

BLOOD & THUNDER

Not responsible for Your Ignorance

Well, it was certainly the highlight of my week to read Greg Doran's announcement that he's back. The Bruns letter to the editor section just isn't quite the same without him.

For your information Greg, McCarthy hasn't been exhumed. And your comparison shows either total ignorance or total stupidity to the whole reasoning behind the "the list" and other issues.

First of all, we don't "distribute rape whistles" as you suggest because wimmim's groups don't support them. In fact the Canadian Federation of Students recently passed a motion not to support the sale of devices like rape whistles on campuses. These devices have proven to be ineffective and provide a false sense of security.

What the UNB Student Wimmim's Collective has done instead of taking ineffectual measures like you the type you suggest, was organize the first ever Date Rape Awareness Campaign on campus. It began during Frosh Week and officially ended three weeks later with a Take Back the Night March, which began on campus and met up with another march downtown with 200 women. The Campaign received extensive media coverage both on campus through the Bruns and the campus radio station, as well as in the off-campus media. If you missed it, well, we can't be held responsible for everyone's ignorance.

More recently, we brought in a wimmim's self-defense course from Toronto which is supported by wimmim's groups across North America and has official recognition by the Toronto Police Force. And if you read last week's Wimmim's Room or listened to Fredericton radio stations you would have heard of the tremendous impact and empowerment this course gave women.

The Collective also has members on the Student Union's Health Committee, where we are pushing to have birth control covered by the University health plan and on the University Daycare Committee. We also network with other wimmim's groups and we have participated in a campaign to combat the rape shield decision, among other campaigns.

As for you (sic) allegations of "McCarthyism," I completely disagree. The Collective feels students have the right to know if they are taking a human relations course from a convicted wife beater or a any course from a professor who has been reprimanded for sexual harassment.

And if you are so concerned

about wimmim's issues (and I honestly doubt your sincerity) then there is a men's group at St. Thomas University who has done wonderful work in helping to make the campus a safer place for women.

And, for anyone who wants to get in touch with the wimmim's collective, we recently got our telephone installed. Our number is 453-4539. As we have mentioned several times, our office is Room 31 in the Anthropology building.

Hours are posted on the door. So cut the crap about not being able to get in touch with members of the Wimmim's Collective.

Valerie Kilfoil, Janice Legere, Pat Smyth, Margie Gregg
UNB Student Wimmim's Collective (Executive)

Racism Still Prevalent at UNB

Thank you for the Special News Feature on discrimination at UNB in the November 8 issue of the Brunswickan. I am grateful that your publication is willing to acknowledge that racism is still prevalent at our university.

Most people will not openly admit that they are racist while others may not even know that they are. What constitutes racism? In short, it is an antipathy based upon a faulty and inflexible generalization about people of a different colour.

Prejudice involves having a negative feeling towards a group which is expressed through hostile or unfriendly attitudes. One is racist if he or she refuses to talk to, or be civil to another person solely on the basis of race. This is a very common experience for racial minorities on this campus. I have been in classes where students refused to reply to my questions or talk to me; avoidance of contact is a common occurrence. At times I get stared at out of curiosity, but more often than not, the glares take on a countenance of hostility and unfriendliness.

Holding an incorrect belief or a broad generalization about another racial group - almost always negative - also amounts to racism. This is another common occurrence at UNB. I have had to endure more than my fair share of "Chink" jokes and insults because of my colour.

Racists possess an urge to satisfy certain psychological needs - notably the displacement of frustration and aggression towards another group. Highly prejudiced people display rigid and dogmatic personalities; they are also more concerned than others with status and power in their personal relationships. Thus, they resent seeing minorities driving around in

expensive cars or for being rich, and blame these "outsiders" for usurping their rights to a similar standard of living. The fact that most of these minorities worked hard to get where they are is deemed irrelevant.

Bigots also reject social non-conformism such as interracial dating. They see this as a potential "mongrelisation" of their "superior" race. Mixed dating, uncommon as it is on this campus, is not accepted.

Prejudice results from conformity to cultural and group norms, and persists as a result of social learning within the society. Social factors mould prejudice; the absence of cultural diversity in the Maritimes is fertile ground for discrimination to flourish if people are not taught how perverse and demeaning racism is.

