

Blood and Thunder

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Letter to Prime Minister

This is a copy of a letter sent to Prime Minister Mulroney regarding the withdrawal of funding from the Katimavik program. To the detriment of every Canadian this valuable program will cease to exist if every Canadian does not help in changing this decision.

Dear Prime Minister,

I would like to formally express my disappointment at the government's recent cancellation of Katimavik, Canada's only national youth volunteer service program.

This decision will be an enormous disappointment to the 20,000 participants and former participants, as well as the 1,283 communities and 3,792 sponsors who have benefitted from the program.

After nearly 10 years of operation, Katimavik has won national and international acclaim as an effective way of dealing with the problems and concerns of our young people in these difficult times. It has built up an impressive network of supporters across the country, including former participants and their families, sponsors, municipal and provincial officials, and citizens from all walks of life.

We Canadians have a moral obligation, as does the government, to offer alternatives and hope to those young people drifting through their formative years. Katimavik offers the only opportunity to create more responsible citizens through service to Canadian communities and a greater understanding of Canada. It also offers youth a chance to mature, to gain self-respect and to learn new skills, and, because of its national and bilingual nature, to learn tolerance.

Equally important, the Katimavik program is cost effective. An independent study has estimated that in the past four years alone, Katimavik youth have performed useful community work valued at \$33 million, providing an economic output of \$2.43 for every \$1 invested in the program. More important, many young lives have been changed or improved or made more meaningful because of the program.

In a time when over 540,000 youth between the ages of 15 and 24 are unemployed, and options for youth are declining, it is hard to believe that a program such as this could be cancelled.

I am asking that you reconsider the decision to end funding for Katimavik.

Yours truly,
Jeff Murray

Tired of South Africa issue

Dear Editor,

I am sick to death of reading and hearing about apartheid in South Africa. I'm tired of wondering who these fake liberals are, and where they come from. If they really want to change the world (which many profess to do), why can't they start doing so in their own backyard.

I was appalled that your interesting and informative article concerning apartheid in Canada did not receive, to the best of my knowledge, one single letter of comment. Where are all these liberals when they can be of some real use? Instead of boycotting Paarl Brandy, or telling others to disinvest their stocks, why can't they be writing letters and lobbying their support for aboriginal rights or native land claims? There is injustice in this country too,

only here it takes a bit of effort to recognize it because of the cosmetics applied by the federal government.

I'm not saying to forget about South Africa. I'm just saying that the energies put into the anti-apartheid movement could be channelled a little closer to home. Perhaps, the Haida Indians, the Indians of Woolaston Lake or the Bald Mountain Indians could use our support. Perhaps, the 1969 White Paper, the Nelson Report, and the Penner Report deserve our wrath. In my opinion, the only difference between Canada and South Africa is that here the European immigrants form a majority. Therefore, our version of apartheid doesn't have to be as ugly as the South African one.

James Dickinsor

GSA and the Referendum

Dear Editor,

Your cover story of 7 March announced he holding of a referendum on 26 March which will include a question dealing with the status of Graduate Students within the Student Union, although recently several members of the Graduate Students Association executive have held talks with Mr. Bosnitch concerning our future plans, there was no decision taken by us asking for such a referendum question nor do we agree with its wording and purpose.

The proposed question states: That the Student Union grant autonomy to the Graduate Students Association (GSA) with the condition that all graduate students shall continue to be full members of the UNB Student Union and shall pay an annual UNB Student Union fee of ten dollars per capita.

The wording of this question is absurd since the GSA can become autonomous without the consent of the undergraduates. The plans of the GSA are, and have been for the last 18 months, independence from the undergraduate student union.

Most graduates have indicated their willingness to see our independence from the undergraduate student government, which is perceived to be ineffectual and not representing our own, very special interests. Many graduate students have come from other universities where they have seen the benefits of separate graduate student unions.

We hope that our separation from the Student Union when it takes place will be amicable. In order for it to be so we must see no repetition of the arbitrary decision that led to the inclusion of this question in the referendum. We also insist that the question be removed from the ballots and that in future no action be taken without the approval of the GSA executive.

