

Blood & Thunder

Letters to the Editor must be signed and contain a phone number where the author can be reached. The Brunswickan reserves the right to edit for clarity, grammar and length. Maximum length is 300 words.
Deadline: Monday at 5:00pm

Remembrance Day?

Dear Editor:

In last weeks (sic) Brunswickan I believe that you were short one article. Yes, the articles and options about Mr. Yaqzan were important, but you missed an event that should have been covered. This event was the passing of Remembrance Day, and the passing of the 75th Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice to end World War One. I believe that you should have had some article or even a comment about this important day; how it effects our lives, and how it has effected to our University over the years.

On that day we should remember all the men and women that fought so that we have the rights and freedoms that we have today. Some of these rights which we all take for granted are, that we have a right to educate ourselves here at this institution, and the right to

voice our opinions, similar to what was done by Mr. Yaqzan. (Even if I and others don't agree with him. There, that is my two cents worth). We also were given the freedom to live our lives under a democratic system (even though some my (sic)not agree with this either), which in my opinion is the greatest freedom of all.

So, we all should take a moment of silence and think, just not on Remembrance Day but every once in a while, on what has happened in the past, and how it relates us. It is included for all the above reasons that I feel that you should have included a piece in Remembrance. Lest We Forget.

Trevor Nichol

One Small Reference

To the Editor:

In regards to Colin Longman's article last issue, I have one, small, other reference that I ask him to

ponder. If he has a belief in God and an eternal life hereafter, I ask that he perhaps keep at the back of his mind in his eternal home for the first millisecond to first millennium, one brief reference... 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

Andy McNamara

Yaqzan 12

Dear Editor:

As I write, Mr. Yaqzan has been suspended from teaching and banned from the campus pending a review of the "performance of his professional responsibilities". And, in today's Globe and Mail, Professor Conde Grondin declares his disapproval of the suspension and raises concern that all professors at UNB might now reasonably fear dismissal or suspension if they "make a comment that the president or vice-president doesn't like." (One gets the impression that Professor Grondin feels that Yaqzan's column is tantamount to saying that Professor Armstrong has a bad haircut.)

Freedom of expression should mean that Yaqzan is protected from criminal prosecution for expressing his views, no matter how ill-informed or repugnant. It certainly should not mean, however, that he or his ideas are to be protected from criticism or challenge. One of the reasons I believe we do not need to prosecute the Martin Yaqzans (or the Ernst Zundels and Jim Keegstras) of this world under criminal law is because public debate about their views invariably exposes (or achieves) social consensus that their ideas do not stand up to intellectual scrutiny and therefore ought to be marginalized.

However, while Yaqzan should be able to profess his views without fear of criminal prosecution, he should not be free from criticism or condemnation, or, for that matter, a little name-calling. It comes with the territory.

Similarly, Yaqzan should not be immune from disciplinary action by his employer. He is a professor at a public university attended by males and females, and he wants the whole university community to

know that he believes that men who have non-consensual sex with "promiscuous" women should be subject to neither criminal prosecution nor moral condemnation because they are merely satisfying natural sexual needs which they should not to be expected or required to control. For him to demand immunity from punishment by the University after expressing such views (and signing his article as a representative of the University) is like a cinema usher demanding that he be allowed to express himself by screeching "fire" during crowded movie screening.

Michael Comeau
Alumnus (1991)

Yaqzan 13

To The Editor:

Many of your readers may have heard the recent controversy concerning remarks made in the editorial section of "The Brunswickan" by UNB Fredericton's math professor Martin (sic) Yaqzan. Many may not have read his letter. Many may not care. If you care about any of your basic rights, or about your perceptions on gender, I highly recommend you read it.

Many people have been incensed about his remarks. Many people have been questioning his role as a professor, in light of his remarks. Before you pass judgement yourself, I ask that you consider these points.

There are two broad beliefs that we have accepted that have made the Canada that we know into one of the most hospitable countries in the world. One is the belief in freedom of expression, the other is tolerance of other's (sic) culture and background. If you do not appreciate the fact that many other countries lack these qualities - travel around. I love Canada and even in these rough times I would defend these rights to my death.

I find some of the material in Martin (sic) Yaqzan's letter antiquated and possibly irrelevant in our society today. However, Martin (sic) may have come from a different background and time where many of his perceptions about gen-

der relations may have been valid. He still has a right to express his views.

You may say "But, he is a professor!". So what? He is also a human being and a citizen of our country. You may exclaim "But he should be not saying these controversial things!". Why not? Isn't it the job of our educators to stimulate us into thinking? You don't have to agree with everything someone says. You should always have the ability to think on your own.

I challenge you to read his remarks, think about what you believe in and not jump to hysterics everytime someone doesn't agree with you. I challenge you to defend his right to speak his mind - the same right you will be defending for yourself.

Sincerely,
Dave Rolston

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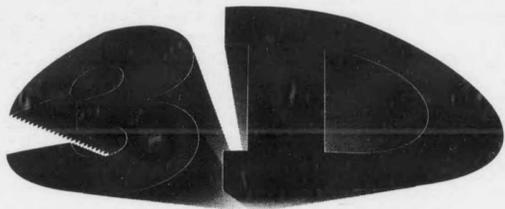
To the Editor:

Response to Yaqzan's "Opinion" I will not attempt in this letter to communicate with Dr. Yaqzan in any way, except to say this: Dr. Yaqzan, your value system and mine are so far removed that we can never hope to understand each other. I hope you will not reply to my letter, because I am not interested in what you have to say to me. However, as I am sure your goal is to stir up responses to your provocative viewpoints, I will respond.

My response is to the readers of Dr. Yaqzan's letter. Allow me to share the experience I had reading the Opinion. I began by having a good laugh with some of my friends ("boys" and "girls") about this man's views of how the definition of rape has changed, how "promiscuous girls" should rather ask for monetary compensation after being raped and how he addresses his audience in general as children. I began considering a reply to such statements, but they came from a set of moral standards so completely foreign to me that I couldn't begin to develop a context on which to base my response. I then said to myself, "No real problem; Yaqzan is part of a very small class

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