

Blood and Thunder

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Frightened Feminist

Dear Madams and Sirs:

In reference to Josef A. Pach (Out on a Limb), I suggest that you come in off of your limb long enough to let what you read sink in. I am the "Frightened Feminist," and it seems to me that you completely misunderstood my letter to the editor. I was attempting to clarify what feminism is about, as well as dispel some of the myths.

As for the public being tired of "militant feminists," who is a "militant feminist?" Is it a womyn who hates men? Or is it a womyn (or man!) who wants to see equality in the world? People seem to believe that there is no longer any need for the womyn's movement. I say they are wrong. In 1986/87, womyn earned only 58.4 cents for every dollar earned by men. Is that equality? Womyn are being locked in psychiatric hospitals because they do not want to obey their husbands, or they do not want to be just another robot conforming to the norms of society. Is that equality? Many womyn are forced to choose between a career or children. Men don't have to make that choice. Is that equality?

Something has to be done if only people would be willing to open their eyes and really look at the world. Yes, they would see a lot of things that they may not want to see. Yes, some of these things might hurt. I know - I've been through it. I have opened my eyes and I am still opening them. It hurts everytime I hear about someone being oppressed. But at least I know that I care about what happens. I know that I am doing my part to change things. Please take a look around you. Look at the things happening in this world! Look at the rape victims! The law does more to protect the offenders than it does to protect the victims. Look at the teenagers who commit suicide! The ones who had "everything to live for." Maybe they couldn't handle the pressure of pretending to be somebody they weren't - just to conform, fit in, be accepted.

Again I ask you, all of you, please look at the world. Please do what you can to make it a better place.

Yours most truly,
Debi Skidmore

PPS: To the "Equalist for the Equal Sexes": What is the difference from your beliefs and the beliefs of feminists? I think we want the same things.

PPS: To the man who is a feminist: I applaud you! You are wonderful! Other men could learn from you. And never be ashamed of being male. We are all equal. The world needs more men like you!

Go Bloomers

Dear Editor:

Let me congratulate you and your sports crew for the great job you did promoting and reporting on the Bloomers' game against UPEI. You really did a good job with the post game report. I really hope you keep up your good work and that I won't have to write you another letter like last week. All I can say is that the Bloomers and the *Brunswickan* did UNB proud.
Just a Fan

INANE

To Whom It May Concern:

O.K. it has finally happened! "What has happened?" you ask. Even if you don't, we are going to tell you.

The worst has happened! We are going to express our opinions; speak out, so to say, be heard, stand up and be counted. (or not)

"Why?" you ask. "Because." we respond. The truth is we just can't not any longer. "Presumptitious!" you say. Yes.

We humbly offer our comments as merely that. Think of our musings as social commentary or if it's more comfortable for you, as indignant raves. Whatever. Let's get this straight right off the top. We are not social reform zealots nor are we espousers of any particular cause. We are human beings frustrated by the human condition.

"So what?" you say, "aren't we all?"

"Yeah, right" we concede, and we choose to comment. No big deal. Right!"

First let us consider the latest Christian coup in good ol' Fred town. Yes - bore-bore-bore we're talking about those good people so concerned with our morals that they went out of their way to surreptitiously threaten a local entrepreneur with all sorts of damnation if he insisted on satisfying the heathenistic impulses of his customers.

Boy, they really made a point! Their INANITY boggles the normal thinking mind. Roget's Pocket Thesaurus tells us that INANITY can be expressed as vacancy of the mind, poverty of intellect, thoughtlessness, fatuity and vacuity. We think that about covers the issue.

In fact that about covers a lot of issues.

So people our word for this week is INANE. What could be more INANE than pinning a sanitary napkin on someone's office door? Not much, that's about the peak of it. Unless you consider the reaction to this immature act. Yelling sexual harassment and discrimination gives this insignificant event the appearance of credibility. The complainant would do well to put this happening into the proper perspective.

This is not to diminish the frustration of the victimized - but rather to say that some behavior is so inexcusably INANE as to warrant no reaction.

Unless of course you are of the opinion that this is just the tip of the Sexism Iceberg here on campus and Heaven help us, tomorrow we could be confronted with the trees outside Lady Dunn Hall being festooned with strings of tampax.

Just some food for thought folks. Let's not anyone get too ruffled. Take these observations in the spirit presented ... THINK, it won't hurt, we promise!

Until next time, (and there will be a next time) Remember "Ignorance is only blissful for the ignorant, or the INANE."

Signed,
Gail Wisnu,
Ann Wheeler

Embarrassingly

Oblivious

Dear Editor:

I consider myself a conscientious student. Unlike many stu-

Note to the Editor:

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter I have sent to Mr. Josef A.

Planning a Party?

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dents on this campus, I have made myself aware of the facts concerning the Karen Braun controversy.

Ms. Braun deserves the support of all students on campus. After spending yesterday's noon-hour in the SUB cafeteria, I learned that many students are embarrassingly oblivious to the issues that Ms. Braun is confronting.

These comments were made by a small group of business students: "Karen Braun is something you would not want to harass." "Susan Forestell is a scary chick." "The whole idea of harassment is silly." "And what are sex-crimes anyhow?"

Freedom of speech. You students had the freedom to make these comments and I have the freedom to criticize you. Hopefully neither of you young women will be raped, sexually harassed or abused by any male on this campus. Until you are, I suppose you will continue to slide through this university with blinders on.

Congratulations (sic), Karen, for generating important discourse on the subject of harassment (sic).

In closing, I would like to suggest that GRETCHEN learn how to write before she attempts to cover the music scene. Maybe then she would not need to take cheap stabs at Karen. The evening may have been "un-wretched" but your article was.

Thank you to Chris Hunt for his conscientious comments.
Most sincerely,
Rita Ravin

Pach. It is my sincerest wish that I not be misunderstood.

Sincerely,
Susan J. Forestell
Dear Mr. Pach:

I have just finished reading your letter to the editor in the February 5th issue of the *Brunswickan*. It seems that I have managed to convince you that I am some sort of seething radical feminist. In fact, I am not (there are actually several issues on which I stand fundamentally opposed to feminists). The letter to which you refer was not meant to proclaim my undying devotion to the feminist cause but to suggest that feminist activists do not deserve the sort of abuse they often must endure. In any event, the purpose of this letter is not to expound upon my opinions of feminism.

I am not a raging feminist. I am, however, a raging student rights advocate. I find it a little disappointing that in the two years I have campaigned for student rights I have not received half the attention that one letter in support of feminists has brought.

You make reference to my attitude and note that the title of my column (which was, incidentally, conceived by a man) typifies that attitude. I am writing to let you know that I do not spend all of my time grieving about the sorry state my surroundings - I actually make an attempt to improve many of the things that I criticize.

I am a member of the University

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