

SPECTRUM

THE WIMMIN'S ROOM

We are womyn, hear us whine!

UNB ADMINISTRATION/ *It is enough to make even the most determined student want to quit.*

By Val and Liz Whiner

As feminists, Liz and I both agree that we've been called a lot of things. But whiners was not one of those things... until recently. I had a great laugh at the guy who called Liz a whiner for her article about the lack of tampons in the tampon dispensers in the women's washrooms on campus. This guy obviously missed the point completely since he sent Liz a quarter so she would "quit whining" and go buy herself one. DUHH! There are NO tampons to buy - that's why she wrote the article.

I admit I didn't find it quite funny when I got called a whiner - especially by someone who was even further off the mark than the other guy. DUHH! "Quit Whining and start acting equal was his enlightening advice. What the hell does that mean? Does that mean you think women should start beating, raping and oppressing men? Will that make us "equal to men"? Sorry pal, but the point of the article is that women don't want to be like men.

Anyway, Liz and I were sitting around whining, er, I mean, talking over the March Break about whose turn it was to write the Wimmin's Room and we decided to give our admirers who felt moved enough by our columns to write those wonderful whiny letters a taste of what we consider REAL whining.

Whine #1: THE ADMINISTRATION AT UNB - it is enough to make even the most determined student want to quit.

Val's whining: Have you ever taken a course as an AUDIT and then received an "F" on your tran-

script? Have you ever had a 3.9 Grade Point Average and still not put on the Dean's list? Have you ever been given five different excuses why, despite a 3.9 Grade Point Average, you are not on the Dean's List (the first four excuses of which you relied you still qualify, so they finally found a fifth that was the exact opposite of what was posted in the hall and in the newspapers which disqualified you)? Have you ever worked your butt off to make damn sure you qualify for the Dean's List the next year only to go to the Dean's Dinner to be served a meal that resembled a TV dinner? And did you have to put up with sharing a table at the Dean's dinner with some narrow-minded little asshole who acted as if someone just farted every time the word feminist or Women's Studies came up?

Have you ever tried to hold down a full-time job and go to school full-time and rushed onto campus on your lunch hour only to find the entire administration has gone out to lunch and locked up their offices? Have you ever taken your lunch at a different time the next day, only to find the entire administration still on their lunch hour? Has the business office ever called you up in the middle of second semester and demanded more money because they decided you are a full-time student while the Registrars Office, insists you are a part-time student and denies you full-time privileges? Has the Dean's Office and Registrars office ever decided you are part-time and don't qualify for the Dean's List while the Business Office decided you are full-time and neither will budge so you lose out on the Dean's List and a refund on full-time fees? Have

you ever taken a full-day off work to register at the beginning of the term, only to have to take the next day off to finish registering because each table you went to told you a different story?

Liz's whining: Have you ever been accused of impersonating a professor's daughter just so you can get your tuition at half price - despite the fact you have laid out every piece of ID, including a family picture, on the desk? Have you ever been told you don't exist by the registrar's office while the business office says you owe them money? Have you ever been told you are graduating when you are only in your second year, only to be told you don't exist the next year?

A whine from Val's roommate who just got home from a movie: Can we have just one movie that ends with a touch of reality and forget this happily ever after crap. Or how about a sequel to "Pretty Woman" - we could call it: "Pretty Woman Loses her Looks, Husband, Financial Support and Ends up Back on the Street."

Whine #2 THE PROFESSORS

Val's whining: Have you ever busted your butt to get your paper completed on time, only to have the professor extend the deadline for a bunch of whiners who spent the weekend at the Social Club? Have you ever had a certain political science professor change the requirements for a paper every class? And did you ever receive a low mark from that professor and then have him remark months later to your roommate that he was surprised to

know you are a Dean's List student because he didn't think you could follow direction? Have you ever struggled through a day from hell at work, drove through a snowstorm to make it to a night class (psychology 1000 in this case) only to have to listen to the professor make jokes about wife beating? Have you ever had a professor tell you he didn't want you to do your paper solely from a "feminist point of view," yet have this same professor allow the rest of the class to do their papers solely from a male, patriarchal point of view?

