

# Blood and Thunder

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### In defense of "M"

Dear Editor:

I wish to respond to the letter written by Kathryn Monti entitled "No-one deserves physical abuse." A week ago a friend of mine pointed out to me M's letter to the editor: "It's tough being nice." I read it and I realized that he was making a point that I agreed with and that I felt needed to be made. No matter how important M's point, my friend and I agreed that someone was going to write in and pick apart his phrasing.

There have been many times when I've found myself arguing against a point that I basically agree with just because when I stated my position someone was listening, not to what I was saying, but, to an odd phrase that caught their ear. Kathryn Monti said that "No-one...deserves a good slap from another human being." What about the guy who slapped the young woman in M's story? That's probably different of course but that's not what I'm worried about. I agree with K.M. in that "No human being has the right to strike another." The point is, so does M.

One of the things I was taught in grade ten English (I'm by no means proud of my literary skills) is that which follows: When presenting an argument that has an existing counter argument, one should prepare an argument against the counter argument.

M realized, possibly from relating his account to people, that there would be some of the opinion "She probably deserved it." In saying "...but I can't do it" I understood M to say that he didn't feel he had the authority to slap someone, no matter what they deserved. I also understood the entire point of his letter to be that any man who feels the authority to slap a woman should not be allowed, by these women, to get away with exercising this "authority." Women and men are both human beings, so that, using a bit of logic, means that you, K.M., and he are saying the same thing. So WHY are you challenging him for saying it? You say that no human being deserves to be slapped by another human being. M said (to me at least) that if a human being deserves to be slapped (by whatever authority) no other human being has the right to deliver it.

Okay. You and I would have said it differently. It was probably a mistake on his part to write "...sometimes there are girls who deserve a good slap."

Why is that worth comment when you and I and anyone who is going to listen to what he's saying understand that he meant some girls make you want to slap them. His point was that no matter what, women shouldn't let themselves get slapped around. While he was making this point he was also saying that every time he tried to care someone kicked him in the face.

Kathryn Monti has made his lesser point quite clearly true to me. Don't let your ideals get in the way of themselves. Don't oppose people who express your own ideals differently. They may be able to relate to your mutual feelings to a part of society that you can't reach. Above all; DON'T make it tough to be nice.

J. Mark Cogswell

### Opposes ad on Homosexuality

I vigorously oppose the running of an ad in this newspaper regarding homosexuality. I oppose it only for the way in which it is presented: it seems to treat homosexuality as an attractive and desirable life-style to be followed by anybody who might be curious about it—at least this is my interpretation. Homosexuals are human beings and are rightfully entitled to be given respect like anyone else, however, I do not believe the activity should be publicized and encouraged.

The Bible describes it as blasphemous and shameless. The Old Testament Book of Leviticus makes homosexual acts a capital offence, and one cannot be firmer than that. The New Testament is in the same tradition. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, speaks of homosexuality as one of the results of the world's being out of tune with God. This is not to be read as an attack on homosexuals; indeed, Jesus treated all people with great gentleness and understanding, and we should do the same. Homosexuality seems to be a part of the distorted nature in which we all share and for which we are all responsible.

A practical question that complements the biblical findings might ask: how can one justify such behaviour when he or she was conceived by a man and woman? Moreover, what would happen to mankind if homosexuality was accepted and widely practised? The human race would be non-existent.

From a biblical and practical point of view homosexuality (there is no such word as 'gay' in such a context) is

unhealthy and undesirable. Society should treat it as that, a problem, and provide appropriate counselling and services. We ought not, however, write of it as being vogue, for it most certainly is not. In running the said advertisements the Brunswickan is ignoring any code of ethics it might have.

A conscientious reader

### YMCA thanks Fredericton

Dear Mr. Mazerolle

On behalf of the International Development Committee of the Fredericton YMWCA, I would like to thank the community of Fredericton for its \$25,000 donation to the Ethiopian Emergency Fund. This amount will be matched three to one by the Canadian International Development Agency making Fredericton's total contribution \$100,000. This represents twenty-five percent of the the total funds collected by all YMCAs across Canada.

Special thanks need go to Rick Hutchins, the U.N.B. student who raised \$10,000 on his own initiative, to the Students Help Ethiopia Committee on the UNB-STU campus, and to Murray Wright who organized the skate-a-thon.