University students should know better than to overgeneralize about another racial or ethnic group beyond existing evidence. However, this is hardly the case. It is generally thought that education will normally drive prejudice away. Yet knowledge may simply convert prejudice into more subtle, but none the less (sic) pervasive forms of discrimination. University students are less likely to lynch or openly abuse others of a different race; their particular form of racism involves avoiding contact, dispensing rude stares and dirty looks besides being generally hostile to minority students. All these forms of prejudice, unfortunately, are still prevalent at UNB.

Edmund Khoo

From a Good Stiff Friend

Congratulations to Tristis Bhaird for her well-written article concerning good stiff things! Her sense of humor and rational explanations are remarkable in the face of all "this muck".

A utopian society, where people accept differences in other people, can only be achieved by trying to understand these differences. Although the redneck that Tristis encountered may never understand this concept, some men do want to understand lesbianism. Some of us are curious but do not want to offend or interfere and therefore try to accept without understanding.

Tristis, your article will help us to understand a different but not legitimate segment of our society and bring us a little closer to Utopia. Thanks for this lesson and although we have never met, please count me as one of your good stiff friends.

Bob Coakley

Thanks, It's Been Fun

"So, how was the Red and Black?" ... The Red 'n Black was good this year" (Beverly R. White, The Brunswickan, Nov. 8). Yes, the Red 'N' Black was good this year and there are a number of people I would like to thank for making this year's show the success that it was.

I would like to start by thanking the Red 'n' Black executive including Mike Ward, Stacey Kilburn, Tanya Farrah, Mike Demmons, David Robinson, Melissa Murphy, Miquelle Leblanc, Woody Lawrence, Allison Like, Lori Allen and Chris Brading. It was great to work with all of you.

I would like to recognize all our major sponsors including The College Hill Social Club, Mike O'Pray and Moosehead Breweries, ADR Men's Wear and the UNB Student Union. We could never have done it without your support.

I'd like to thank all of the cast and crew for their hard work. It really paid off because we were able to offer our audience a high quality performance that I've heard (almost) nothing but good things about. You should all be proud of the work you've done, I know that I am. And last but not least I want to thank everybody that came to the show and everybody that enjoyed it.

So thanks, it's been a lot of fun.

Susan Magasi
Director, 45th Annual Red 'n' Black Revue

Red 'N' Black Revue Reviewed ???

Where do we get these people from? Beverly R. White (P.S. I hope I got that right?) who are you to write such a review? You've surely displayed your ignorance and lack of any understanding of what goes into putting together a show like the Red 'N' Black. It's people like you Miss White that give shows a bad name. We all worked very hard in preparation for the show. You obviously have no real appreciations for good talent. So what if

you liked it... Big deal!! Writing the way you did was uncalled for and unfair to all of us who took part in the show. If you thought the MC's are to blame for the lack of spark as you called it, or any other act for that matter, then maybe you would like to take part in next year's show and display your "talents" or even MC?? Probably you would want to add the spark Miss White? So are we on or what? And another thing... yes and another thing Miss White as Director of C.O.H. Dance Possé (and that's "colors of Hype" to you mame (sic)). You say you spent two years surrounded by people who started rapping and hip hop dancing in the middle of classes??? So what's your point??? Does this make you some sort of authority on this sort of music and dance?? People like you are so ignorant and pretentious it isn't funny. You don't even come close to being objective Miss White. If you thought there were any better dancers that deserve to be in there then show them to me. Did you have anybody in mind? ... or wait a minute... maybe you Miss White??? All the dancers worked very hard. As experienced as I am these dancers proved they could do it and were the best. I don't need someone like you telling me that the dance was easy and that anyone could have done it. I'd like to see some people just get up and dance like that. Would you like to get up and try dancing like that Miss White??

Anyway we've had enough of you Miss White and your antics. You've proved your ignorance and hypocrisy. Once again to the cast and crew of the Red 'n' Black Revue... Great Job!! We created all the sparks possible and I'm sure many people agree with me on that. We don't need reviews like this. The show was done to the best of our ability. We all worked our butts off, and we don't need you Miss White telling us that the show lacked spark. There were enough sparks at the show to light up the entire stage. The only one lacking the spark seems to be you Miss White.

Woody Lawrence

The man said god was dead in an existential kind of way.
It is not considered sporting to pick up golf-balls when they are still rolling.
Every death is like a library burning down.
That does not mean that we should stop reading.