Whine #3: THE CAMPUS SOCIAL LIFE:

Val and Liz's whining: Have you ever made a rare appearance at the Social Club with a few friends, got your beer, found a wall to lean against and looked over about three feet to see a drunken asshole standing in the middle of the club with his pants down around his ankles proudly showing off his boxer shorts to his giggling male friends? Have you ever been subjected to watching drunken young men at the Social Club pretend that their drinking straw is their penis and try to poke every female that walks by with it? Have you ever walked into any women's bathroom and nearly been blinded by the amount of hairspray in the air? Have you ever taken a cab home only to be propositioned by the cab driver?

Now that's whining!

But what isn't whining is writing about women's experiences and women's issues on this campus.

And personally, we find it quite offensive and insulting when men tell us what they do and do not consider a "woman's issue". If a woman feels it is important enough to her to write about it, then it's an issue. And just because you, as a man or woman, haven't personally experienced it is hardly an intelligent argument for its non-existence.

And for my final set of questions: Have you ever been given confidential information about professors who beat their wives, sexually harass students and co-workers and sexually assault and rape their students? Do you know the number of professors who have put their wives in the hospital and transition house? Do you have any idea of the number of professors who have repeatedly been found guilty of sexual harassment and all they get is a slap on the wrist? Do you know of the professors who have sexually assaulted and raped their students? Do you know the laws and the cover ups that go on to prevent this information from being made public? Have you ever seen one of these professors leading a new, young female into his office? Do you know how terrifying and frustrating that is for women? Well, the members of the women's collective do. We deal with all kinds of issues all the time. So until you've dealt with the total reality of women's experience on this campus, don't fucking try and tell us what is and isn't a woman's issue.

FIRST NATIONS' VIEW

Native Awareness Days

by Brian Nicholas

The Native Student Council will be holding its annual Native Awareness Days on March 18, 19 and 20 (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of next week). This special event will take place at St. Thomas University. What makes this event so special is it allows us to make everybody (Natives and Non-Natives) aware of Native traditions and cultures (such as talking circles), as well as many issues facing all of us (Natives and Non-Natives) today. The theme to this year's Native Awareness Days will be "Rediscovering Our Aboriginal Origins". At the moment I'm writing this, the agenda is tentative, yet it should be final and posted everywhere on both campuses by Monday.

Although the agenda is yet to be final, I can inform you of the list of speakers that will be attending. Isabelle Knockwood, Wilton

Littlechild, and Billy Two Rivers will be the guest speakers. There will also be Elders, Artists, and other distinguished guests from the surrounding area attending.



Other activities on the agenda will be workshops. These workshops will deal with many of the current issues involving Natives. Issues such as self-government,

cultural appreciations, education, treaties, archaeology, economic development, casinos, and suicide. There will also be a 'Women's Panel', dealing with cross roots issues. This panel will be open to all genders. There will also be an arts and crafts display, and a talking circle. To top these three special days off, there will be a banquet/supper Friday night at 7 o'clock at the St. Thomas Dining Hall.

So come one, come all to the best event of them all. Native Awareness Days is free, enlightening, and open to everybody.

Isabelle Knockwood will be speaking Wednesday, March 17 at 7:00 pm at the Holy Cross Conference Room.

If you have any inquiries about the Native Awareness Days, or about the Native Student Council, drop by in room 31 in the SUB in the afternoons. If there is nobody there, just leave a note on the door.

FINAL CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OR APPLICATIONS

Dr. James Downey Student Leadership Award

FIELD OF STUDY:	Unrestricted
VALUE:	Aproximately \$500
NUMBER:	One
DURATION:	One year (may be received more than once)
CONDITIONS:	Awarded on the basis of "outstanding contribution to student life" to a student who is a member of the UNB Student Union (i.e. paid the Student Activity Fee). The recipient must be in good academic standing.
NOMINATIONS:	Nominations or applications to be received by the Dean of Students
AWARDING AGENCY:	A Committee formed by the Dean of Students to include representation from the Undergraduate Awards Office
TIMING:	Intended for presentation by the Dean of Students at the annual Student Union Awards Banquet

Nominations and applications must be in writing and describe in detail that person's "outstanding contributions to student life". While past accomplishments are significant, recent contributions will be of particular interest to the Selection Committee. To be eligible, the nominee must have been a student at UNB (i.e. paid the Student Activity Fee) this year. Consent of the nominee should be obtained by the nominator. All nominations and applications must be received at the Office of the Dean of Students, Room 8, Alumni Memorial Building by 12:00 noon on Friday, March 19, 1993.