One hundred percent of the funds raised will be used to provide both short-term relief and long-term development to the Ethiopian refugees now living in resettlement areas in the Sudan. Their numbers continue to increase on a daily basis.

So again Fredericton, thank you.

Sincerely  
Pam Whitty  
Chairperson  
International Development  
Committee

### Asking for refund not "punishment"

Sir:

Permit me to react to your front-page editorial in the February 1st issue of the Brunswickan.

In this editorial you ask the question: "...why the hell should we be forced to contribute to 3CF?" Fifteen words later you acknowledge that you and your fellow students are NOT forced to contribute when you urge them to "Demand your 3CF rebate NOW!!"

In the next paragraph you insist that President Downey ask for \$10.00 contributions, forgetting, I am sure, that in March of 1982 some 67% of your fellow students voted in favour of a \$10 per year refundable contribution to the Third Century Fund for a period of five years. It is obvious that one can only ask for a rebate or refund after the donations have been collected.

The Third Century Fund was UNB's most successful campaign ever, and one of the very few in Canada since 1980 to meet its goal. And it met that goal despite the efforts of a few student "leaders" who did everything in their power to scuttle the efforts of hundreds of volunteers and thousands of donors who really do care about UNB, its students and their educations.

As you continue to enjoy your refurbished Blue Lounge, thousands of dollars worth of scholarships and bursaries, an expanded Phoenix system, new micro-computer labs, the new Engineering Reading Room, expanded intercollegiate athletic schedules and other projects made possible by 3CF, please try to remember that you and your fellow students contributed but 1 cent for every dollar donated to the project! The other 99 cents were given by people who wanted UNB in your day to be as exciting and as sound a post-secondary institution as it was in theirs.

You won't "punish" the Board of Governors for its actions re. the SUB by urging students to recoup that 1 cent on each 3CF dollar; you will only hurt yourself when others discover, just as I have, that our efforts and our generosity are not one bit appreciated by a small group of those who happen to attend UNB at this time. Our one consolation is that, in due course, they will move on and, hopefully, be replaced by more of those who, by the thousands presently give of their time and talent to make UNB the marvellous place that it really is. I'm sorry that you have not seen your way clear to join this constructive majority.

Yours truly,  
John W. Meagher

Editor's Note: Dr. Meagher is the chairman of the Third Century Fund drive.

### What is masculinism?

Masculinism is a concept that has been around for quite a while, but it still provokes strong negative feelings among many people—particularly

women. Admonitions such as "masculinism is O.K., as long as you don't go too far" or "don't become too masculinist" and even the accusation that masculinism is and that it is nothing to be afraid of.

According to the Concise Oxford Dictionary, masculinism means extended recognition of the claims of men. These claims often scare people, especially females and female dominated institutions and governments, and therefore they often react strongly against masculinism. Unfortunately these attitudes are often based on ignorance and myths. Most masculinists are very ordinary men with their uncertainties, confusions, questions, feelings and loves.

What are the claims of masculinism? There are many obviously unequal conditions and situations for men in our society. For example, the average male worker is forced to make one dollar to the female 72 cents. Men are being penalized for combining a career with fatherhood, whereas motherhood often helps women in their careers. Besides the obvious discriminations there are also more subtle ones which keep men locked in stereotypical and disadvantaged positions in society. For example, the unrealistic and often stupid portrayal of men in advertisements on T.V. works against the advancement of men.

Masculinism wants to expose these conditions and processes in order to abolish them in the hope that men will be able to make choices in life without role, economic, educational, or stereotype restrictions. Masculinism is more than an ideology with the goal of improving the quality of life of men; I think it also has a lot to offer to the modern world. In our society, decision making processes are invariably accompanied by conflicts; therefore it is very important to find a decision making process which is based not on power but respect. The contribution of masculinism lies predominantly in the basic area of dealing with conflicts. The female-dominated world's solutions for conflicts are massive arms build-ups with the unthinkable capability of destroying our planet many times over.

Masculinism is nothing to be afraid of. It has a lot to offer which may help to improve the quality of life for both men and women, and to make the world a better place to live in.

I realize that this explanation of what masculinism is, is far too brief however it does touch on the most fundamental of goals of masculinism.

Sincerely,  
Lonard Green