

# Blood and Thunder

## Chore Not Done

Richard Hall, Chore Boy.

I am gay. I can't say if I was born this way, but I do know that I did not choose to be this way. What person knowing the extent of ridicule and persecution, would choose such a lifestyle? Having the same desire to be "normal" and socially acceptable as anybody else, I would choose heterosexuality: given the choice.

Richard Hall claims many heterosexuals are offended by homosexuality "through no conscious decision". Is he implying that homosexuality is genetically abhorrent to heterosexuals? I think not. Mr. Hall would sooner find a remedy for his "icky" feelings within the realm of psychology or sociology. If that doesn't work, I suggest Graval.

I readily agree with Chore Boy's implication that many other human rights movements are in fact far more important, and engender a far higher level of death and abuse. But unlike other movements, the gay movement affects me. Homosexuals find it necessary to "flaunt it" so that they may also one day enjoy the same "secretive" heterosexual practises as romantic candlelit dinners, living together, and holding hands in public places, without heterosexual stereotypes thrust upon them.

As to injustice, I would remind you that homosexuals were made to wear a pink triangle in Nazi Germany, so they too could be picked out at ease. A man is stabbed to death on a Montreal bus, because he was gay. People today are denied jobs, housing, and even medical treatment, simply because they're gay.

Persecution of anybody, for any reason, is simply wrong. Chore Boy states "some types of persecutions of homosexuals are not right". I would like to know which ones are?

The chore is not yet done. Name withheld.

## It's Mutual

I smoke I'm not proud of it and I discourage anyone from starting, but I have had enough from self-righteous, unfair non-smokers who insist on voicing their oppressive opinions on a minority of smokers. I apply to higher laws- those of human rights and privileges-that exist in democratic countries such as ours.

We, as smokers, are not so selfish and bold as to say we demand that all areas on campus should suit our every want and need. We appreciate and sympathize with the position of non-smokers, something my worthy opponent Ken Knight omits to do. He, on the other hand, has

chosen to insult the smoking community by questioning our literary skills and lowering himself to choosing such meaningless adjectives as "silly" to describe us. Fortunately for me this only deflates his argument.

Ultimately, the issue is not who is legally right or wrong but rather concerns the issue of human rights. Non-smokers have the right to enjoy a smokless environment if they so choose; but similarly, smokers have the right to choose their environment. I would be more than happy to grant them such rights if only we could be given the same respect and compassion.

We all have to endure the results of others' privileges. Everyday I walk to school I am forced to inhale exhaust fumes from cars and yet I do not demand that all drivers be forced to give up driving. When I am in the library and there are those who insist on distracting me with their whispers and giggles and am forced to read elsewhere, I do not demand that they give up their right to free speech.

I continue to smoke in the SUB cafeteria because I adhere not to any rule that I consider to be oppressive and unjust. Only through such challenges to authority can the truth of unfairness be exposed: only then can minority rights be upheld. We ask not that only our wishes be enforced; we ask only for mutual respect and mutual consideration. The rights of the many should not be allowed to squelch the rights of the weak, few!

Lisa Gregoire

## Actions Speak Louder

An open letter to: UNB, SMART-PACC coordinators and The Brunswickan,

I, as a parent of a freshman, was very impressed with materials sent out to freshmen and parents prior to the beginning of Orientation Week at UNB regarding the use of alcohol on campus. I was even more impressed with the presentations made at the parents orientation session.

Now that Orientation Week is over and Students are well into courses, there are several things that are of great concern to me.

Orientation Week had well over its share of alcohol consumption. Several events had free alcohol, several events had alcohol consumption as their main theme and several events were sponsored by breweries with resultant free beer. There are several "beer runs" each week to pick up alcohol, especially for under age students. Alcohol consumption is widely accepted at all sports events and other activities.

Volume 124, Number 5 of The

Brunswickan dated October 13, 1989 has no less than seven advertisements promoting the use of alcohol. In the same issue there is an article in Mugmump Journal deploring the fact that half the "fans" at events don't even know what's going on. I'm just here for the party. And this is tolerated, in fact accepted.

In today's mail, I received a post card from SMART-PACC extolling their promotion of alcohol awareness. I certainly agree. All students should be well aware of alcohol by now.

I can only say that actions speak louder than words and the action at UNB are loud and clear for sure.

A bewildered parent.

## Inaccurate Figures

Dear Editor:

"The October 6, 1989 issue of the Brunswickan carried a story on the UNB Student Union Media Fee Proposal which had, as part of its objective, the equitable distribution of the costs associated with operation CHSR-FM, our CAMPUS Radio Station. The proposal was intended to ensure that each member of the UNB Student Union, STU Student Union and the UNB Graduate Students Association pay the per student cost of operation CHSR-FM, which would be approximately \$10.48 per student. The UNB Student Union's position is that each student can receive the same benefit from station and therefore should pay the per student cost of operating the station, i.e. their fair share!

