

SPECTRUM

A Yank in New Brunswick

Well, I guess a lot of people figure it out quickly, yes I'm from the "States". Now that I've been in New Brunswick for a little over a year, I'm taking time to reflect. It's gone by so fast it seems like it was a "metric year". Actually, I originally came here for only one year, but fell in love with the "whole thing" and decided to stay. Not that I wasn't concerned when I first thought about coming to NB. One thing, I'd never been here! So, the natural inclination is to get out a map and look & see where NB is. There it is, in CANADA, next to New England. Early on this geographic reality caused me two concerns. I'd spent a lot of time in both New England and Ontario for one reason or another. Being in CANADA next to New England, I pondered, "Are the people in NB as obnoxious as New Englanders and is the food as bad as Ontario?" Happily, most assuredly a BIG NEGATOR!" to both. Particularly, when many of my new found friends would share their beer with me, and at these prices! This brings up one issue. Naturally, there are quite a few differences between an American and a Canadian. Right off, I was told the USA is a product of revolution and CANADA is a product of evolution. I think this was a nice way people around here were telling me, "D.J., you're too aggressive and uptight, relax." Many of differences are in favour of you "Canucks". (Now, I was told that was not considered an offensive nick name). Here are some I've noticed.

Many of you consider Maine a real place. Except for George (Bush) and Stephen (King), we do not. We go to the restroom, you go to the washroom. I suspect one is more likely to wash (hopefully) than rest. When a friend asked if I would give him a "drive", I was happy to find it was an alternative term for a "lift". (Except in Tennessee, where they will "carry" you). Why is school, skool and schedule, shedyoul? How come process is pro' cess and produce is prawduce (as is veggies) and we Yanks are the reverse? I think elastic and rubber band are a toss-up. While a "case" of beer is only twelve bottles versus twenty-four, the beer is easily twice as good. Frankly, I find ya'll are more (and definitely to your credit) concerned about drinking and driving than they are state-side. In the USA people are far more sports oriented. I'm still suffering from withdrawal.

As for the metric system, CANADA is such a marvelously

huge country, (did you know Quebec is an entire NB bigger than the USA's "wonderful" Alaska?) do we need wimpy kilometres? Let's see, double centigrade and add thirty. While my old friends (particularly in Florida) are disappointed to hear I've seen no polar bears, they are

Well, this is what I think

relieved to know that I have seen

It's being done across the nation

It was with interest and amusement that I read Dr. Diana Austin's lengthy response in "Blood 'n Thunder" to the allegation made in the "Wimmin's Room" that the Women's Studies Programme has been relegated to the kitchen of the Anthropology Building. Whether the Women's Studies Programme specifically requested this space or not I cannot say—amusing, however, is Dr. Austin's description of Room 31 in Annex C, as having "at one end of it a little alcove room with wall-shelves and an old sink." Hmmm. Sounds suspiciously like a kitchen to me. While Dr. Austin grants that the room "may have been a kitchen once," she assures us that it could not be recognized as such today. Methinks the lady doth protest too much. I have seen enough kitchens to recognize one when I see one.

The whole issue puts me in mind of the American medical researcher who recently won the coveted title of "Worst Employer of the Year." The Boss in this case hired a female assistant to help with clerical tasks and housed her in an unused, primitively reconverted bathroom. No kidding. For four months (no doubt the length of

The Wimmin's Room

her contract), the woman conducted business from a rude platform fitted atop the commode. Things could be worse, I suppose, but I wonder the lengths to which the good doctor was prepared to go to convince his assistant that she wasn't really in the loo since the room was no longer used for that particular purpose. What a lot of bafflegab.

To give Dr. Austin her due, however, that there is a spacecrunch on in the Faculty of Arts is decidedly true; that part-time instructors and some full-time faculty are denied office space altogether, or else must attempt to work in deplorable conditions is also true; that other special interest programs in the Faculty of Arts such as Atlantic Regional Studies, Third World Studies, Linguistics and Comparative Literature, etc., are also without designated space is unquestionable. But what seems to have gone unaddressed here is that a Women's Studies Re-

some moose. (meeces?).

Lastly, there definitely is weather here in NB. I've not only survived your winter but come to enjoy it. Recently I was coming back from Houlton. Just after I came onto the "TC" (mercifully, I've not mentioned highways), I noticed the scenery

on the hillside; all the little farms midst the trees and all, the colours (with a U) were sharp and crystal clear. I realized the air was so clean, I actually could see better! Also, thanks for the clear cool water, the hospitality, and for letting me be able to forget to lock my doors.

source Centre would be for the benefit and use of all women students, not just those enrolled in Women's Studies courses. On the face of it, then, the Faculty of Arts is not solely obliged to allocate space to the Women's Studies Programme at all, but has been kind enough to do so. The Student Union and UNB

Administration, as glad recipients of women student's tuition, bear some responsibility for meeting the needs of women students.

The point is that it is past time to quit dicking around and for the students, staff and faculty of this University to start treating women and women's issues

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