your support and for helping to make Friday night one of those memorable occasions for us.

Yours truly, Pauline Lordon
Captain - Red Bloomers

Evil of Racism

Dear Sir:

Allan Fotheringham (Maclean's, Feb. 20th) makes the excellent point that the widespread media attention to Phillippe Rushton's racist views is greatly regrettable; I hope that it will never be repeated. The definitive and in-depth exposure of Rushton's methods and motivation on CBC Radio's "Quirks and Quarks", February 18th, cannot offset the breadth of the initial publicity.

Rushton has been discredited; now he must be fired from his position at the University of Western Ontario. The essential

point is there: promotion of racism is clearly of the same nature as child-pornography; not to be tolerated by a civilized society; and absolutely not to be misclassified under Freedom of Expression.

We will be a better people if we also appreciate, in our hearts, the real human impact of Rushton's racism - the devastating pain and confusion now being felt by black Canadian children. When we understand that this is the real evil of racism, then we will demand that Rushton must not be allowed to use a professorship at a Canadian university to further promote his views.

W.M. Stewart

Jarrett ??

Dear Editor:

I was glad to see mention of our graduating basketball stars on page 23, of last week's Brunswickan.

One thing, however. Could somebody please spell my cousin Bill Jarratt's name properly? Everyone is going to think Bill Jarrett graduated, played his last game last Monday, and has left this university for higher pursuits, not the real Bill Jarratt. I know his family will be pleased to know that it is indeed their Bill who was featured in this article.

Melynda Jarratt not Jarrett

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