Yours sincerely,
David Zimmerman

GSA referenda shortcomings

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Graduate Student Association executives as well as the understanding of the respective Student Union executives the wording of the issue of 'separation' or autonomy in the referendum should be worded as follows:

That the Student Union endorse the establishment of an autonomous Graduate Student Association (GSA) to represent its members in graduate student matters, and that graduate students shall continue to be full members of the UNB Student Union and the GSA shall pay an annual fee of

ten dollars per capita to the Student Union.

The wording which was passed by the SRC without the consent of the president of the GSA failed to acknowledge the following two points:

1. The graduate students can become incorporated as an autonomous body any time they want without the consent of the Student Union.
2. The graduate students will continue to support the worthwhile organizations and services with an annual fee of 10 dollars per student. Even though we are under no obligation to pay this fee, the GSA executive has acknowledged that financing these activities will be mutually beneficial to the graduates as well as undergraduates.

The inconsistency of the referendum wording has been recognized and alterations are in progress. The Student Union has been cooperating with the GSA executive and a mutual agreement seems to be underway.

Sincerely yours,
Achilles Karagiozis
President, GSA

Board of Governors dispute

Dear Editor,

Unless we are wrong, the responsibility of a representative is toward the interest of the group s/he represents. The elected or appointed representative of an interest group is a spokesperson whose job is to give voice, as forcefully and persistently as possible, to the views and decisions of the group, even when they differ significantly from hers/his.

We have had cause, recently, to wonder at the peculiarities of this arrangement. Or, to be more accurate, at the bizarre spectacle of elected delegates speaking and urging against the collective and legitimate will of their electors. We must cease being obscure and allusive. We are talking about the activities of our delegation to the University of New Brunswick Board of Governors; we are alarmed at their roles on the issue of divestment.

In two separate but related motions, the SRC has decided to divest from the Bank of Montreal and has urged this university to do the same with respect to the same institution and others like it that invest in apartheid South Africa. Furthermore, the elected executive of the students' union has gone to the trouble of backing up these decisions by bringing in representatives of the legitimate aspirations of the majority of South Africans to speak on these issues. Last Friday, for instance, they flew in Yusuf Saloojee, the African National Congress Representative in Canada to speak to members of this community. All of these actions, it is hoped, would encourage members of the community to emulate the SRC by withdrawing their accounts from the Bank of Montreal. They also indicate the determination of students of this university not only to dissociate themselves and their institution from an inhuman regime, but more importantly to decisively PROMOTE the democratic aspirations of the people of South Africa.

Strangely enough, our representatives on the Board of Governors seem to be at odds with us on this issue. Their publications in *The Brunswickan*, their verbal pronouncements, thunderous silences and covert objectivism attest to an active opposition to our views and decisions. We are not sure if this is a display of that idolatry called "freedom of speech". We are alarmed, however, that while our representatives are defying our collective will and taking sips from the blood-filled glasses of South African wine, thousands of people are paying for it and our inaction with their lives.

We understand that impasses such as these can be resolved. The most

honourable resolution is for these "representatives" to resign their positions in order to uninhibitedly support racism and apartheid. But they may not resign willingly. Surely there must be mechanisms for politely showing such spokespersons the door? What does one do when one's pet dog goes crazy and bites one's child? Wait for it to bite the child again? Or take it to the vet? And if the vet's exorbitant attentions prove ineffective, might not the SPCA be a humane way out? They do have a certified expertise at catering, with love, to stray, errant or declining pets. We need not inquire for the details.

STUDENTS FOR DIVESTMENT

SU Fee hike unwarranted

Dear Editor:

What does \$30.00 buy you today? With regard to what \$30.00 buys you with your SRC dues, who knows! It does get you a student card, that sits in my wallet. But what else does it buy you? The right to vote in SRC elections, that's two things. And it does get you into special events (if you attend any of these). And it does help support various university societies. So for \$7.50 /privilege, \$30.00 does get you something.