Unfortunately, the proposal did not receive the approval of STU Student Union. However, the numbers released by the UNB Student Union and quoted within the story were slightly inaccurate. The UNB Student Union contribution is \$77,416.00 not eh \$82, 184.75 figure which was quoted in the story. The correct figures and current per student contribution are as follows:

UNB Student Union: \$77,416.00 6,400 = \$12.09 / student

STU Student Union: \$5,500.00 1,420 = \$3.87 / student

UNB Graduates Students Association: \$4,125.00 550 = \$7.50 / student.

We are sorry for any inconvenience caused by the release of the slightly inaccurate figure regarding the UNB Union's contribution."

Yours very truly,

Wayne Carson  
President  
UNB Student Union

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rm.35, Student Union Building, UNB Campus  
DEADLINE: 5 p.m. Tuesday MAXIMUM WORDS: 300

## Deal With The Issue

Hey Ken Knight,

We "illiterate" smokers have taken great offence to your letter. You have stated that you have seen a total of 3 people smoking in the SUB cafeteria. This number definitely constitutes a minority. It is unfair and prejudicial to stereotype all smokers on the actions of a few. We, as smokers, respect the new law and abide by it. We smoke in those areas designated to us, which, I might add, are close to nil.

Your choice to not smoke is a personal one just as our choice to smoke is. Air pollution is a very serious issue in our society. All the blame, however, can not be put on the shoulders of smokers. I wonder, Ken, do you drive a car? This also contributes to the pollution of "our" air.

As a non-smoker, you have every right to be upset by the disregard for the new non-smoking law. But please Ken, be reasonable, not every smoker has "lit-up" in the cafeteria.

You are right, it is hard to quit smoking, for those who wish to. Some of us, however, do not aspire to be among the non-smoking community.

I do not consider myself to be a "silly" person and believe that I am far from being illiterate. As for the lack of enforcement that is a problem that the SUB staff should deal with and is not the fault of us smokers.

The next time a touchy subject compels you to write a letter, maybe you should deal with the issue instead of attacking people's character.

It would give your argument more validity and more people may be willing to listen to it.

A not-so "silly", literate smoker,  
Heather Humber

## News Or Publicity?

Dear Mr. Dawes:

Upon reading the last part of your editorial of Brunswickan (vol 124, no. 6), I feel that I must respond to your statement of "...what constitutes news and what amounts to publicity. News takes priority...". In the Brunswickan (vol 124, no.5) there were items that I personally would not deem to be newsworthy. I.e. the "MEATCENSUS" of page 21. What the Engineering Undergraduate Society submitted

partially publicity (a time table of events), the other part was news (an article describing the various events and lectures). Wasn't the article deemed newsworthy, or was it just lost in the shuffle of production.

If you do not think it is important to inform the rest of campus of what events are happening, then why does the Bruns insist on putting in promotions of the annual Media Bowl between CHSR and the Bruns? If you think that people don't give a damn about Engineering Week, then put yourself in our position--why should we give a damn about this Media Bowl event?

In regards to the Burners' concert, you said that there was an "...absence of Engineers--the 1/6th of the UNB population--was notable despite several ads published in the Bruns about the event." However, you forget that it was an Engineering Undergraduate Society/UNB Student Union sponsored event open, not only to engineering students, but to the rest of the student body on campus!

I do not doubt that the Brunswickan is an effective means of promoting events for student groups, but if it is being funded by the student's money via the Student Union, then why is it that we have to pay for what we are willing to submit? There has always been talk about students at UNB being apathetic. However, when the "norm" is broken and a group of students are willing to write and submit articles, then why is it they are turned away?

I would appreciate a response to some or all of the questions presented here. If possible, I would like to have this appear in your next issue.

Kent Wun  
V.P. Finance-UNB EUS  
Councillor (Engineering)-UNB Student Council

## Want To Know The Details?

To the Editor

Every once in a while you have to laugh, but one has to wonder why the editors of the Bruns. won't cover Engineering Week when instead they present us such garbage as "In the Pink" A.K.A. the gay column.

Sure, an opinion is all right, but a regular column? Why should someone who has a different sexual orientation than mine be granted privileges. What gays and lesbians do, should be their business. I just don't think people want to know the details... or what problems they are having. This, of course, is truly my opinion. But I believe James Gill has said what he had to say.

Pierre St. Amand