

BLOOD & THUNDER

Letters to the Editor reflect the views of our readers and not necessarily those of the Brunswickan. Letters may be sent to Rm. 35, Student Union Building. Deadline: 5 p.m. Tuesdays. Maximum length: 300 words.

Thank-You for Responding

I would like to thank the Wimmin's Executive for responding to my letter. Also, I commend you on your courage in attaching your names to the letter. I fully understand and appreciate the courage it took to do that, which brings me back to my initial argument. I questioned the courage of your group because you wanted to remain anonymous. I am glad to see that you take this issue more seriously than I gave you credit for, and I apologize for any remarks that you found personally insulting. My language was intentionally inflammatory to see how far you were willing to go. I hold very strong beliefs about equality and therefore was not satisfied with the column, with the exception of a few articles. The only thing that I was unaware of was the direct affiliation of the Wimmin's Executive to the column. I knew that the Executive was quite active and thought their work to be very important and helpful. While I still do not agree with the "list", on principle, or your stance on rape whistles, I am glad that you are willing to take the type of risks that are going to help effect real change. As an aside, I think that CFS is the most useless organization on the face of the planet and you would do well to distance yourself from it. In closing, I would like to thank you for proving me wrong because the only thing worse than a chauvinist is a feminist who will not fight for it and I am glad to see that you are prepared to fight.

Greg Doran

An Open Letter to Women's Collective

This is an open letter to the UNB Student Women's Collective, regarding their complaint about the comic-strip "The Esoterics" in the Aquinian. I hereby offer a paragraph-by-paragraph rebuttal, in the faint hope of convincing you, and others, that the strip represents no threat to your health or safety.

In the first place, the cartoon does not depict "one young man encouraging another to get a date by using a gun." I am not even sure how one would go about doing that, but I am sure that in panel four the author states clearly, "Note: the gun depicted herein is intended for suicide. It isn't even loaded!"

Second, I find it hard to believe that even you can see a link between a cartoon and the killings in Montreal. That is beyond stupidity, approaching the insane,

and I won't attempt to argue such a ridiculous notion.

Third, and perhaps most unbelievably, you assert that "the collective respects and supports the rights of free speech and free press", at the same time that you reprimand the paper for printing the cartoon! Come on, now, make up your minds; one cannot embrace censorship and freedom of expression simultaneously! They are opposites. The truth of the matter is that, like any radical organization, you want a free press for your views and no press for views that run counter to them.

Fourth, you state that you do not find the cartoon humorous, as if that were relevant. For your information, the world does not revolve around you or your tastes, for which I am quite grateful. You further state that "the more than 100 women who were murdered last year by their husbands, boyfriends, and lovers do not find it funny", and indeed they probably do not, as they are dead. But were they alive, they would probably resent having mindless reactionaries like you put words in their mouths.

Fifth, the cartoon does not "infringe on your right to live in a safe environment by promoting violence against women." For crying out loud, where do you come up with this nonsense? The cartoon shows some poor imbecile propositioning women crudely, true enough, but I fail to see how this could inspire even bad feelings, let alone rape or assault. Hatred against women from this? In my opinion, you people go a lot further towards promoting hatred against women simply by indiscriminately attacking and vilifying men at every turn. Or did you suppose that males enjoy being endlessly compared to Marc Lepine for saying something dumb or holding open a door?

Finally, I want to know where your seemingly inexhaustible supply of gall comes from; you seem to have solved the entire dilemma of free speech vs. protection of individual rights, and have set yourselves up as arbiters of the new morality in the bargain. You have granted yourselves the power to say this is good and that is bad, something the courts have been arguing about forever. It must be wonderful to be so enlightened and knowledgeable. Well carry on, mighty warriors; I will be somewhat disappointed if I open up the Bruns next week only to find that none of you are calling for my expulsion. So long, and remember: if you don't like what someone has to say, don't let them say it.

Bill MacGillivray

On Being Called a Christian

In response to Thomas S. Kuttner's article "On being called a Jew." Dear Sir: I read your article with great interest, and was impressed (although I've read of most of these people before) with your catalogue of Jews who have accomplished much in history. (You missed the artists, however.) Your placing the blame for the lion's share of persecution of the Jews on "the dominant Christian culture", however, hurts a bit.

Unfortunately, you're largely right. But that's because you're a victim of a fallacious generalization similar to that which calls all Jews misers and once called them "Christ-killers". I am ashamed to share a label with that dominant European culture which persecuted your people, women, homosexuals, indigenous peoples, free-thinkers, and many others on the fringe of society.

Let me make something clear. Jesus himself was a Jew - you've heard this before. He attracted a group of followers partly on the basis of a revolutionary new set of values that grew out of Jewish law (so I am told), but took them to an extreme. He said Love. Turn yourself over to love, of God and other people, til there's nothing left of you. Give utterly of yourself. Be perfect in love, like your Father in heaven.

That's it. As soon as he'd left the scene, his followers, try as they might to remind themselves of what he'd said, started to stray. Not all of them, mind you, but power begets power, and before long you had a Church, in the name of Christ, getting richer and more powerful, dominating people, committing murder, slaughter, atrocities, hate, jealousy, amassing untold wealth, all in the name of - him - who hadn't advocated any of that.

What I'm trying to say is that there's Christian and there's Christian. You have every right and reason to name the Christians as your chief persecutors. Because that's what your persecutors chose to call themselves. But I beg you not to turn "Christian" into an insult as you say some have done with "Jew". I'm a Christian. I go to church because that's where I can worship among other sincere Christians. I'm convinced, as many claim, that we do live in a post-Christian society. But that may only mean that people are beginning to be honest about what they claim to be. We Christians try very hard - and when we often fail we try again - to live as Jesus would have us live. That includes not only not calling anyone a chink, spik, or kike, but going all the way and

affording everyone love and respect.

One last comment. On the charge of "dicide (sic)" or "Christ-killing" - shame on the official voices of the Catholic Church! I'm more used to hearing, in church, all during Lent, that we did it.

Sarah Petite

Dangerous Implications

I was furious to read the front page article in last week's Brunswickan. I could not fathom the idea that any woman would make up such a story.

In last week's Bruns, Rick Peacock was quoted as saying that "it's not a case where there's been all kinds of reported cases." Well now, what would happen to me if I was attacked? I would be more than a bit timid to come forward with a complaint. I think that in the back of people's minds they

would be questioning my claim. I mean, have you ever heard of the boy who cried wolf?

The incident, or rather, the alleged attack did not instill as much fear in me as did finding out that the whole thing was a farce. It is scary to think that someone would really make up something like that.

I am sure that most people for got the article before the weekend was over, but I cannot. I am still very upset (to put it politely). I have racked my brain trying to figure out WHY she would have pulled such a stunt. So far, I have come up with nothing. It is apparent that she was looking for attention, but I will bet that a possible police charge was not exactly what she was looking for. I sincerely hope that this woman is charged because this is a very serious accusation with dangerous implications.

A Concerned Woman (name withheld by request)

Now is the winter of our discontent ...
Where is the snow?
Damn it ...
Where is the snow???

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