But do we really need \$64.00 student fees? I certainly don't think so. Did I say \$64.00 student fees? Really student fees will be \$50.00 and \$4.00 for membership into the Canadian Federation of Students and \$10.00 for a football team that other students can enjoy after I'm long gone. Total cost \$64.00. Does an increase in student fees mean that I'll get 2 student cards instead of one? Does it mean that new societies will spring up? Does it mean we will have more SRC elections? I think not, so what will \$50.00 buy you? Well interest rates are going up and we have to consider inflation. Right? Wrong, \$50.00 won't get you anything more for your money. Mr. Quigley mentioned in last week's *Brunswickan* article that the SRC sees an increase in student fees as keeping U.N.B. competitive with other Atlantic universities. I never realized that we were in business together. I suppose you could say that if all the other Atlantic Canadian University Student Councils shut down, we would have to follow suit, to keep competitive!

The next contentious point is the CFS fees. Now what will \$4.00 buy you. According to the SRC, it gets you a Student Saver Card and an International Student Identity Card and discounts in thousands of stores across Canada and travel discounts and job placements in other countries. So \$4.00 gets you a lot. Just think, you get 2 cards (\$30.00 gets you only one now) and discounts in all kinds of Canadian cities. Imagine, you can get a discount at Joe's Bar and Grill in Sandspit, B.C. Does you alot of good in Fredericton, N.B. And you can get travel discounts to exotic places like Fiji, Hawaii, etc. Students are well known for their vast wealth and high level of disposable income. And just think of all the job placements you can get in far off lands like Russia, China, England, France, etc. The bottom line, what does \$4.00 get you, you've got it, nothing.

And \$10.00 for a football team. According to the Bruns, a football team will need \$250,000.00 to get going. The SRC will raise \$70,000. That leaves the football team \$180,000.00 short. This means that the SRC will need to raise \$70,000 for another two years. Given the present interest rates of 6 3/4%, if the SRC doesn't touch that money for the three years it stays in the bank, the football team will finally have its money, almost (\$239,647.27). So in year four, the SRC can charge it's students \$1.48/student to make

\$250,007.27 and get a football team (assuming of course that equipment doesn't increase in price and that the Canadian dollar doesn't drop, and interest rates don't climb, and inflation doesn't go up, and so on). Just think, all you freshmen can finally enjoy a football team in your last year. As for you 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year students, think of it as our gift to you. To the rest of us, what does your \$10.00 buy you, I'm not sure, but it seems to be nothing.

So what will \$64.00 get you, the same thing \$30.00 gets you now. But take heart, everything costs more, not necessarily 113.33% more in one year but it doesn't cost more. And you will now have 3 student cards at a cost of only \$21.33 each. And just think of all the headaches the SRC will have, 113.33% more money means 113.33% more budget problems, and if they raise enough money, who knows, maybe the SRC will buy the SUB!

The bottom line is that the SRC is giving the students a chance to decide for themselves whether they want higher fees. And if enough students don't vote, and say NO to the increase, we'll all be paying \$64.00 next year for what we pay only \$30.00 for now. The choice is yours!

Michael Casey

All letters to the editor must be typed or printed legibly and double spaced, and signed along with a daytime phone number. Names may be withheld under extreme circumstances, include a note with the letter requesting such if you wish. The Brunswickan will refuse publication of letters with libellous, sexist, or racist material. Letters over 250 words may be edited for brevity.

Response to editorial

Dear Editor:

The editorial in last week's paper is written proof of the *Brunswickan's* narrow-minded and intolerant position. It can only serve to mislead the students that read it; that is, the students who are not aware of the facts surrounding the issue of alternative music at UNB. I hope that my letter will serve to bring the facts before the readers of the *Brunswickan*.

Mr. Quigley wrote that punk music "attracts its faithful largely from the local high school students." I was flabbergasted when I read that statement. Have you never listened to the campus radio station, Mr. Quigley? The majority of open format programming at CHSR is made up of punk, hardcore, and alternative music. There is a large audience for such music among students at UNB. The dance in the cafeteria on Friday, March 7 (at which two of the same fans that played at the hardcore show Mr. Quigley so hate opened for Montreal's DeJa-Voodoo) was attended by a large number of

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