

# Blood and Thunder

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

November 30, 1984

THE BRUNSWICKAN-7

*The Brunswickan*, for legal reasons, will not print letter to the editor unless it is properly signed with your student number on it. Names however, may be withheld upon request. Letters must be typewritten or printed neatly and double spaced on one side of the paper. As a matter of policy we will not print any letter that is considered sexist, racist or homophobic. Letters of excessive length may be cut.

### Hutch advocates compassion for famine victims

Dear Editor:

As I sit and ponder the after-effects of last week's events many thoughts and issues come to mind. Primarily, I would like to thank the *Brunswickan* staff, C.H.S.R. and the *Aquianian* for covering last week's hunger strike in a manner which showed concerned interest. I think that the media can often serve an educational facility and it is important to take issue alongside the students. In the contents of this letter I hope to address both critics and supporters of my efforts.

I have already stated reasons publicly for choosing a hunger strike as an expression of active involvement but I think certain points must be clarified. Firstly, my attempts were geared in a primary sense to promote immediate public involvement and monetary contribution to a just cause; more importantly however, I wanted to instill a sense of urgency and compassion in the student body, toward a central issue to all humanity. I had hoped to serve a pedagogical function in raising consciousness to a level of appropriate activism. It is in this capacity that I felt most compelled. So often in today's isolationism we fail to commit ourselves to involvement and understanding of the world around us. We have carried the banner of Liberalism so far that our commitment to human values and the rights of man become clouded in self-interest and apathy. It was apathy most specifically that I

was aiming at. I firmly realize that we as a community are sadly lacking in direction and unity as concerned citizens, myself to blame as much as anyone else. Although this issue was brought forward much too late for us to stop the famine at its source, it was presented, however late, with a sense of hope. This hope is for the future and must be understood. We as citizens of the developed nations have for centuries allowed millions of world citizens to die from hunger and starvation; we have chosen to ignore our obligations to humanity while building ivory towers around our own ever-progressing world. As I have acknowledged we have taken issue much too late to solve the problem at its source, the land. The land is no longer arable in many areas and cannot be saved from the encroaching desert. What caused this terrible event to happen can be blamed on many factors: many political, many economic but most importantly, many that we ourselves caused. Although these problems were made evident to the developed world by agricultural experts, economists and missionaries long ago we chose to "allow" this outcome to happen by pursuing self-determination and nationalism as ways to ignore our global obligation. These starving people are not Marxist-Leninists nor are they capitalists—they are citizens of the world, forced to starve only because of the location and ideological conflict they will never understand. It is as concerned citizens that we can understand their plight. I realize that Ethiopia is a Marxist-Leninist country and that it is only one of the many that suffer from mass starvation and famine but it is not the nation state I am aiming at but the humans within. It is by far in terms of numbers the hardest hit area of Africa. This is compounded by civil war and rampant corruption, which deter aid from getting to those citizens. The money you as students donated is going to the Sudan, to relief camps along the Ethiopian border that will hopefully draw many people from famine areas in all North Africa. These camps were set up in the Sudan because of a more co-operative

political climate and stable environment. It is the hope of the Y.M.C.A. International Relief Agency that these camps will be able to help thousands of starving refugees from all areas. The problem exists that these camps are not set up for only a few months; they will be kept going for a long time since in many cases there is no land to return to! Therefore the problem is not at present being solved but acknowledged at its most basic human level, the right to life. To find a solution will require a massive world effort to tackle the desert, relocate families and ensure through every means possible that famine does not re-occur, even in the face of political uncertainty. Many people have said to me, "They should help themselves." I believe if they could, many of these citizens would change the course of events. What is needed is money, technology and education—things they do not possess, nor will they be able to all by themselves. Should we as people reserve the rights to possess these tools? This is the reason why I so emphatically pursued the concept of "World Citizen." Our initial financial contributions are greatly contributed; they do not allow us to turn our backs now that we have given token dollars. As residents of a community of higher learning we must sustain our involvement, educate ourselves on the causes, and involve ourselves in making the future for all citizens of the world more fruitful and possible. My hunger strike was only a token effort in a massive cause, and if it is left behind now it will pass as a facade, useless in all but token kindness. Sustained awareness and activism are the only hope these people have. If you as individuals can find the compassion, time and effort necessary to help these people you will find a part of yourself, as I did, that only grows with involvement and dedication.

As a final point, I would like to acknowledge the incredible support I received from the entire university community; it supplied me with energy that far overrode any hunger or loneliness I may have felt. I would also like to make a confession to my close friends who suffered undue contempt on my part. This was only

brought on by conviction that my cause must be everybody's. I have since learned that we all contribute in our own ways and hold our true feelings inside. This is the key to friendship and must be valued. I have chosen not to list any group contributors since the knowledge that they did must be pride enough to merit their donations.

It is my hope that we as a community will continue to show support for the less fortunate of the world. If you would like to get involved in this effort please leave your phone number and address in my box (Features Editor) at the *Brunswickan*. The Student Help Ethiopia group is now well organized on campus and is morally and actively committed to the plight of the North Africans. Please find the compassion necessary to help. You will feel good but more importantly you will be a citizen of the world.

Sincerely,

R. Hutchins

### Dunn and Aitken apologize

On the 17th and 27th of November we the involved parties of Aitken House and Lady Dunn Hall cut and collected trees from the UNB Woodlot. Much to our ignorance we were not aware of the damage we had caused on those dates. Since we did not seek permission from the Maritime Forest Ranger School we proceeded to unintentionally cut down trees that were in an experimental area.

The trees that were cut down were intended for decorations for the Aitken and Dunn Christmas Formals. There was no malicious intent involved. We are now prepared to compensate for our actions through any means which are acceptable to the Maritime Forest Ranger School and the University of New Brunswick. A clean up operation is now planned for December 1st, 1984 at the site to help compensate for the damages incurred. We are willing also to cooperate fur-

ther with any suggestions made by the Maritime Forest Ranger School. (Note: The proper procedure for anyone contemplating the use of the woodlot is to contact the Maritime Forest Ranger School at 454-4363).

The following people wish to express their sincerest apologies for the damage and the problems caused:

Jody Robinson  
Ian Taylor  
Sean Moriarty  
Michel Levesque  
Larry Rogers  
Dale Brown  
Garry Safford  
Rick Williston  
Dan Cairns  
Chris Daigle

Chris Celeste  
Kirk Miller  
Darren Weeks  
Coleman Spence  
Blair Sullivan  
Mike Pringle  
Mark LeBlanc  
Raymond Cote  
Hamish Duncan  
Jamie Goodwin  
Greg Bridgeo

Laurie Daigle  
Tracy Best  
Tandi Hooper  
Sheri Law  
Bonnie Christie  
Marcie Mills  
Suzanne Armstrong

Tanya Davies  
Jocelyn Collins

### Pen friend wanted

Dear Sir:

With due respect I have to mention to that I'm very much interested about Canadian people and their culture and wish to know about them and am seeking a Canadian girl friend of mine of your N.B. university as a pen friend and wish to write her regularly, because I am very much interested about your beautiful country, "Canada."

Therefore, I would request you to kindly forward my letter to any girl student (of your English studies dept.) or other department of your great university and I shall be thankful to you. Hope I will

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